

J. N.

Formal Critique

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Mrs. McCowan



Journey To Topaz Critique

Why are people sometimes so mean to each other? *Journey to Topaz* by Yoshiko Uchida is a historical fiction novel about the harsh treatment of the Japanese during World War II. It is about a girl who was taken to an internment camp in Topaz, Utah. Her family suffers the hardships but their indomitable spirit helps them survive the terrible treatment.

The main character is Yuki Sakane. She has a mom, a dad, and a brother named Ken. They lived in Berkeley, California. Then they were moved to Topaz, Utah, because a lot of the Americans were afraid of the Japanese. The story takes place during World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Topaz is a desert town with terrible dust storms and high temperatures.

The Japanese in the book just want to be treated fairly. The US Government and the injustice and prejudice of the American people cause them all to be treated like prisoners, due to fear of the Japanese. Yuki thinks it is very unfair because she is an American just like everyone else. Although she is depressed at times, Yuki and her family try to keep a positive attitude through the hard times. They try to be polite to their captors.

At the climax of the story, there is a band of hostile Japanese that are trying to hurt the other Japanese families like Yuki's that are nice to the captors and are working to better the situation. At the end of the story, Yuki and her family are moved to Salt Lake City to live and work outside the internment camp. The author teaches that you can be persecuted by outsiders or insiders, but only you can control how you deal with it and your attitude.

When the family reunites, even though it's a terrible situation, they realize they still have each other. The saddest part of the book is when Emi's grandfather gets shot and killed. The moral of the story is that we should not judge people by their nationality or external differences. Inside we are all the same, so be kind to one another.

The End