

# ***HIROSHIMA***

**By John Hersey**

## **Chapter 1: A Noiseless Flash**

**Mr./Rev. Tanimoto**

1. Why do the Japanese call the B-29 bombers Mr. B?
2. Several things contribute to Mr. Tanimoto's physical and mental exhaustion leading up to the bombing. List at least 5 of those things. (Hint: pp. 3-4)

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**Mrs. Hatsuho Nakamura**

3. Why does Mrs. Nakamura ignore the air-raid warning that morning?
4. Why does Mrs. Nakamura have to take in sewing to support her children?

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**Dr. Masakazu Fujii**

5. Explain the design (layout) and physical location of Dr. Fujii's hospital/home.

6. Why had he been turning patients away for the last month?

7. Explain how his life is saved in the aftermath of the blast.

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**Father Wilhelm Kleinsorge**

8. Two things particularly bother Fr. Kleinsorge on the morning of the bombing. What are they?

9. Where does he end up after the blast, and what condition is he in?

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**Dr. Terufumi Sasaki**

10. Why does Dr. Sasaki treat patients illegally in his rural hometown?

11. Dr. Sasaki is the only unhurt doctor in the Red Cross Hospital after the blast. What is ironic about this?

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**Miss Toshiko Sasaki**

12. What responsibilities did Miss Sasaki have to complete at home before she left for work?

13. Explain Miss Sasaki's condition after the blast.

## **Chapter 2: The Fire**

1. Describe the "rain" that falls on Hiroshima after the blast. (p 18)

2. Where does Mrs. Nakamura stash her sewing machine, and why does she hide it?

3. How does Fr. Kleinsorge explain the perfect condition in which his paper-mache suitcase was found? What important contents did the suitcase hold?

4. What realization motivates Dr. Fujii to save himself from the debris in the river?

5. Where does Dr. Sasaki get replacement glasses?

6. Explain Dr. Sasaki's strategy to treat people in the Red Cross Hospital (pp 25-26)

7. Explain the human impact of the blast, by the numbers (p 25)

8. The priests cannot save many of the people trapped in the debris fires, but they do save Mr. Fukai. Why doesn't Mr. Fukai want to be saved?

9. Explain the emotions Mr. Tanimoto's feels, as a Christian and as Japanese citizen, as he passes the wounded. (pp 29-30)

10. Describe Mr. Tanimoto's reunion with his wife alongside the river.

11. Once freed from the factory debris, what shelter does Miss Sasaki get from the rain?

12. What happened when Mrs. Nakamura and her children drank from the river?

13. Explain the bizarre weather the people in Asano Park endure.

14. What happened to the vegetables in Fr. Kleinsorge's garden?

15. Why was the young woman, Mrs. Kamai, holding the dead infant?

## Chapter 3: Details Are Being Investigated

1. List and explain five (5) examples of physical injury/suffering mentioned in this chapter.
2. List and explain five (5) examples of hope/survival that occur during this chapter.
3. Why did soldiers draw swords on Mr. Tanimoto and the priests?
4. How did Mr. Tanimoto's efforts to transport people across the river backfire? (p 49)

5. According to the army doctor, the first duty in an emergency like this is to take care of the slightly wounded, and leave the heavily wounded alone. Why is that?

6. OPINION: Fr. Kleinsorge helps a group of men who are horribly injured get water. Do you think it was humane for him to help them, considering they will likely die from their injuries? Explain your answer.

7. What is Miss Sasaki's diagnosis at the relief station? What is the second diagnosis at the army hospital?

8. How many hours of sleep did Dr. Sasaki get during the first three days?

9. What happened at 11:02 am, August 9th?

10. What does Mrs. Kamai want from Mr. Tanimoto?

11. What is a greater moral responsibility to the Japanese than caring for the living?

## **Chapter 4 - Panic Grass and Feverfew**

1. What does Miss Sasaki observe about nature's response to the bomb?
2. What new environmental disaster hit the city that caused further destruction?
3. Explain the three stages of radiation sickness Dr. Sasaki identifies.
4. What kind of known poisoning does radiation sickness resemble?

5. What symptoms does each of the following endure?

Mrs. Nakamura –

Mr. Tanimoto –

Father Kleinsorge –

6. Miss Sasaki has different types of effects as a result of surviving the blast. What is it that she now struggles with?

7. How did the blast affect some cemeteries?

8. Why did MacArthur censor Japanese scientists' findings about the bomb?

9. OPINION: Do you think that censorship was necessary? Explain.

10. How did Mrs. Nakamura provide for her family?

11. In Japan, "face" is of utmost importance, even to institutions. What does that mean?

12. What one feeling did the six survivors share?

13. Explain how Mrs. Nakamura, Fr. Kleinsorge and Dr. Fujii's thoughts about the bomb contrast with Dr. Sasaki's.

## **Chapter 5: The Aftermath**

**(Record notes about each individual while the group presents information)**

**Hatsuyo Nakamura**

**Dr. Terufumi Sasaki**

**Father Wilhelm Kleinsorge**

**Toshiko Sasaki**

**Dr. Masakuzu Fujii**

**Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto**