

Worksheet 1: Before You Watch

Japan at War

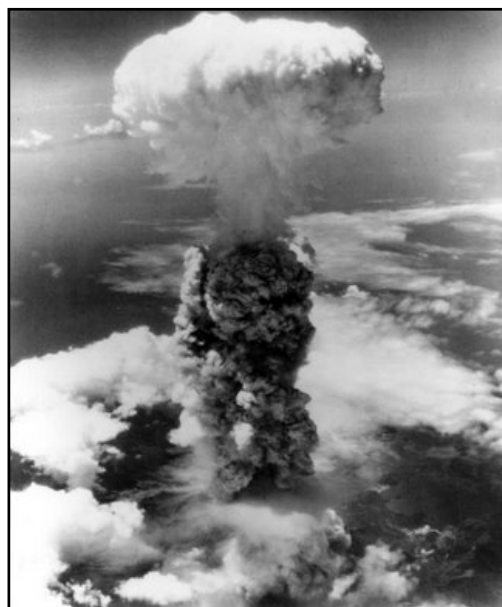
During World War II (1939-45), Germany tried to take control of Europe and the USSR. In 1941, the Pacific War (part of WWII but located in the Pacific) started when Japan invaded British Malaya and attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. Japan was one of the Axis powers and was supported by Germany, Italy and Thailand. After the attack on Pearl Harbour, the US joined the Allies and fought against Japan, Germany and Italy.



The U.S. bombed Japan between 1942 and 1945. The bombing was heaviest in 1945, when they used firebombing and atomic bombs. The firebombing caused extreme destruction in 67 Japanese cities, killing about 500,000 people and destroying the homes of about five million. Kobe was firebombed twice, in March and June 1945, making about 650,000 people homeless. In August 1945, the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing over 200,000 people. Soon after the bombings, on August 15th, Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allies. World War II officially ended on September 2nd, 1945.

By the end of the war, Japan's economy was badly damaged. Its cities were mostly ruined and it could not produce enough food for its people.

Over 70 million people worldwide were killed in World War II, which ended with victory for the Allies in 1945.



Useful Vocabulary:

Allies / Allied powers: the countries that fought against the Axis powers in World War II. The main three Allies were the UK, the US and the USSR (communist Russia)

ally: a country that agrees to cooperate with another country for military action

Axis powers: the alliance of Germany, Italy, Japan during World War II

firebomb: a bomb that starts fires

firebombing: attacks with firebombs

kimono: a long, loose robe worn as formal clothing in Japan

malnourished: not having enough good quality food to eat

atomic bomb: a powerful bomb that uses nuclear reactions for destruction

USSR: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which does not exist anymore

to surrender unconditionally: to stop fighting a war and have no power or control over what happens to the country afterwards

1.1: Japan at War

Exercise A: True or false? If false, write the correct sentence.

1. The US joined the war after Japan attacked Pearl Harbour.
2. Japan became an ally of Nazi Germany and Italy.
3. Japan dropped an atomic bomb on the U.S.
4. When Japan surrendered, it had some control over what happened next to the country and people.
5. Japan invaded colonies in Southeast Asia that were controlled by Europe.

Exercise B: Fill the gaps with the correct numbers from the background information.

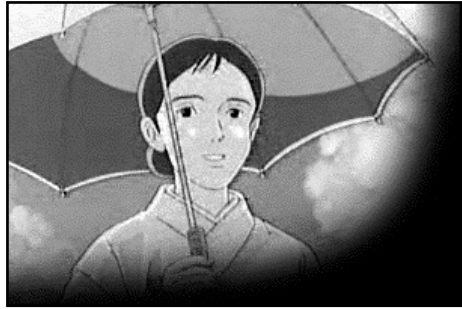
1. The US started bombing Japan in _____.
2. The firebombing of Japan killed about _____ people from _____ Japanese cities.
3. The firebombing made about _____ people homeless in Japan.
4. Kobe was firebombed in March and June _____. About _____ became homeless.
5. The US atomic bombing killed over _____ people.
6. On August _____ 1945, Japan surrendered, and on September _____ the war ended.
7. Over _____ people died during World War II.

1.2: Characters in the Movie

Read the descriptions of the characters and match them to the pictures.

1. Seita is 14 years old. He is Setsuko's older brother, and he takes care of her after their parents die. They lived in Kobe, Japan.

a.



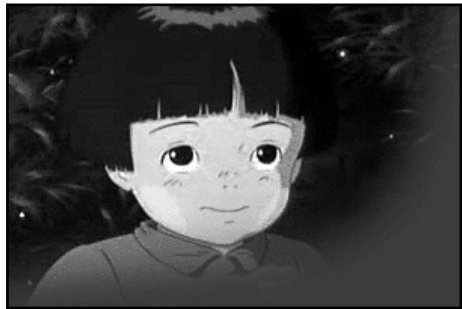
2. Setsuko is Seita's younger sister. She is four years old and she doesn't know that her mother is dead.

b.



3. Seita and Setsuko's mother is kind and loving. She dies at the start of the movie, when the city is firebombed. The children think about her a lot.

c.



4. Seita and Setsuko's aunt lives in Nishinomiya. She is the only person Seita and Setsuko can stay with after their mother dies. She treats the children badly.

d.



5. Seita and Setsuko's cousin is a little kinder than her mother, and tries to help them in the movie.

e.



Worksheet 2: While You Watch

2.1: The Kobe Firebombing 00.00 – 21.30

Exercise A: Complete the following sentences with words from the box.

bomb shelter black candy tin aunt mother elementary school Setsuko firebombs

1. While Seita is lying on the floor of Sannomiya Station, a cleaner looks through his things and finds a _____ with ashes inside.
2. Seita's spirit begins to tell the story of what happened to him and _____.
3. During the air raid, Seita, Setsuko and their mother are preparing to go to the _____.
4. The _____ cause fires to start all over the city.
5. Seita says that there is " _____ rain" from all the bombing.
6. After the bombing, they go to the _____, which is being used as a hospital for people who were hurt.
7. Seita and Setsuko's _____ is completely bandaged because of her injuries.
8. Seita and Setsuko go to stay with their distant _____ after their mother dies.

Exercise B: Answer the questions below.

1. When the cleaner throws the candy tin outside, what comes out of it?
2. How does the family know that they must escape to the bomb shelter?
3. Why did their mother get burned by the firebombs?
4. Why do you think Seita says, "Dad will make them pay for this"?
5. Why do you think Seita doesn't tell Setsuko that their mother has died?

2.2: Living with their Aunt 21.31 – 38:54

Exercise A: True or false? If false, write the correct sentence.

1. Seita digs up food and supplies that he had buried in the ground, and gives them to his aunt.
2. When Seita tells his aunt that his mother died after the firebombing, she says that he should not tell his father the news.
3. Seita does not return to school because he is lazy.
4. When they hear the air raid siren (alarm), the family goes to the bomb shelter.
5. On the beach, Seita sees his mother coming to get them.
6. Setsuko wants Seita to sell their mother's kimonos.

Exercise B: Answer the questions below.

1. Why does Seita's aunt say to him, "It's lucky your father is in the Navy"?
2. Why are the people at the beach collecting sea salt?
3. Why does Seita agree to sell his mother's kimonos, even though it makes Setsuko upset?

2.3: Leaving the House 38.55 – 59.50

Exercise A: Match the quotes below with the person who said them.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. "Do you think a lazy slug like you deserves the same as the people who are working so hard for our nation?" | a. Children |
| 2. "I'm making a grave. Mama's in a grave too." | b. Aunt |
| 3. "I'm telling Dad to write back soon, because you're waiting." | c. Store owner |
| 4. "You can't buy a stove like this easily nowadays." | d. Setsuko |
| 5. "A ghost! A ghost!" | e. Seita |

Exercise B: True or false? If false, write the correct sentence.

1. Setsuko does not eat the rice, because she is angry that they exchanged it for her mother's kimonos.
2. The aunt asks Seita if they have relatives in Tokyo that they can go and live with.
3. Seita decides to take money from the bank, because he remembers that there is 7,000 yen in his mother's bank account.
4. The uncle feels sorry that Seita and Setsuko are cooking their own food.
5. Seita and Setsuko leave their aunt's house because she forces them to leave.
6. Seita and Setsuko decide to live in an abandoned bomb shelter.
7. Seita and Setsuko catch fireflies to eat them.

Exercise C: Discuss the following questions in groups or as a class.

1. Why do you think their aunt gives less food to Seita and Setsuko? Why does she say they do not deserve rice?
2. Why do you think Seita and Setsuko leave their aunt's house and move to the shelter?
3. Why do you think Setsuko digs a grave for the fireflies? How does she respond to hearing about her mother's death?

2.4: Trying to Survive 59.51 – end

Exercise A: Complete the following sentences with words from the box.

<i>Japan cooking sugar Setsuko father marbles food policeman</i>
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1. A farmer tells Seita and Setsuko that he has no _____ to share, and they should return to the aunt's house.
2. Seita tries to steal _____ from a farmer because they are starving and Setsuko is sick.
3. The _____ tells the farmer that because the farmer kicked and beat Seita, he is "tempted to call it assault."
4. Seita returns to their shelter and finds _____ lying on the grass.
5. When Seita goes to the bank, he discovers that _____ has surrendered unconditionally.
6. At the bank, Seita also discovers that his _____ is probably dead.
7. Setsuko is putting _____ in her mouth because she believes that they are candy.
8. While Seita is _____, Setsuko dies on the bed.

Exercise B: Write the correct questions for the answers below.

1. Because they are hungry and the farmer won't sell them any.
2. From people's houses.
3. Cloth.
4. That she is weakening from malnutrition.
5. Because she is hungry and sick, and thinks she is making real rice balls.

Exercise C: Choose the best answer for the questions below

1. Why don't Seita and Setsuko return to the aunt's house when they are struggling to survive?
 - a. *They don't know where it is.*
 - b. *They think she won't want them.*
 - c. *It was destroyed by fire.*
 - d. *They are poor but happy.*
2. Why does the doctor behave like he doesn't care that Setsuko is malnourished?
 - a. *He is an American.*
 - b. *He has no medicine.*
 - c. *He can't help her.*
 - d. *They have no money.*
3. How do you think Seita feels when he finds out that Japan has surrendered, and that his father's Navy fleet is gone?
 - a. *Angry towards Japan and his father.*
 - b. *Like he has nothing to live for.*
 - c. *Hopeful about the future.*
 - d. *Happy that the war is over.*