

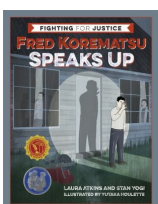


MISSION
VIEJO
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Japanese-American Internment Reading List

This reading list was created to accompany The Reach of Civil Liberties Exhibit hosted by the Mission Viejo Library in Summer 2021. Through grant funding from the California State Library and a partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, the exhibit aims to ensure that the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II will be remembered, and that the causes and circumstance of this and other similar civil liberty violations may be illuminated and understood.

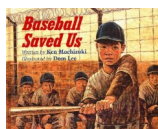
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



[Fred Korematsu Speaks Up](#)

Laura Atkins | J BIO KOREMATSU, F.

Free verse and illustrations introduce the true story of civil rights activist Fred Korematsu, who took a stand against being incarcerated during World War II. The story of his fight against discrimination explores the life of one courageous person who made the United States a fairer place for all Americans.



[Baseball Saved Us](#)

Ken Mochizuki | J FIC MOCHIZUKI, K.

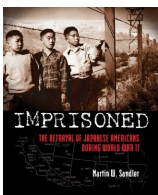
A Japanese-American boy learns to play baseball in an internment camp during World War II, and his ability to play helps him after the war is over.



[Dear Miss Breed](#)

Joanne Oppenheim | J 940.53 OPP

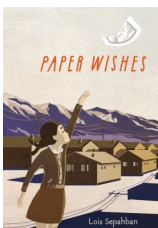
At the onset of the Japanese-American internment, San Diego children's librarian Clara Breed gave her young Japanese-American library patrons postage and stationery, and asked to keep in touch. Their letters offer a detailed look at life in the internment camps, and relay the inspiring story of a remarkable correspondence.



[Imprisoned](#)

Martin W. Sandler | J 940.531773 SAN

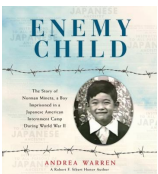
Culling information from extensive, previously unpublished interviews and oral histories with Japanese-American survivors of internment camps, Martin W. Sandler brings readers inside life in the camps and explores how a country that is built on the ideals of freedom for all could have such a dark mark on its history.



[Paper Wishes](#)

Lois Sepahban | J FIC Sepahban, L.

In this sensitive novel, 10-year-old Manami struggles with her family's forced relocation to Manzanar, especially because it means leaving her pet dog behind. After a failed attempt to sneak him into the camp, she clings to the hope that he will find his way there. Manami must find a way to let go of her guilt and reclaim the piece of herself she left behind to accept all that has happened to her family.



[Enemy Child](#)

Andrea Warren | J 940 WAR

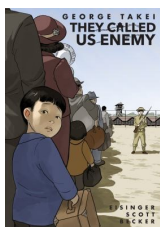
This riveting work of nonfiction details the life of American politician Norman Mineta, who was imprisoned as a child in Heart Mountain Internment. He went on to serve ten terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he worked tirelessly to pass legislation, including the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which provided reparations and an apology to the Japanese-Americans who had been interned during World War II.



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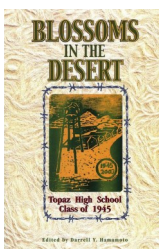
BOOKS FOR ADULTS



[They Called Us Enemy](#)

George Takei | YA FIC TAKEI, G.

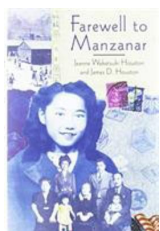
This stunning graphic memoir recounts actor and activist George Takei's childhood behind barbed wire in Rohwer Internment Camp. In this first-hand account, the beloved Star Trek actor explores the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.



[Blossoms in the Desert](#)

Darrell Y. Hamamoto | 940. 5317 BLO

Containing oral histories and primary sources, this impactful volume is the collective effort of members of the Topaz High School Class of 1945. In sharing their memories, they recount their experiences growing up and receiving their entire high school education within the confines of the Topaz Internment Camp in Utah, forced to cope with uniquely challenging circumstances very unlike the typical experience of the American teenager.



[Farewell to Manzanar](#)

Jean Wakatsuki Houston | 940.5317 HOU

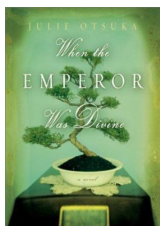
A staple of curriculum in schools and campuses across the country, Houston's iconic memoir recounts her family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention. She was seven years old when her family was incarcerated at Manzanar, and her writing provides a poignant, sobering look at her experiences as a native-born American child growing up behind barbed wire in the United States.



[Colors of Confinement](#)

Bill T. Manbo | 940.5317 MAN

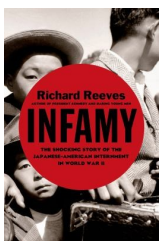
While imprisoned at the the Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming, Bill Manbo documented both the bleakness and beauty of his surroundings. Using the innovative technology of color Kodachrome film, he captured community celebrations and recorded his family's struggles under the harsh conditions of racial imprisonment.



[When the Emperor was Divine](#)

Julie Otsuka | FIC OTSUKA, J.

Based on her own family's history, Julie Otsuka's succinct and commanding debut novel paints a portrait of the Japanese-American internment from multiple perspectives, tracing one Californian family's journey from evacuation orders to their eventual release after four long years in captivity, as well as the aftermath of incarceration.



[Infamy](#)

Richard Reeves | 940.53 REE

In this powerful account, acclaimed historian and journalist Richard Reeves examines the key causes and dire consequences of the Japanese-American internment. Reeves interviewed survivors, read numerous private letters and memoirs, and combed through archives to deliver a sweeping narrative of one of the most appalling episodes in American history.