

Approved for use in all levels of English I

Summary of the Work:

Picture Bride is the story of a young Japanese woman who travels to America in 1917 to wed a Japanese man in an arranged marriage. The couple experiences the normal stresses of marriage and parenthood, along with problems of discrimination, the 1918 influenza epidemic, Pearl Harbor and World War II, war fervor against Japanese Americans, and, finally, the loss of all they have worked for due to forced internment in a desert camp. Despite temptations and difficulties, the main characters try to make the right decisions—not the easy decisions—as they work toward building a stable home life and work toward supporting the country they have adopted and love. The author is Yoshiko Uchida (1921-1992), who was born in California and sent to an internment camp.

Rationale:

- Students learn elements of United States history in the early 20th century as they follow the characters' experiences;
- Students gain a new perspective on discrimination through the eyes of West Coast Japanese Americans;
- Students are exposed to a different culture through references to Japanese beliefs, traditions, food, religion, and lifestyles—and, especially, through the comparison of these to their American counterparts;
- Students learn about the right to due process of law as set forth in the U.S. Constitution and the violation of this right due to discrimination and war fervor;
- Students analyze how the Constitution is applied and interpreted today.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- * Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.
- * Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

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Readability:

- Lexile Score: 970
- Readability Level: 7.1

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: *(link)*

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 2000

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Connection to the Curriculum:

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)