

Farewell to Manzanar

By Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
and James D. Houston

Chapters 1-4 Study Questions

1. How old is the author when the story begins? Where did her family live when Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese?
2. Later in the story, the author will describe how detention changed her father's appearance. As he was taken away, what did Papa look like, how old, how many children and what was his way of presenting himself to the world?

Chapters 1-4 Study Questions

1. How old is the author when the story begins? Where did her family live when Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese?
 - a. The author is 7 and they lived in San Pedro, Ca.
2. Later in the story, the author will describe how detention changed her father's appearance. As he was taken away, what did Papa look like, how old, how many children and what was his way of presenting himself to the world?
 - a. Her father was a Japanese man, nearly 6 feet tall, lean, and hard. He was over 50 with 10 children and he did not let the man push him out – he led.

Chapters 1-4 continued...

3. How did the canneries control life on Terminal Island? What is meant by the term “company town”?

4. Identify each of the following and tell their significance to the camp in Owens Vally called Manzanar:
 - a. Block 16 –
 - b. Barbed wire fence –
 - c. Numbered tag –
 - d. Rice with fruit over it –
 - e. Sand –
 - f. Large cardboard box –
 - g. No privacy -

Chapters 1-4 continued...

3. How did the canneries control life on Terminal Island? What is meant by the term “company town”?
 - a. Company town is the ghetto. Men went fishing and whenever they returned the women were called to process the catch while it was fresh
4. Identify each of the following and tell their significance to the camp in Owens Vally called Manzanar:
 - a. Block 16 – a cluster of 15 barracks
 - b. Barbed wire fence – containment involuntarily
 - c. Numbered tag – became their official designation. No longer were they a person.
 - d. Rice with fruit over it – Caucasian servers thought it made a good desert

Chapters 1-4 continued...

- e. Sand – May was sweeping the sand and Woody puts his arm around his mom.
- f. Large cardboard box – used to provide privacy when they would go to the bathroom. Humiliation
- g. No privacy – mama placed high premium on personal privacy (p.33) she respected it in others and insisted upon it for herself.

Chapters 5-7 Study Questions

1. In the camps, hundreds of Japanese volunteered for jobs such as carpenter, nursing, etc. Why? Name at least 3 reasons.
2. What were the four classes in the class system of Japan? To what class did Papa belong and why did he go to Honolulu in 1904? Who did he meet there?
3. Papa said two important things during his interview at Fort Lincoln. Write down his answers to the two following questions and explain what these answers show about Papa's personality.
 1. Would you object to your son serving the American Military?
 2. Who do you want to win this war?

Chapters 5-7 Study Questions

1. In the camps, hundreds of Japanese volunteered for jobs such as carpenter, nursing, etc. Why? Name at least 3 reasons.
 1. Outright patriotism
 2. Wanting to do their part
 3. Make a little money
2. What were the four classes in the class system of Japan? To what class did Papa belong and why did he go to Honolulu in 1904? Who did he meet there?
 1. Nobility 2. **samurai** 3. farmers 4. merchants
 2. He went to Honolulu with a letter of introduction to a cousin who taught school.

Study Questions 5-7 continued...

3. Papa said two important things during his interview at Fort Lincoln. Write down his answers to the two following questions and explain what these answers show about Papa's personality.
 1. Would you object to your son serving the American Military? Yes I would protest it (son serving the military) The American military is just like the Japanese
 2. Who do you want to win this war? I am interested to know where you will be going when you leave.

This demonstrates that he is anti war and wants it to be stopped. Japan is his country because he was born there and his family lives there, but he is also searching for a home because he does not have any rights anywhere. He questions the interrogator about where he will leave after the interview because he will be free to go where he pleases. Papa will not.

Chapters 8-11 Study Questions

1. What is the meaning of the name “Inu”?
How did this name affect Papa? Why was he called “inu” at Manzanar?
2. What were the causes of the December Riot at Manzanar?
3. In Japan, it is custom to pour water over small green pagodas until moss grows on top.
What does this custom symbolize?

Chapters 8-11 Study Questions

1. What is the meaning of the name “Inu”? How did this name affect Papa? Why was he called “inu” at Manzanar?
 - a. Inu – dog but also collaborator or informer. Papa had been released from Fort Lincoln before most men since there was no reason to detain him. The rumor was that he paid his way out.
2. What were the causes of the December Riot at Manzanar?
 - a. It was called the anniversary demonstration – one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. A Japanese American Citizen league leader was badly beaten by 6 men and taken to the camp hospital. Later a young cook was arrested – that became known as the immediate cause for the riot.

Chapters 8-11 continued...

3. In Japan, it is custom to pour water over small green pagodas until moss grows on top. What does this custom symbolize?
 - a. The stone can be the kingdom or it can be a man's life. The moss is the greenery that in time, will spring even from the rock.

Chapters 12-16 Study Questions

1. What were the good things noted by the author that were offered to the young people in Manzanar?
2. Was the author's decision to become Catholic a mature decision? Explain why or why not.
3. What were the three court cases trying to prove and how did they cause the release of all Japanese from the camps?

Chapters 12-16 Study Questions

1. What were the good things noted by the author that were offered to the young people in Manzanar?
 - a. Regular school sessions, recreational programs, camp – singing, acting, trumpet, playing, tap dancing, traditional Japanese arts. (needlework, judo and kendo)
2. Was the author's decision to become Catholic a mature decision? Explain why or why not.
 - a. No, because she was becoming a Catholic to take part in a ceremony in which she would be the center of, with hopes to be “impressive” in that role. She was putting herself above an orphan.

Chapters 12-16 continued...

1. What were the three court cases trying to prove and how did they cause the release of all Japanese from the camps?
 - a.
 1. Ex Parte Endo 2. excursion orders 3. habeas corpus
 - These cases proved that the treatment of the Japanese-American citizens was unfair and prejudice as well as against our constitution.

Chapters 17-20 Study Questions

1. What California law of 1943 was another blow to the Japanese men. Did this law affect Woody or Papa or both and why?
2. Why was Papa buried in Japan when he was obviously still alive at Manzanar? What date was on his grave? How did they find out he was alive?
3. Who was Radine and through her how did the author experience prejudice and racial behavior?
4. How did Papa act at the scholarship awards and what was the audience's reaction? What was his daughter's reaction?

Chapters 17-20 Study Questions

1. What California law of 1943 was another blow to the Japanese men. Did this law affect Woody or Papa or both and why?
 - a. The California law in 1943 made it illegal for Issei to hold commercial fishing license. It affected Papa and Woody. Papa couldn't hold the license but Woody could because he was not an Issei.
2. Why was Papa buried in Japan when he was obviously still alive at Manzanar? What date was on his grave? How did they find out he was alive?
 - a. In 1913 he had been gone for 9 years with no word. To the family in Japan, he was dead. Woody visited the family and told them he was alive and living in Ca.

Chapters 17-20 continued...

3. Who was Radine and through her how did the author experience prejudice and racial behavior?
 - a. Radine was the blond girl who was so shocked Jeannie could speak English. She tried to include her in Girl Scout's but society would not allow it. Radine felt as though she was protecting Jeannie by her outburst – but really, pointing out her citizenship only magnified the idea that she was an outsider.
4. How did Papa act at the scholarship awards and what was the audience's reaction? What was his daughter's reaction?
 - a. Papa bowed when they stood up. The crowd was “indecisive(ly) silent” Jeannie wanted to slide out of sight.

Chapters 21-end Study Questions

1. How did Papa stop drinking and what did he do with his life after he gave up the losing idea of a Japanese Housing co-op?
2. How, when, and with whom did the author return to Manzanar? What did she find there?
3. Where would you find Manzanar today?

Writing assignment – Throughout Jeannie’s young life we see her constantly struggle with her identity and being accepted. Did she finally gain acceptance? Why or why not?

Chapters 21-end Study Questions

1. How did Papa stop drinking and what did he do with his life after he gave up the losing idea of a Japanese Housing co-op?
 - a. He almost killed himself with whiskey and red wine. He leased and sharecropped 100 acres of land – raising premium berries in Santa Clara Valley.
2. How, when, and with whom did the author return to Manzanar? What did she find there?
 - a. She drove on April 1972 with her husband and three kids. There was “A Memorial to the Dead”. The obelisk and gatehouses were still intact – the rest was devastated from the bombing raids.

Chapters 21 – End continued...

1. Where would you find Manzanar today?

Writing assignment – Throughout Jeannie's young life we see her constantly struggle with her identity and being accepted. Did she finally gain acceptance? Why or why not?