



National Young Readers Week

An Annual Celebration of Reading Created by Pizza Hut® and The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Grandfather's Journey

By Allen Say

Caldecott Honor Book (1994). A young man from Japan crosses the Pacific Ocean and explores the United States. He finds that of all the places he has seen and been, however, there's no place like home.

Read

Before:

Before you read:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *if you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and how would you get there?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- *I wonder where the boat is going?*

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Grandfather's Journey*:

- journey: traveling from one place to another, usually taking a long time
- steamship: a large commercial vessel powered by one or more steam engines
- astonished: to fill with sudden and overpowering surprise or wonder
- enormous: of great size; huge; immense
- sculptures: a work of art that has been carved, welded or shaped in three dimensions
- factories: a building or group of buildings with facilities for the manufacture of goods
- bewildered: to confuse or puzzle completely
- tower: to rise or extend far upward
- bride: a newly married woman or a woman about to be married
- surrounded: to enclose on all sides
- homeland: the country in which one lives or was born
- homesick: sad or depressed from a longing for home or family while away from them



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After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where is the narrator's grandfather from?
- Describe the differences in styles of clothing for people living in Japan and America.
- How did he get to America? How long did it take?
- What reminded him of the ocean he had crossed?
- How many men are standing in front of the barber shop?
- Of all the places he visited, where did he like it the most?
- Why did he return to Japan?
- What are a few of the things that made him miss home?
- Describe some of the differences in the land between Japan and America.
- Why did the family move to a large city?
- What kept him from traveling back to America and made him move back to the village?

Do

Family Roots

You will need: blank white paper, markers, crayons, construction paper, scissors and travel magazines

After reading the story, talk about where your family is from. Discuss the various cultures your ancestors lived in and the customs they had. If it is a classroom setting, ask the kids in advance to find out where their family is from. Then, give each child a blank piece of paper, markers and crayons. Allow each child enough time to draw a picture of his/her ancestors. Cut out pictures in the travel magazines to add to the drawings.

If desired, place each family portrait on a piece of construction paper and display on a wall or bulletin board.



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