Book Information

A Place Where Sunflowers Grow by Amy Lee-Tai, Illustrations by Felicia Hoshino

Pre-Club Activities

Prior to the club, pass out copies of the book and flyers with talking points to families; ask families to read the book and to begin discussing the subjects of racism and World War II simply, such as discussing being mean to someone else just because they’re different.

Club Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description/Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Talk about World War II and the internment of Japanese Americans. Explain who was put into internment camps and why.</td>
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| Discussion Questions | 1. Mari and her mother plant Sunflower seeds to make the internment camp feel more like home since they had to leave all of their possessions behind. How would you make the internment camp feel more like home?  
2. In drawing class, Mari has a hard time thinking of something to draw. Have you ever been given an assignment where you couldn’t think of what to draw or write? What did you do?  
3. Mari draws her backyard because it made her happy. What are some things that make you happy?  
4. Are you sometimes afraid to ask adults questions just like Mari? If you could ask any adult any question at all, what would it be? |
| Family Activity   | Draw a picture of what makes you happy and share it with each other. Maybe you will draw the same thing! |
| Small Group Activity | In small groups, with groups cycling through craft stations:  
1. Plant seeds in recycled containers such as toilet paper tubes or milk cartons. Take them home, water them, and watch them grow just like Mari’s Sunflower seeds.  
2. Learn some words in Japanese such as Hello, Goodbye, and how to count to 10. A great bilingual song is Head, Shoulders, Knees, & Toes that everyone knows in English and is easily transferred to other languages. |

Visit http://diaala.org for more resources, activity sheets, and information.
Día! Family Book Club
Lesson Plan 5: Ages 4-8

Post Club Activities

1. Learn something new about a culture that is not your own. Try a new food, look at art from that culture, or read a story about a different culture.

2. Talk about ways we can make sure everyone feels included – whether on the playground, at work (for mom and dad or caregiver), or just walking down the street.

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<td>Full Group Activity</td>
<td>Make a group mural about your community on a large sheet of butcher paper using die-cuts, pencils, and markers. Everyone can add what are the components that they think make up a community – people, buildings, etc. Discuss that although Mari and other Japanese Americans were treated unfairly, they tried to make the best of their situation through things like art classes.</td>
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