Book Information

*Weedflower* by Cynthia Kadohata

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.

Club Activities

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<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Talk about World War II and Japanese American internment.</td>
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| Discussion Questions    | 1. What do you think it feels like to be lonely? Can you relate to Sumiko’s feelings on page 1? Why does Sumiko feel more American than her cousins? What makes someone American? What makes you American or not American?  
2. How does Sumiko deal with being part of two different cultures? Japanese and American? Are you part of two cultures? How do you celebrate both?  
3. In the book, many people use racial slurs against the Japanese people. How does this make Sumiko feel? What do you do when someone calls you a bad name that you don’t like?  
4. How do you think the Mohave Indians felt with the Japanese living on their land? Do you think they felt the same way the Japanese felt when they were told to move out of their homes?  
5. Why doesn’t Sumiko want to leave Camp Poston when Auntie finds a job in a sewing factory near Chicago? |
| Family Activity         | Have family groups write an article for the camp newspaper                                    |
| Small Group Activity    | In small groups, with groups cycling through craft stations:  
1. make candy sushi;  
2. make a diorama of the Poston Camp or Flower Farms;  
3. make a mini-mattress filled with hay, or a flower as a reminder of the book. |
| Full Group Activity     | Food and social: Throw a New Year’s party for Mr. Muramoto and provide or make Japanese New Year foods, such as mochi, and decorations. |

Visit [http://dia.ala.org](http://dia.ala.org) for more resources, activity sheets, and information.
Día! Family Book Club
Lesson Plan 1: Ages 8-12

Post Club Activities

1. Find out where your family or community members were during World War II. Interview them and record (on your cell phone), to preserve their oral history.

2. Talk as a family about racial discrimination in today's world. Discuss a current event that is a racial issue and how we should respond to this situation.

3. Visit a local museum that discusses World War II or a different culture, or visit an online museum from your home.

Additional Resources for Club

1. Candy Sushi directions:
   http://candy.about.com/od/candybasics/ss/candysushi_sbs.htm

2. Diorama directions:

3. Mini-Mattress direction (use hay or straw instead of cotton for stuffing):
   http://www.wikihow.com/Hand-Sew-a-Small-Pillow

4. Paper flower directions:
   http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Tissue-Paper-Flowers

This lesson plan was created by Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Children's Librarian, Glendale Library, Arts & Culture; member of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC).