**NAME:**

**Historical Perspective: Japanese Internment**

**Source 1: “Minuru”** <https://www.nfb.ca/film/minoru-memory-of-exile/> (use link to watch the video)

**Source 2**: Survivor’s Poem “**What do I remember of the Evacuation**”? (bottom of this assignment)

1. **Survivors perspective:**

Both “Minoru” and “What do I remember of the Evacuation” are told by people who experienced the Japanese internment as children.

1. What line stands out to you in the poem “What do I remember of the Evacuation”?

Choose a quote and explain why you chose it. What can it tell us about this experience?

Quote:

Explanation:

1. How do children view experiences different than adults?

1. How were their lives negatively impacted by this internment?
2. In December 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor leading to the Canadian Governments decision to intern (imprison) all men, women, and children of Japanese descent. Today, we look back at this event with regret, and in 1982 the Federal Government issued a formal apology. How has our perspective changed?

Think about what you know about 1941: the timeline of WW2 and the attitudes/ culture in Canada then and now.

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| --- | --- |
| 1941 context: Reasons to Intern the Japanese | Current Perspective: Reasons we should NOT have interned the Japanese |
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**Source 2: What do I remember of the Evacuation?**

by Joy Kogawa

What do I remember of the evacuation?

I remember my father telling Tim and me

About the mountains and the train

And the excitement of going on a trip.

What do I remember of the evacuation?

I remember my mother wrapping

A blanket around me and my

Pretending to fall asleep so she would be happy

Though I was so excited I couldn’t sleep

(I hear there were people herded

Into the Hastings Park like cattle.

Families were made to move in two hours

Abandoning everything, leaving pets

And possessions at gun point.

I hear families were broken up

Men were forced to work. I heard

It whispered there was suffering) and

I missed my dolls.

What do I remember of the evacuation?

I remember Miss Foster and Miss Tucker

Who still live in Vancouver,

And who did what they could

And loved the children and who gave me

A puzzle to play with on the train.

And I remember the mountains and I was

Six years old and I swear I saw a giant

Gulliver of Gulliver’s travels scanning the horizon

And when I told my mother she believed it too

And I remember how careful my parents were

Not to bruise us with bitterness

And I remember the puzzle of Lorraine Life

Who said “Don’t insult me” when I

Proudly wrote my name in Japanese

And Tim flew the Union Jack

When the war was over but Lorraine

And her Friends spat on us anyway

And I prayed to the God who loves

All the children in his sight

That I might be white.