

Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal about the Japanese American Incarceration

[Link to Teaching Books](#)

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Author

Elizabeth Partridge and Lauren Tamaki

Illustrator

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Year

2002

Genre

Nonfiction

Suggested Grade Level

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Cultural Experience

Asian American

"When human rights are conditional, no one is safe."

Content Area Connections:

Language Arts: Interpret nonfiction text features, photographs, and captions to build understanding of historical events. Evaluate how photographers communicate perspective and meaning through visual evidence. Examine author's purpose and point of view. Cite details from images and text to support interpretations about the past.

Social Studies: compare life in the past to life today, analyze historical events from various points of view, contributions of diverse historical figures and groups, using primary sources to analyze the past, change over time, diverse cultures within the United States, roles of citizens and government, Japanese American incarcerations, rights, freedoms and historical injustices within America.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Recognize how prejudice and discrimination affect individuals and communities (social awareness). Reflect on fairness, justice, and the protection of civil rights (responsible decision-making). Practice empathy by considering the experiences of Japanese American families during incarceration. Discuss how individuals and communities respond to injustice.

Art: Examine photography as a form of visual storytelling. Interpret how photographers use framing, light, and perspective to communicate meaning. Analyze historical photographs as artistic and documentary works. Create photographic or sketch responses that communicate themes of memory, identity, and historical perspective.

Primary Source Connection:

- [Primary source set from the Library of Congress on Japanese Internment](#)
- [Ansel Adams collection of photographs from Manzanar internment camp](#)
- [Dorothea Lange collection of photographs from Japanese internment camps](#)
- [Toyo Miyatake photographs of Japanese internment camps](#)

Other Books:

- [The Children of Topaz: The story of a Japanese-American Internment Camp](#)

- [My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American WW2 Story](#)
- [Love in the Library](#)
- [Love Grows Here](#)
- [Shell Song: Based on a True Family Story](#)