

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

December 8, 2016

Article: "Seattle Plunged into dark time"

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 in the print replica of The Seattle Times, Main, page A1

*For additional teacher/student background information on the subject of WWII and the Japanese internment, please reference the following NIE supplements:

- *The World War II Odyssey of King County's Japanese Americans:*
<http://ad.seattletimes.com/FlippingBook/NIE/2012/DenshoWWIIIncarceration/index.html>
- *The World War II Incarceration of Japanese Americans:*
<http://ad.seattletimes.com/FlippingBook/NIE/2012/DenshoWWIIIncarceration/index.html>

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.D

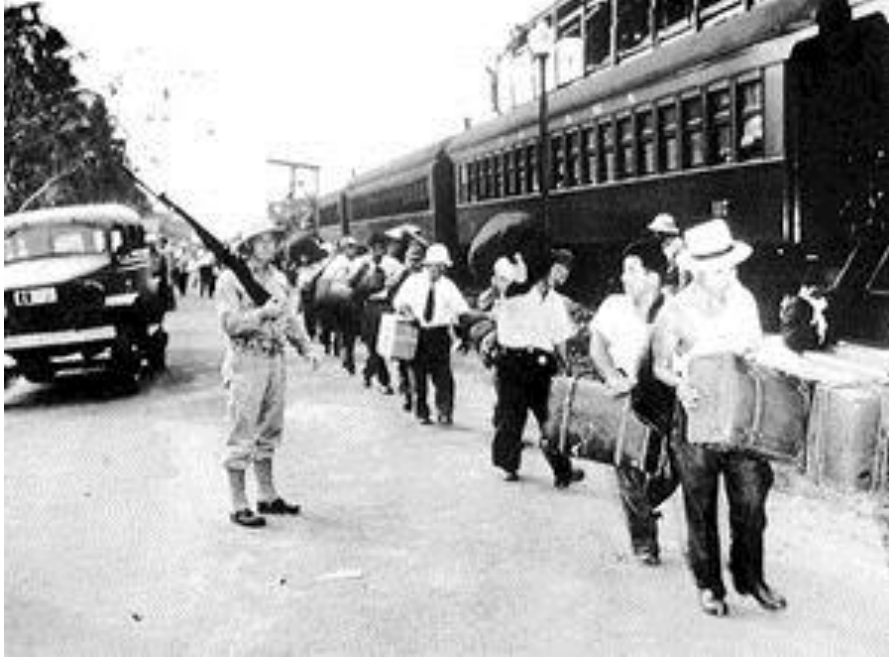
Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.

Objective:

Students will read about and discuss the events that took place in Seattle following bombing of the Pearl Harbor, with particular emphasis on describing how these events shaped the Japanese experience in America.

Pre-Reading:

Study the following picture:



From: <http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/a-circle-finally-closes/>

What is happening in this picture? How does it make you feel? What questions do you have about this picture?

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today's article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the "context," or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

acclaimed

allegiance

blackout

broadcast

bulkhead

conduct

congregations

disorderly

eerie

eligible

imperial

internment

mob

ordinance

sustenance

wardens

Comprehension:

1. What happened on December 7, 1941?
2. How many people gathered downtown in Seattle during the first lights blackout?
3. At some point, the window smashing crowd started to sing what song?
4. What is the equivalent of \$25 dollars in 1941 in today's dollars?
5. The Seattle City Council prepared an ordinance banning congregations of how many people during blackouts on any street or sidewalk?
6. Acclaimed artist Roger Shimomura based a series of his paintings on what?
7. What did Executive Order 9066 authorize?
8. A story ran about a Seattle cement contractor advertising what?

Post-Reading:

“Finally, there is this Seattle Times editorial from Dec. 10.

It is titled, ‘First duty of a citizen: Mind your own business.’

'Motor vehicles are stopped as they cross Lake Washington Floating Bridge. Major buildings are patrolled by police. Guards are on duty along the waterfront. Air raid wardens are constantly on call.

'No one can be blamed for being curious. Yet it is curiosity that in most instances should be left unsatisfied. A handful of interested questioners can soon become a crowd, increasing the problems of patrol ...

'One of the most useful things a citizen can do in this emergency is mind your own business.'

After reading the above excerpt discuss the following questions:

What do you think The Seattle Times editorial meant by telling citizens that the most useful thing they could do was to mind their own business? How do the words of the editorial make you feel? Why? How do you think you would have felt during this time if you were not Japanese? How do you think you would have felt during this time if you were Japanese? Have you ever experienced anything similar to situation the article describes?

Building Language Skills:

"Toku is a professional midwife and has delivered her grandson, Roger Shimomura, who will become an acclaimed American artist. He's now a retired art professor from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. His dad was a pharmacist, his mom a cashier at the same store.

Roger Shimomura, 77, was a young child when his family was interned at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho. A series of his paintings are based upon his grandmother's reminiscences."

Go online and research Roger Shimomura's paintings about the Japanese internment. Choose one of these paintings to use as inspiration for you to create a piece of writing. You might choose to write a poem, a story, or make up a journal entry that describes what you think is happening in the picture. Who do you see? What are they doing? How do you think this relates to experience of Shimomura's family in the internment camps?

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. More than 350 Imperial Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor, destroying 188 U.S. aircraft and killing 2,400 Americans.
2. 2,000 people
3. "God Bless America"
4. \$488 in today's dollars

5. Three or more people
6. His grandmother's reminiscence
7. The Japanese internment camps
8. Air-raid shelters with two concrete walls, the space in between filled with sawdust