



Kira-Kira
by Cynthia Kadonata

Teacher's Guide
Written By Elizabeth Flaley

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Synopsis

Chapter 1

Kira-kira means glittering in Japanese. It is the first word that Lynn teaches her sister, Katie. Katie loves this word and applies it to everything she likes. Katie and Lynn live in a rented farmhouse in Iowa. Their parents had owned a Japanese grocery store, but it went out of business. Their parents were born in America but educated in Japan. Their parents decide to move them to Georgia to get jobs in the poultry industry. Uncle Katsuhisa arrives to help them move to Georgia.

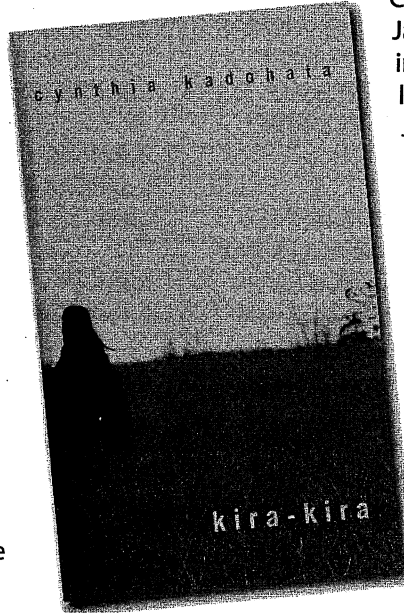
Chapter 2

Uncle Katsuhisa says that he was the greatest Japanese chess player, before Lynn beats him three games in a row. Uncle makes lots of noises and claps loudly to make sure he has everyone's attention. Lynn reminds Katie that she had told her that Uncle was an odd fish. "We were poor but in the Japanese way of being poor, meaning we never borrowed money from anyone, period. Once a year we bought as many 50-pound bags of rice as we could afford and didn't get nervous about money again until we reached our last bag." They are delayed in their departure because everyone had misplaced something that is important to them. Katie loses her stuffed animal Bera-Bera, Lynn loses her sweater embroidered with flowers, and the Takeshima's lose their money.

Chapter 3

The family stops for the night at a hotel. The clerk tells Katie's father that Indians and Mexicans stay in the back rooms; the clerk charges extra because of their race. Lynn compares American Indians to the Japanese Ainu, who call themselves the Sky People. They were the first to settle in Northern Japan. Ainu females tattoo mustaches on their faces. Katie and Lynn liked this idea and had painted mustaches on their faces when they were

younger. Mother got upset and had to lie down. Lynn and Katie knew they would eventually be sent to Japan to learn their femininity. When Katie sees the hotel clerk drunk, she wonders if the clerk's parents love her as much as her own parents do. Katie does not worry about her future, but Lynn says Katie might someday study animals in Africa or she might become a beautiful genius tennis player. The family arrives in Georgia. They enter a restaurant where blacks ate in the back and whites ate up front. They do not know where to eat, so they order the food "to go." They live in Chesterfield along with 31 other Japanese. All the Japanese people work in the hatchery. Uncle Katsuhisa's family has the only house among the Japanese residents; the others all live in an apartment building.



Chapter 4

Katie's family's apartment has two small bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Mom is unhappy with the apartment, which means everyone is unhappy. Katie screams her first week at school, and her parents make the decision to wait a year before sending her back. Katie stays with Mrs. Kanagawa and waits every day for Lynn to come home. Katie and Lynn lie on their backs at night

and make selfish wishes and unselfish wishes. They start saving their money to buy a house for their parents. Katie develops a Southern accent. Lynn explains to Katie that other people treat them like doormats or ants because they are Japanese and not white. Katie gets her hair cut short, and her mother gives birth to a boy named Samson.

Chapter 5

Sammy is a calm child, and the next few years are uneventful for Katie's family. The girls go camping with Uncle, which they love. They play dodgeball and do homework. Back at home, Lynn gets hit with a ball and does not feel well. She takes medication, stays home from school, and does not want to play. Mom says that

she had been just like Lynn when she was young. In the future, Lynn wants to live by the sea in California, go to college, and have her family own their own home. Lynn has a dream that she is swimming in the ocean in her spirit form. Lynn is very beautiful, and the boys and girls notice, finally Amber breaks ranks and becomes Lynn's first local friend. Lynn and her new friend Amber do girly teenage things together that Katie thinks are stupid. Their parents work all the time. Katie accidentally starts a sleeping bag on fire. Uncle goes hunting with a bow and arrow and kills a rabbit; Katie faints because it reminds her of Bera-Bera.

Chapter 6

Katie is revived from a second fainting spell and sees two boys with Lynn and Amber. Amber shoots the bow and arrow, killing a bird and narrowly missing Uncle's head. The girls go with the boys to their camp. Lynn kisses a boy for the first time. Katie tells Lynn and Amber about Joe Abondondolarama, her dream boyfriend, making the older girls laugh but earning their praise.

Chapter 7

When school lets out for the summer, Lynn spends the first week of vacation with Amber. Katie is almost eleven but too young to be left alone with Sam, so they go to work with their mother and sit in the car all day, playing games and sleeping. Katie describes the poultry plant and how her parents work long hours. The workers are not allowed to leave to use the bathroom. A girl in the parking lot tells her that there is someone hired by the owner to break up unions. She refers to him as the "thug." Mom and Dad continue to work overtime to save for a house.

Chapter 8

Lynn returns from Amber's early because she is sick and having trouble sitting up. Lynn's parents are worried that she may be contagious and, as a result, become short-tempered with Katie. Katie and Sam spend another day waiting in the car for their mom; Katie goes out exploring and falls to the ground when the garbage can she stands on collapses. Katie attracts the attention of the thug. Katie makes her first non-Japanese friend. While sharing a meal with her new friend Silly, Katie and Sam have white bread for the first time.

Chapter 9

Lynn seems better and has not been 'tired' for a while. Silly comes over for Katie's eleventh birthday, and Katie bakes a cake. They make up special dance steps and sing to the radio. Silly's mother works to organize a

union at the poultry plant. Katie remembers when Lynn would wake her up in the middle of the night to tell Katie what was on her mind. Lynn becomes sick again, but this time she is so sick she cannot chew her food. Katie's mom takes Lynn to the hospital while Uncle and Auntie stay with Katie and Sammy. A call from the hospital causes Auntie to burst into tears, but she tells Katie that everything will be fine.

Chapter 10

When Lynn returns from the hospital, Katie is told that Lynn's anemia was acting up. Lynn wakes Katie in the middle of the night to tell her that Amber dropped her as a friend. Their parents decide it is time to buy a house. The children give them the money they had saved from their allowance. They move into the house, and Lynn seems to get much better. Lynn, Katie, and Sam decide to go on a picnic together. Sammy gets his leg caught in an animal trap. Katie frees him and goes for help. Katie runs and runs, loses her sense of direction, and finally knocks on a door. A woman calls on a neighbor to help. A man named Hank comes to the rescue in a pick up truck; Katie likens him to her imaginary beau, Joe-John.

Chapter 11

Hank takes Sammy and the girls to the hospital. Katie recalls that white people were not really mean, and Hank treats them as if they are the most important people in the world. Katie worries that she will be the one to be punished. When they get home from the hospital, their father appears angry, which he seldom was.

Chapter 12

Lynn does not return to school in the fall. Katie is told her sister has anemia, so she looks it up in the dictionary and immediately realizes that anemia is not a serious enough illness to keep Lynn out of school. Lynn is hospitalized again, and Mother is now staying with her. Katie and Sam often go to the hatchery with their father. Katie starts to ask herself "why" questions about everything. Father works almost constantly to pay the mortgage and Lynn's medical bills. Katie reads all the ocean-related entries from the encyclopedia to Lynn, cares for her, and administers medicine. Katie starts playing hooky to be with Lynn and even steals nail polish to make Lynn happy; eventually she is caught and is made to apologize. Lynn begins to further fail. Katie is told Lynn suffers from lymphoma. Katie looks up the word in the dictionary and learns that Lynn's sickness could be fatal. Katie and her mother carry Lynn outside because Lynn loves the outdoors and the night sky;

eventually, Lynn seems to lose interest in being outdoors.

Chapter 13

Katie's parents work around the clock, sometimes coming home to sleep. With mounting medical bills, they fall behind on the mortgage. Lynn sleeps often now, and when she is awake she needs much attention. Katie cares for her day and night. She and Sammy sleep in the room with Lynn because someone needs to be with her all the time. Katie and Lynn argue, and each tells the other she hates her. At Thanksgiving, Sammy and Katie go on a camping trip with Uncle and his friend who was a surveyor. Katie and Silly play Hunter and Hunted with Katie's cousins David and Daniel. Katie wants to know why Uncle is not working as a surveyor yet. Auntie responds by telling her that no one in Georgia is going to hire a Japanese man to be a land surveyor. Katie enjoys her time not spent thinking about Lynn, but feels guilty about it. She explains that New Year's is the biggest holiday of the year for the Japanese. They attend a party at Mrs. Muramoto's and plan to stay until 10:00 so they can get up the next morning to watch the first sunrise of the New Year. Katie falls asleep while the sun comes up, and when she wakes, she is being carried by her father: as she is carried into the living room, he tells her, "She's gone."

Chapter 14

The family sits with Lynn's body and grieves. Katie is angry with herself for leaving Lynn alone while she died. Mother collects everything that had existed prior to Lynn's death. The neighbor's come to view the body. Katie gives Lynn a lock of her hair before they take her body away. She cries and is angry that the doctor could not have done more. Katie chases the setting sun on her sister's last day of life. She knows her sister is really dead because the place in her heart where Lynn had resided is empty. Father collects the animal traps from the Lyndon's field, takes them to the Lyndon mansion, and busts out the windshield of Lyndon's Cadillac with a board. Father and Katie are stopped by the police on their way home, but they tell the officer they are going for tacos, and then do.

Chapter 15

Katie has to write a eulogy for the services at the funeral home. She talks about how her sister was her best friend and that one of the themes of Lynn's life was that she was going to be the best in the world and take her family with her whatever she did. Everyone goes back to the house to eat, while Katie sits in her room. Uncle

Katsuhisa checks in on her, and she tells him how sometimes she would get mad at Lynn. Uncle tells her about his first son, who died, and how when someone is dying you have crazy thoughts. Katie asks him if he ever felt happy again after his son died, and he says yes. He tells her that Buddhists believe that the spirit stays on earth for 49 days, and that she could stay busy by making a box of Lynn's things to be used as an altar. She writes an essay for school about Lynn, who could take simple ordinary things and prove how amazing the world is.

Chapter 16

Lynn's altar sits on Katie's desk; it contains sacred items that had belonged to Lynn. Katie puts fresh food and water on the altar. Mr. and Mrs. Takashima grieve, and sometimes they suffer the "should haves." Katie learns to cook because her mother makes only made two kinds of meals. Katie stops wishing for Lynn to return. She works harder at school because she had promised Lynn that she would. Katie says that she thought that good grades just happened to people, that it was not something that someone made happen. Mr. Takeshima decides to apologize to Mr. Lyndon for breaking his windshield. The Takeshima's attend a union meeting. By the following summer, they started thinking about how happy Lynn had made them when she was alive. They take a vacation to California where Katie thinks she hears Kira-kira from the insects, the birds and the wind.

Timeline

- 1941** The American government begins collecting the names and addresses of American-born and foreign-born Japanese in the country.
- 7 Dec. 1941** The Japanese military bombs Pearl Harbor, and 737 Japanese Americans are arrested the same day.
- 8 Dec. 1941** The United States enters World War II.
- Feb. 1942** President Roosevelt signs an executive order allowing the Secretary of War to define 'military areas' from which any people may be excluded as deemed necessary or desirable.
- Mar. 1942** Areas of Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona are declared military areas and any German, Italian, Japanese, and Japanese-American are subject to removal. Additional military areas in Montana, Nevada, and Utah are

	named subsequently. The forced relocation of affected nationalities begins. Roosevelt creates the War Relocation Authority (WRA). The first Japanese-American 'volunteers' arrive at Manzanar relocation camp; the WRA takes over running of the camp.
1942-1943	Numerous attacks on Japanese-American civilians reported.
Jan. 1944	Secretary of War Stimson announces Japanese-Americans are eligible for the draft.
Dec. 1944	Evacuees are allowed to return to their homes and contraband regulations are lifted; the Supreme Court rules that the WRA cannot detain 'loyal' American citizens.
Aug. 1945	The United States drops atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima; the war ends days later.
1948	The Supreme Court strikes down Alien Land Laws, and Japanese Americans are to be reimbursed their losses at \$.10 on the \$1.00.
1951	<i>Katie is born.</i>
1952	The McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act ends racially-based naturalization ban.
1955	<i>The Takeshima's move to Georgia.</i>
1956	Cynthia Kadohata born in Chicago, Illinois.
1956	<i>Katie attends first grade; Sam is born.</i>
1961	<i>Lynn does not feel well and takes to her bed.</i>
1962	Daniel Inouye becomes a United States Senator and Spark Matsunaga becomes a Representative from Hawaii.
1962	<i>Lynn enters the hospital with anemia; later, she is diagnosed with lymphoma.</i>
1963	<i>Lynn does not return to school.</i>
1964	<i>Lynn dies.</i>
Dec. 1964-Jan. 1965	<i>The Takeshima's take a family vacation to Californian and see Lynn's wondrous ocean.</i>
1965	Immigration Law abolishes 'national origin' as a basis for allocating immigration quotas.
2005	Cynthia Kadohata wins the John Newbery Medal for her distinguished contribution to American literature for children for the novel <i>Kira-Kira</i> .

Author Sketch



Cynthia Kadohata was born in 1956 in Chicago, Illinois. Her father was in the Army and her mother was a stay at home mom. They were divorced when she was eight. When she was in high school, her family moved to Los Angeles, California. She took classes, initially at Los Angeles City College, later transferring to the University of Southern California, where she obtained her degree in journalism.

After school, she moved from Los Angeles to Boston. In 1981 she decided to start writing. She sent out a story every month. *The New Yorker* finally accepted one of her stories after 25 to 48 entries. She began work on her first book, *The Floating World*. It was published in 1989 by Viking and later was developed into a screenplay. In 1990 she wrote *In the Heart of the Valley of Love*. In 1996 she completed *The Glass Mountains*. In that same year she also received the Chesterfield Screenwriting Fellowship.

Kadohata has also had stories published in *Grand Street Magazine* and *Ploughshares*. The *New York Times* called her "a luminous new voice in fiction" with the publication of her first novel, *The Floating World*. In 2005, *Kira-Kira* received The Newbery Medal. A Whiting Award Fellow, Kadohata lives in Los Angeles, California.

Critic's Corner

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata was the 2005 Newbery Medal Winner. *Publishers Weekly* said, "Lynn's ability to teach Katie to appreciate the 'Kira-Kira' or glitterings, in everyday life makes this novel shine." The *San Diego Union* writes, "An unforgettable story, filled with memorable characters who find hope at the end of a very long road." *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* says, "This lively, funny and sometimes sad novel about a Japanese-American family is compellingly and touchingly told...readers drawn by confident prose and strong family stories will appreciate this quietly lyrical account of the growth of a young girl."

The Importance of Setting

The Takeshima's move from Iowa to Georgia in the 1950s, when Katie, the narrator, is five years old. Her parents are employed long hours at a non-union poultry plant, and the three children manage to support each other lovingly. Together they suffer through the loneliness of prejudice and still manage to carry on with dignity. Katie worships her sister Lynn, who is the oldest. She teaches Katie her first word, Kira-Kira which means "glittering" in Japanese. Katie applies this word to everything she likes. Lynn teaches her to look forward and dream about the future. Lynn becomes ill and is no longer the vibrant life force in Katie's life. Katie cares for her sister when she is ill and learns first hand about the unpredictable stages of grief. Lynn dies of Lymphoma. At her memorial service Katie struggles when she talks about the future that Lynn had and how she was going to take her family with her. Later, Katie writes an essay for school about how Lynn could take ordinary things and see them as Kira-Kira.

Other Books by the Author

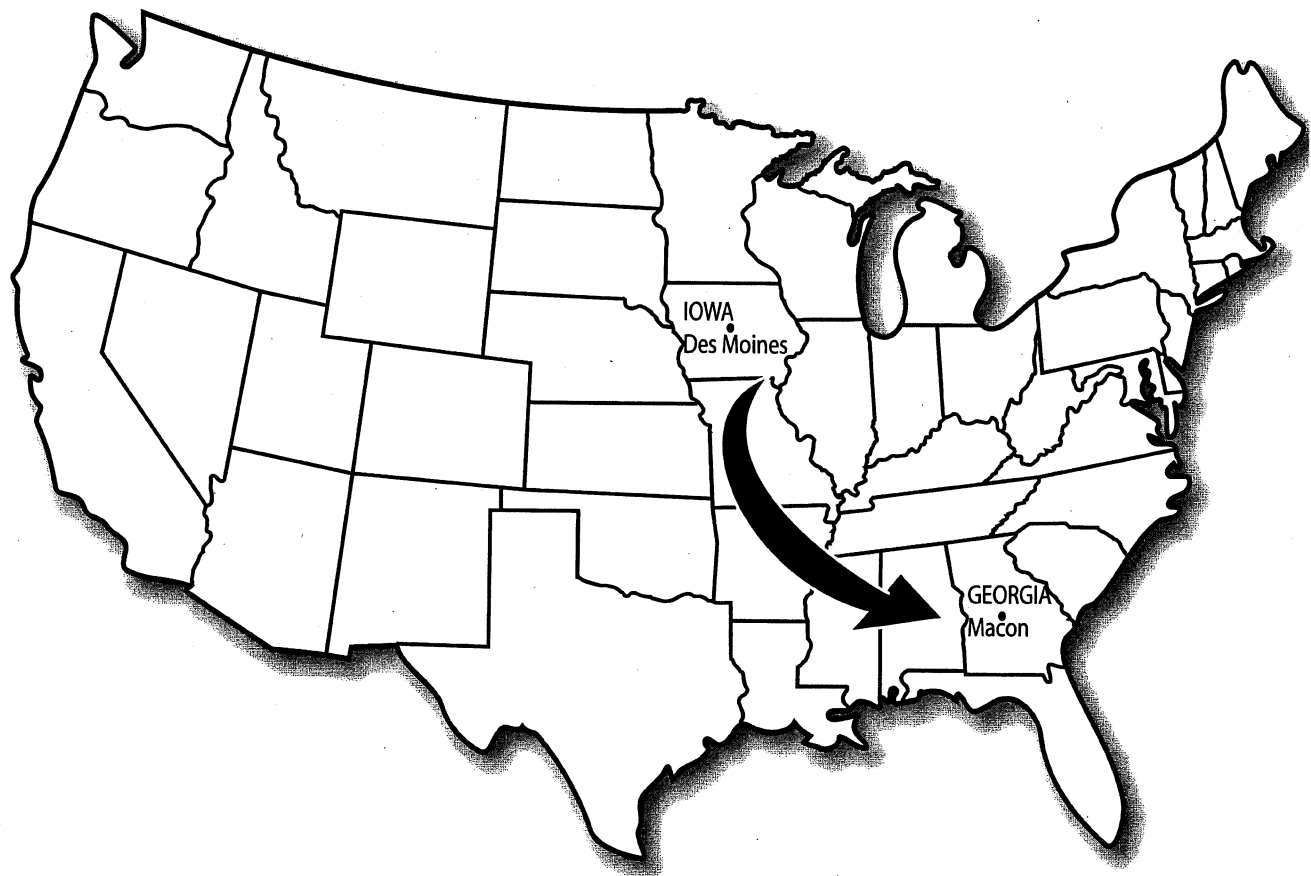
The Floating World (1989)

In the Heart of the Valley of Love (1990)

The Glass Mountains (1996)

General Objectives

1. To analyze historical fiction
2. To recognize the importance of dreaming about the future.
3. To understand the novel's title
4. To understand Katie's exchanging roles with Lynn
5. To recognize the importance of family
6. To identify the significance of setting
7. To recognize the theme of acceptance
8. To sympathize with Katie's loss
9. To examine the importance of owning your own home



Specific Objectives

1. To explore how racism alienated the characters
2. To examine the bond between Katie and Lynn
3. To recognize how planning for the future helped them accept their temporary status
4. To examine the limitations set by racism on the Japanese in the South
5. To understand the cruelties inflicted on employees of non-unionized poultry plants
6. To assess the effects of low wages on family life
7. To understand the long term effects of a terminal illness on family members
8. To understand Japanese-American culture
9. To describe the effects of grief on the main character and her family

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Cynthia Kadohata's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel.

Foreshadowing the clues that hint at what will happen later on in the story. Writers use foreshadowing to create suspense and link related details. Katie tells us in the first chapter, "I was born in Iowa in 1951. I know a lot about when I was a little girl, because my sister used to keep a diary. Today I keep her diary in a drawer next to my bed." Katie says later in chapter one, "Lynn was the bravest girl in the world." By using the past tense the author is letting us know that Lynn is no longer alive. By Katie telling the reader that she keeps her sister's diary, we also can assume that Lynn no longer uses it and that it is precious to Katie, thus creating some suspense around what has happened to Lynn.

Characterization the different ways an author tells readers about characters. Writers can tell about characters directly or let readers reach their own decisions about a character indirectly by showing the comments, thoughts, and actions of the other characters. Kadohata uses direct characterizations to show Lynn as a loving sister and a gifted student who has a mature vision of her life. She uses indirect characterization to describe how her parents feel about Lynn's illness.

Conflict in literature a struggle or fight. There are two kinds of conflict. In an external conflict, characters struggle against a force outside of themselves. In an internal conflict, characters battle a force within themselves. Kadohata uses Katie's external conflict with Lynn's illness and her parents' internal conflict with their daughter's mortality.

Background Information on Lymphoma

Lynn suffered from lymphoma, which is a cancer of the lymphatic system. According to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America's website, Non-Hodgkins lymphoma is the sixth most common cancer diagnosed in the United States.

Lymphomas, including Hodgkin lymphoma, result from an acquired injury to the DNA of a lymphocyte. Scientists know that the damage to the DNA occurs after birth and, therefore, is acquired rather than inherited. The change or mutation of DNA in one lymphocyte produces a malignant transformation. This mutation results in the uncontrolled and excessive growth of the lymphocyte, and confers a survival advantage on the malignant lymphocyte and the cells that are formed from its multiplication. The accumulation of these dividing cells results in the tumor masses in lymph nodes and other sites.

Lymphomas generally start in lymph nodes or collections of lymphatic tissue in organs like the stomach or intestines. Lymphomas may involve the marrow and the blood in some cases. Spread from a lymphoma site is not unexpected. Lymphocytic leukemias originate and are most prominent in the marrow and spill over into the blood. They occasionally spread to involve the lymph nodes.

Symptoms and Signs

In most cases, patients seek attention because of the appearance of swollen glands in the neck, armpits or groin. These swollen lymph nodes are mostly painless. They are present for several weeks before attention is directed toward them. They are unresponsive to treatment with antibiotics.

Patients may experience loss of appetite and weight loss, along with nausea, vomiting, indigestion and abdominal pain or bloating. Sometimes a feeling of fullness may be present, the result of an enlarged liver, spleen or abdominal lymph nodes. Pressure or pain in the lower back, often extending down one or both legs, is another fairly common symptom. Other symptoms include itching, bone pain, headaches, constant coughing and abnormal pressure and congestion in the face, neck and upper chest.

General symptoms may include feeling tired, having a flu-like syndrome or aching all over. Fatigue may be the result of anemia. Others experience night sweats and

some may have recurring high-grade or constant low-grade fevers. Since all these symptoms are common to many illnesses, from minor ailments to serious disorders, the correct diagnostic procedures must be performed in order to confirm or rule out the diagnosis of lymphoma.

Treatment approaches for blood cancers may include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, stem cell or marrow transplantation, or immunotherapy. These treatments are often given as standard care or in a clinical trial. The patient may also seek complementary and alternative therapies. For more information, see the following website : http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/hm_lls.

Meaning Study

1. "Naturally, I had to have hysterics." (Chap 2, p.19)
(Katie could not be consoled because they were: a) moving, b) going a on a long trip to a place unknown, and, c) she could not find her stuffed rabbit Bera-Bera that comforted her.)
2. "I watched my parents look at the rice in the truck, and I could see that the rice made them feel good." (Chap.2 p.16)
(Katie explains that once a year her parents bought as many 50-pound bags of rice as they could afford, and they did not get nervous about money again until they had reached their last bag.)
3. "We didn't know where to sit, so we always ordered to-go." (Chap.3, p.34)
(In Georgia in the 1950's segregation was being practiced. The Takeshima's were Japanese and did not fit the categories of Black or White. In their discomfort they chose the only option where they would not attract attention.)
4. "Have you noticed that sometimes people won't say hello to Mom when we're out shopping?" (Chap. 4 pgs. 49-50)
(Lynn is trying to explain to Katie how racism will affect her in school.)
5. "It smelled like my mother had used her pad." (Chap.7, p.97)
(Katie is referring to the pad her mother was forced to wear in the factory. Factory workers were not allowed to take unscheduled breaks and were forced to use pads, like diapers, in case they needed to use the bathroom.)
6. "Or you could twirl it into long strings and wrap it around your tongue." (Chap. 8, p. 111)

(Katie is talking about the white bread that Silly shared with her and Sam. Sam had never seen white bread before, and they were unfamiliar with its consistency.)

7. "When she was finished talking, she walked back into the living room and just stood there." (Chap. 9 p.127)
(Mrs. Takeshima had taken Lynn to the hospital because she had slept all day and could not chew her food. Uncle Katsuhisa and his family came to care for Katie and Sammy. Auntie Fumi takes the call from the hospital and then returns to the living room. Her response shows that there is bad news, but she does not share it.)
8. "Pallor and fatigue didn't seem bad enough to make someone miss so much school." (Chap.12, p.158)
(Katie looks up 'anemia' in the dictionary, and she begins to question what she has been told concerning Lynn's illness.)
9. "The next thing I knew, my back was scraping along rocks on the roadside." (Chap.13 p.187)
(Katie leans against a door in Uncle's truck that comes loose sometimes. She falls out of the truck as they are traveling down the road and slides in the gravel. She screams out "Wait for me!" Uncle turns around and picks her up.)
10. "Lynn looked peaceful, even beautiful, but slightly off. Her eyes were not quite closed all the way, and her mouth hung open a bit." (Chap. 14, p. 202)
(Katie is describing Lynn after she passed away in her room. She is, and always will be, beautiful to Katie, even though Katie realizes something is not quite right with her sister's appearance.)

Comprehension Study

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. When and where does the story take place?
(Kira-Kira begins in Iowa in the mid-1950s. The Takeshima's move to Chesterfield, Georgia in 1955, where Katie's parents hope to find work in a hatchery, and eventually, to buy their own home.)
2. What is anemia and how does it affect its' victim?
(Anemia is a condition in which the level of hemoglobin in the blood is below the normal range, and there is a decrease in the production of red blood cells, often causing pallor and fatigue.)
3. What is racism?
(Racism is making the race of other people a factor in attitudes or actions concerning them and having animosity towards people who belong to other races.)

4. What causes Lynn to die?
(Lynn dies of lymphoma.)
5. How did Katie participate in Lynn's funeral?
(She reads a eulogy about how her sister was going to be the best in the world and take her family with her.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretive Level)

6. In what ways do the children assume the role of parent for each other?
(Lynn baby-sits Katie, teaching her to talk, and teaching her about the world around her. Katie takes care of Sammy by teaching him to talk and walk. They each take care of one another. When Lynn is sick Katie feeds her and cares for her every need.)
7. How does Lynn change when she gets her first friend?
(She and her friend Amber do teenage girly things that Katie thinks are stupid. Lynn laughs at things that Katie tells her. She spends more time away from the family, and less time with Katie. Lynn says and does things that tell Katie that Lynn thinks of her as a child.)
8. When Katie says that she had serious "wish sessions" and that wishing Lynn back to life was not one of her wishes, what does she mean?
(Katie says, "One thing about me was that when I was having a serious wish session, I tried never to wish impossible wishes. . . So on that forty-ninth day I did not wish that Lynn could be alive again, because I knew that she was gone." Katie realizes Lynn will not return to her and saves her wishes for things that could happen. She did not want to disappoint her sister on the last day Katie's spirit would remain on earth.)

Questions 9-10 (Critical level)

9. Why does Katie tie a lock of her hair around Lynn's neck?
(Katie wants a part of her to remain always be with Lynn.)
10. On the 49th day of Lynn's death a leaf hits the screen in front of Katie, what meaning does Katie derive from this event?
(Uncle Katsuhisa tells Katie that some Buddhists believe that the spirit does not leave the earth for forty-nine days. Katie is standing in the alcove trying to feel Lynn's spirit when suddenly a leaf from the magnolia tree that Lynn loved hits the screen in front of her, and Katie believes that the leaf was a sign from Lynn.)

Questions 11-12 (Creative level)

11. Write a song from the Rhonda's about Lynn's life.

12. Recreate a scene between the girls that you think should have been different. Video tape it.

Across the Curriculum

Art/Music

1. Write a song for Katie and Lynn to help them to stop crying.
2. Draw the Takeshima family attempting to get a meal in a restaurant in Georgia.
3. Take photos of the cornfield scene, with the dog and the girls lying in the road.
4. Design a new cover with your favorite scene from the book.
5. Create a campaign to sell this book.

Language Arts

1. Rewrite Chapter 14 from Lynn's point of view.
2. Describe how does the author's use of Japanese words enhances the story?
3. Create a character sketch of Mrs. Takeshima.
4. Write an essay detailing who Katie takes after more, her mother or her father?
5. Write an essay explaining why *Kira-Kira* is a good or a bad title for this book. If you don't like the title, defend a better choice.

History/Social Studies

1. Do some research about the Japanese encampments during WWII and present your research in the form of a timeline.
2. Create a map of the Takeshima's travels from Iowa to Georgia. Mark on the map where outstanding events took place.
3. Study and write an essay about Buddhism.

Science

1. Write a patient self-care pamphlet for anemia.
2. Create a chart of the cure rate of lymphoma treatments today vs. what was available in the 1950s. Be sure to include the treatments that are available today for people who have lymphoma?
3. Explain why Katie faints when she sees the rabbit Uncle shot with a bow and arrow. Describe how is this explained physiologically?
4. If Katie and Lynn received 5 cents a day for allowance, determine how long it took them to save \$100.00?
5. Research poultry production today. Describe how sanitation has improved in the poultry houses since the 1950s?

Speech/Drama

1. Pick your favorite scene from the novel and create a one-act play to convey the characters and their feelings.
2. Re-write Katie's eulogy for Lynn. Be sure to include everything Katie wanted to say when she gave the eulogy.

Alternate Assessment

1. Write a review of this novel for the school newspaper.
2. Write the main events from the book from Lynn's perspective.
3. Make a character list describing each character's importance to the other characters, and especially to Lynn and Katie.

Vocabulary

Match the word to its definition.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| _____ 1. glittering | A. Ainu |
| _____ 2. shush | B. hysterics |
| _____ 3. out of control | C. shizukani |
| _____ 4. before the civil war | D. antebellum |
| _____ 5. sky people | E. Kira-Kira |
| _____ 6. someone who is brutal and violent | F. heathen |
| _____ 7. chicken | G. hardship |
| _____ 8. uncivilized | H. thug |
| _____ 9. pulling force | I. heartbreakingly |
| _____ 10. mechanism that connects shafts | J. clutch |
| _____ 11. intensely sad | K. traction |
| _____ 12. difficulty | L. poultry |
| _____ 13. someone who takes accurate measurements of land | M. eulogy |
| _____ 14. energy that can be fatal to people exposed to it | N. Buddhists |
| _____ 15. disagree | O. dignity |
| _____ 16. a spoken or written tribute | P. surveyor |
| _____ 17. believers in Buddha | Q. radioactive |
| _____ 18. ornamental vase that contains ashes of the deceased | R. union |
| _____ 19. pride and self-respect | S. dispute |
| _____ 20. an organization that represents workers | T. urn |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 Points)

Match the character with his or her description.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| _____ 1. The man who took Sammy and the girls to the hospital. | A. Lynn |
| _____ 2. She is Katie's non-Japanese friend. | B. Katie |
| _____ 3. He helps the Takeshima's move from Iowa to Georgia. | C. Sammy |
| _____ 4. He gets his leg caught in an animal trap. | D. Mrs. Takeshima |
| _____ 5. Father considered her to be a delicate, rare and beautiful flower. | E. Mr. Takeshima |
| _____ 6. Likes being bad. | F. Uncle Katsuhisa |
| _____ 7. Dies from lymphoma. | G. Amber |
| _____ 8. No matter what, he is always proud of his children. | H. Silly |
| _____ 9. Always listens attentively to Uncle's stories. | I. Auntie Fumi |
| _____ 10. After she drops Lynn as a friend, she calls Katie a heathen. | J. Hank |

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 Points)

Underline the term that best completes each of the following statements.

1. The story is set in (**Utah, Georgia**).
2. The Takeshima's were (**American born, Japanese Immigrants**).
3. Bera-Bera is the name of Katie's (**stuffed rabbit, grandmother**).
4. The Takeshima's packed (**money, rice**) into the truck, and this made them feel safe.
5. Katie entered school in the (**first grade, Kindergarten**).
6. (**Uncle Katsuhisa, Hank**) rushed Sammy to the hospital after he got his leg caught in an animal trap.
7. Little Mr. Sunshine is Lynn's name for (**Sammy, David**).
8. (**Katie, Silly**) faints after Uncle Katsuhisa shoots a rabbit with an arrow.
9. Katie said that she had committed three crimes by the time she was twelve: she hit someone, she lied, and she (**stole, cheated**).
10. Silly gave Sammy and Katie (**chocolate, white bread**) that they thought was amazing.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: True False (20 points)

Mark the following statements with T for those that are True, and F for those that are False.

- _____ 1. The Ainu were the first inhabitants of Japan.
- _____ 2. The Buddhists believe that the spirit remains on earth for 49 days after death.
- _____ 3. When Lynn dies Amber is at her side.
- _____ 4. Lynn dies and at the end of that day Katie chases the sun from rooftop to rooftop because it is the last time that the sun will set on a day that Lynn lived.
- _____ 5. Mrs. Takeshima throws away all of Lynn's things immediately after she dies.
- _____ 6. Mr. Takeshima apologizes to Mr. Lyndon and admits to breaking his windshield.
- _____ 7. After Lynn dies Katie learns to cook because she is tired of Spam and rice.
- _____ 8. On New Year's Lynn makes Katie promise that she will go to college, get good grades, and care for her parents and Sammy.
- _____ 9. Mr. and Mrs. Takeshima are professors at a local university.
- _____ 10. While at the cemetery Mr. Takeshima informs Katie that Lynn wanted her to have her diary.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Compare and contrast Lynn and Katie.
- 2. Summarize the plot of *Kira-Kira*.
- 3. Why is *Kira-Kira* a good title for this book?
- 4. With which character do you identify with the most?

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

1. In an Iowa cornfield the girls are attacked by a _____.
2. Katie and Lynn are of _____ descent.
3. The Ainu women tattooed _____ on their faces.
4. Katie began to question Lynn's illness when she looked up _____ in the dictionary, and it did not sound serious enough to keep someone out of school.
5. The character with the best grades who always talks about the future is _____.
6. The Takeshima's decide to send Katie to school when she is _____ years old.
7. _____ falls out of Uncle Katsuhisa's truck and lands on the roadside.
8. _____ prepares Katie for school by telling her that people will not want to get to know her.
9. Katie and Lynn imitate _____ when they are sitting on the hood of their car.
10. In Katie's essay about Lynn she says that Lynn could take _____ objects and prove how amazing the world is.

Part II: Identification (20 Points)

Briefly describe each person, place or thing and explain why it is important in the story.

1. poultry processing plant
2. their house in Georgia
3. Lynn's altar
4. nail polish
5. the eulogy and essay about Lynn

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Matching (20 points)

Match the character with the appropriate description.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| _____ 1. A white man who treats them as if they are important. | A. Mr. Takeshima |
| _____ 2. Katie's future beau | B. Sammy |
| _____ 3. shoots a bird to impress the boys | C. Lynn |
| _____ 4. works as a sexer | D. Hank |
| _____ 5. Katie adores her | E. Amber |
| _____ 6. the main character | F. Katie |
| _____ 7. wife of Uncle Katsuhisa | G. Silly |
| _____ 8. she and Katie made up the Shirondas | H. Auntie Fumi |
| _____ 9. Little Mr. Sunshine | I. Joe-John |
| _____ 10. a delicate flower | J. Mrs. Takeshima |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe the progression of Lynn's illness.
2. Explain how Katie changes after Lynn's death.
3. Analyze how the story might be different if it had taken place today.
4. What purpose did making an altar for Lynn serve?

Answer Key

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. H | 11. I | 16. M |
| 2. C | 7. L | 12. G | 17. N |
| 3. B | 8. F | 13. P | 18. T |
| 4. D | 9. K | 14. Q | 19. O |
| 5. A | 10. J | 15. S | 20. R |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. J | 6. B |
| 2. H | 7. A |
| 3. F | 8. E |
| 4. C | 9. I |
| 5. D | 10. G |

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Georgia | 6. Hank |
| 2. American born | 7. Sammy |
| 3. stuffed rabbit | 8. Katie |
| 4. rice | 9. stole |
| 5. first grade | 10. white bread |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T |
| 2. T | 7. T |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. F | 10. T |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 1. wild dog | 6. six |
| 2. Japanese | 7. Katie |
| 3. mustaches | 8. Lynn |
| 4. anemia | 9. floozies |
| 5. Lynn | 10. ordinary, everyday |

Part II: Identification (20 points)

1. The poultry processing plant is the place where the Takeshima's work, and often, eat and sleep.
2. Purchasing the house in Georgia was the family's goal, something they all achieve together, and hope that it will make Lynn well.
3. Lynn's altar is the place for her sacred things. After her death, Katie offered rice and water at the altar, which helped to assuage Katie's grief.
4. Katie stole nail polish to give to Lynn; she would do anything to make Lynn feel better.
5. Katie talks about her sister and how she would have been the greatest at whatever she chose to do. Katie realizes that Lynn could take an ordinary thing and with it prove that the world is an amazing place.

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. F |
| 2. I | 7. H |
| 3. E | 8. G |
| 4. A | 9. B |
| 5. C | 10. J |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

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