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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1: On Dec. 6, 1954, salmon fisherman Kabuo Miyamoto goes on trial for the killing of Carl Heine, a fellow gill-netter in the insular community of Amity Harbor on San Pedro, a part of the San Juan island cluster in Puget Sound. The tense atmosphere belies the beauty of a a snowstorm that falls outside the courthouse windows. Miyamoto has been incarcerated since the end of September. A local reporter, Ishmael Chambers, covers the trial for his paper, the *San Pedro Review*. He, the defendant, and the victim all served in World War II. Ishmael, a marine, lost an arm during the invasion of Tarawa.

Chap. 2: Sheriff Art Moran testifies that Deputy Abel Martinson discovered Heine's boat, the *Susan Marie*, adrift in White Sand Bay at 9 A. M. on September 16. Art and Abel recovered Carl's body tangled in the net. His head was fractured below the left ear.

Chap. 3: Defense attorney Nels Gudmundsson discloses that the weather had been foggy on September 15 and that Heine's boat had two strong batteries, a D-8 and an oversized D-6, which was wedged into place near a dead spare.

Chap. 4: At 10:45, Judge Lew Fielding calls a recess. Ishmael's father, Arthur Chambers, a veteran of World War I, returned from combat a changed man and began the island newspaper. Dale Middleton affirms that he followed Heine to Ship Channel Bank at 6:30 P. M. on September 15. Leonard George saw Heine at 8 P. M.

Chap. 5: On return to the courtroom, coroner Horace Whaley testifies concerning the wound. He had conducted the autopsy, found an empty knife sheath on the body and a watch stopped at 1:47 A. M. He determined that Heine was alive at submersion and that he had sustained a wound similar to that inflicted by Japanese kendo fighters. Whaley suggests that Moran look for a "right-handed Jap" with a bloody gun butt.

Chap. 6: Horace cannot declare that Heine drowned shortly after cutting his right palm. Art recalls going to Heine's residence to report the death to Susan Marie, the victim's wife.

Chap. 7: Japanese islanders are offspring of stoop laborers and workers at the Port Jefferson mill. They slowly, steadily prospered until 1942, when the U. S. government interned them at Manzanar for the duration of World War II. Hatsue recalls being an island beauty and studying odori dance under Mrs. Shigemura, who urged her to stay away from white men. At Manzanar, Hatsue marries Kabuo Miyamoto. Eight days later, he leaves for army training in Mississippi.

Chap. 8: Ishmael relives his friendship with Hatsue at age 14. He spied on her family and met her at a hollow cedar tree in the woods. They debated whether it was wrong to slip

away for trysts.

Chap. 9: Etta Heine testifies about Zenhichi Miyamoto's arrangement to buy land from her husband, Carl, Sr., even though immigrant Japanese were unable to purchase property according to law. Carl had disdained his wife's racist attitude toward Japanese islanders and rebuked her for rudeness to Zenhichi when he came to pay another installment on his debt. After her husband's death, she returned the money to the Miyamotos and sold her land to Ole Jurgensen.

Chap. 10: Kabuo tried to reclaim his land, but Etta refused to intercede with Ole. Kabuo accused her of committing a wrong against his family. Etta declares that Kabuo killed her son in retaliation. Ole testifies that he knew nothing about the Miyamotos' land claim and explains that Bjorn Andreason bought the Heine house. After suffering a stroke, Ole agreed to sell his land to Carl. Kabuo asked him about the land after he made the deal with Carl.

Chap. 11: At noon recess, Kabuo lies in his cell recalling the German soldier he shot. He had tried to maintain composure, but Etta's testimony had angered him. He ponders his family, his choice to enlist in the army, and Hatsue's impromptu proposal of marriage. He remembers his father burying family mementos in the strawberry field before they left for Manzanar. They included the kendo stick that Kabuo had mastered in childhood. His pride echoed the valor of his great-grandfather, a displaced samurai who had committed suicide after being defeated in battle by imperial soldiers.

Chap. 12: Ishmael recalls meeting Hatsue for four years and watching her crowned strawberry princess. He knew that she felt unsettled about their meetings.

Chap. 13: The day that the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, Otto Willets unscrewed the light bulbs on Ichiyama's movie theater marquee. The next day, Arthur Chambers's newspaper exonerated local Japanese of complicity in the bombing. When the bank retained Japanese funds, Ishmael offered Hatsue \$20. Hatsue feared that people would blame her for the bombing. Rumors surged about Japanese agents.

Chap. 14: The FBI questioned Hisao and confiscated Japanese memorabilia, including dynamite, a flute, Hatsue's scrapbook, and sheet music. Agent Wilson arrested Hisao and handcuffed him. Other Japanese males were arrested and deported to a work camp in Montana. Fujiko encouraged Hatsue to endure in silence. Near the end of February, she met Ishmael at the cedar tree. On March 26, Arthur printed an editorial condemning relocation. Two days later, Hatsue met Ishmael at the tree. He urged her to write to him in secret. As they made love, she pulled away and intended never to see him again.

Chap. 15: An army truck transported the Imadas to Amity Harbor at 7 A. M. Two hours later, they boarded the Kehloken and wept as they departed. By train, they moved from Anacortes to a horse stable at the Puyallup fairgrounds. Three days later, another train carried them south to Manza-

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nar in the Mojave Desert. On the second day, they were forced to mop and sweep. After Sumiko opened a love letter from Ishmael, Fujiko relived the misery of her marriage to a pauper. Kabuo came to build shelves for the Imadas. Fujiko condemned Hatsue's deceit and wrote to Ishmael's parents, but Hatsue urged her not to send the letter because she had no further interest in him. After a few months, she encouraged the courtship of Kabuo.

Chap. 16: Ishmael felt numbed and detached as he trained at Parris Island. After dispatch to Tarawa, on November 19, 1943, he departed the USS *Heywood* for an invasion of the island. The landing depleted his company. At 9 P. M., 300 of his comrades topped the seawall. A sniper's bullet destroyed his left arm. After the marines secured the beach, a pharmacist's mate on a ship amputated Ishmael's arm.

Chap. 17: The storm worsens in mid-afternoon. On September 16, Art Moran plans to reveal to Judge Fielding that he found a tie-up rope that links Heine's boat to Miyamoto's.

Chap. 18: The judge grudgingly signed a limited search warrant so the sheriff could look for a murder weapon. Art and Abel searched the *Islander*, Kabuo's boat, and questioned him about a gaff with blood on the handle. At his refusal to remain on shore, they arrested him.

Chap. 19: On December 7, Dr. Stirling Whitman testifies that the blood on the gaff was B positive, the same as Carl Heine's, but not Kabuo's. Fishermen testify concerning squabbles at sea. Sergeant Victor Maples claims that Kabuo was a stout kendo fighter capable of murder.

Chap. 20: Islanders brought food to Susan Heine. She thought over her decision to marry Carl and recalled Kabuo's visit to their house on September 9. She knew that Carl was a silent, lonely man after the war. He thought he could recover if he sold the boat and raised strawberries as his father did.

Chap. 21: Gudmundsson feels trapped inside a deteriorating body as he cross-examines Susan. The judge acknowledges that he is trying to determine the state of mind of the victim, a shady legal area. The courtroom lights flicker out. The jury files out to cold, dark rooms at the hotel.

Chap. 22: The state rests its case at noon, when the judge calls the two attorneys to his chambers. Ishmael remains behind in the courtroom before setting out to aid his mother. He halts on the way to assist the Imadas, whose car is disabled in the snow. Hatsue presses him to use the newspaper to right the injustice to her husband. He implies that she was unfair to him.

Chap. 23: At the Coast Guard lighthouse, Ishmael gets permission to study records of the night of September 15. In the misery of regret, he recalls seeing Hatsue in the grocery store and meeting her on the beach, where she refused to comfort him. Ishmael learns that the freighter *Corona* plowed a wall of water across Ship Channel Bank at 1:42 A. M. on September 16.

Chap. 24: Ishmael's stump aches from the cold. His mother makes soup and chastises her son for lack of faith in God. Ishmael thinks over the evidence. His mother declares Kabuo a hard-working man and a war veteran. She believes her son cold and unfeeling since the war. She reminds him that Arthur managed to recover from World War I. Ishmael goes to his room for the night and rereads Hatsue's farewell letter. He determines to conceal the lighthouse records, but to write a positive article to make Hatsue beholden to him.

Chap. 25: On December 8, the third day of the trial, Hatsue recalls how Kabuo retrieved his family's buried memorabilia shortly before the birth of their first child in 1945. She testifies that Kabuo wanted to reclaim family land. After visiting Carl, Kabuo seemed hopeful. He returned home on September 16 and told his wife the terms of their arrangement. At 1 P. M., they learned of Carl's death.

Chap. 26: Cross-examination reveals that Hatsue and Kabuo concealed from the sheriff events of the previous night. Josiah Gillanders testifies that fishermen never board other men's boats unless there is an emergency. The prosecutor tries to make his testimony show that Kabuo preyed on Carl.

Chap. 27: In his cell, Kabuo thinks over the lie he told the sheriff. Nels questions Kabuo about the overwhelming weight of evidence. Kabuo testifies to a good night of fishing. Near midnight, he discovered the Susan Marie dead in the water and loaned Carl a D-6 battery. While forcing it into place, Carl cut his hand on the butt end of Kabuo's gaff. The two make an agreement about the land, with Kabuo agreeing to pay \$8,400 for seven acres.

Chap. 28: The prosecutor questions why Kabuo concealed the details. Hooks implies that Kabuo hides his true feelings. The jury thinks about the impassive faces of Japanese soldiers.

Chap. 29: Hooks summarizes his case against Kabuo. Nels counters with a reminder that the case hinges on prejudice resulting from World War II. The judge instructs the jury to move beyond doubt to certainty.

Chap. 30: At 3, the jury departs. Ishmael is pondering the notes that would clear Kabuo when Nels recalls how much he admired Arthur Chambers. Hisao thanks Ishmael for helping him out of the snow the day before. Hatsue urges Ishmael to right the wrong done to Kabuo. By 6 P. M., the jury ends deliberation without a verdict.

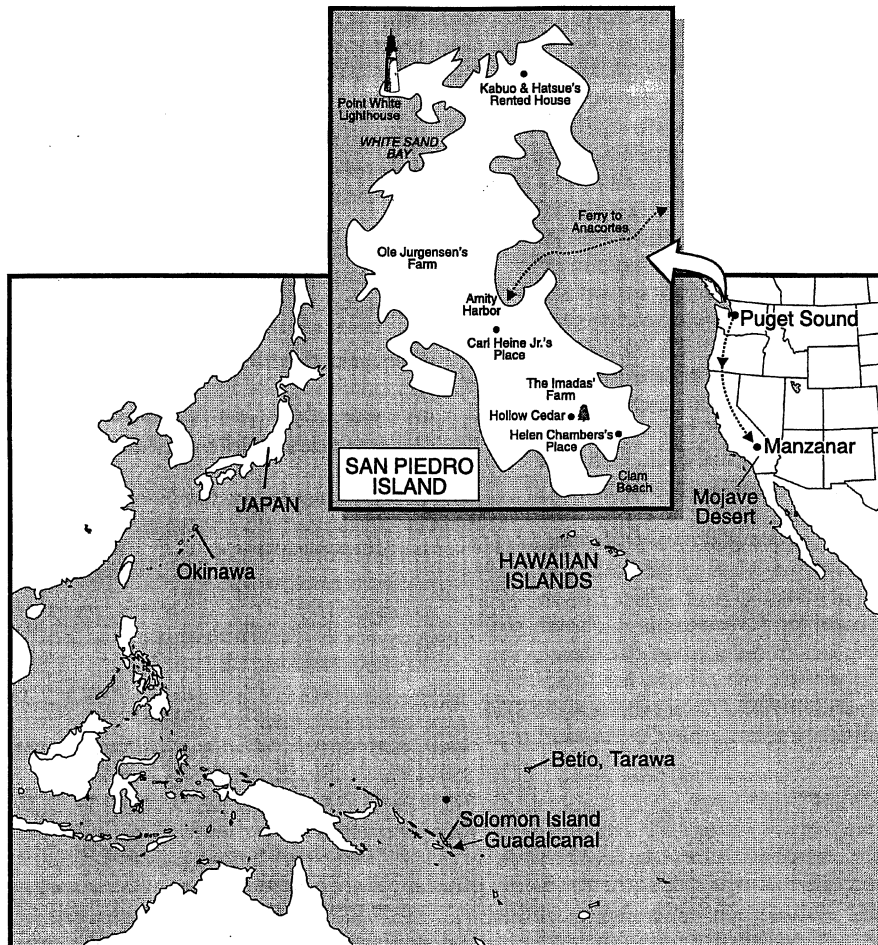
Chap. 31: Ishmael's mother declares that the newspaper has a responsibility to aid justice. After rereading Hatsue's farewell letter, he leaves his bed and arrives at the Imadas' house at 10:30 to hand over the lighthouse notes.

Chap. 32: At midnight, Ishmael departs. The next morning at 6:50, he finds Hatsue at his mother's table. Hatsue suggests that they examine Carl's boat for evidence of a lantern lashed to the mast, which would prove that Carl had no electric power. The sheriff demeans the evidence, but Ishmael persists and finds the lashings and traces of blood as well as three hairs from Carl's head. At 10 A. M., the judge dismisses the charges on the strength of the new evidence. Kabuo goes free.

TIME LINE

- 1603** Spanish captain Martin de Aguilar reaches San Pedro island.
- 1845** English explorers kill pigs on the island.
- 1868** Japanese government begins eliminating special privileges for samurai.
- 1877** A rebellion by samurai is crushed.
- 1883** The first Japanese immigrants arrive at San Pedro.
- 1906** U.S. law denies naturalized citizenship to Japanese residents.
- 1918 June** U.S. troops defeat Germans at Belleau Wood.
- 1922 November** Kabuo Miyamoto is born.
- 1923** Carl Heine, Jr., is born.
- ca.1924** Hatsue Imada is born.

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- 1934** The Miyamotos begin making payments on seven acres of Carl Heine's., land.
- 1941** **Dec. 7** Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
Dec. 8 Congress declares war on Japan. Japanese are arrested in Washington, Oregon, and California.
- 1942** **Feb. 4** The FBI arrests Hisao and other Japanese males and transports them to a Montana work camp.
March 29 The U. S. War Relocation Authority transports the island's Japanese citizens to the ferry terminal and a stable in Anacortes.
April 1 The Imadas arrive at Manzanar internment camp.
April 4 Fujiko intercepts a love letter from Ishmael. Hatsue ends her relationship with him.
summer Ishmael trains with the Marines at Parris Island, South Carolina.
- 1943** **February** Kabuo enters the army.
August Allied forces invade Italy.
September Japanese-American troops enter combat in Italy.
- 1944** **October** Carl Heine, Sr. dies; Etta sells the land to Ole Jurgensen.
- 1945** **April** The U.S. invades Okinawa.
April 12 President Franklin Roosevelt dies at Warm Springs, Georgia.
October Carl Junior returns from the war.

- Sept. 2** Japan surrenders to the United States.
- 1948** Carl builds a house west of Amity Harbor. His mother takes an apartment in town.
- 1954** **June 28** Ole suffers a stroke.
Sept. 7 When Ole puts his farm on the market, Carl offers to buy it. Kabuo makes an offer.
Sept. 9 Kabuo calls on Carl to ask about buying the farm.
Sept. 15 After Kabuo offers Carl a battery, they agree to a transfer of seven acres to Kabuo.
Sept. 16 A freighter, the S.S. *West Corona*, creates a wake that knocks Carl overboard to his death. Kabuo is arrested for his murder.
Dec. 6 Kabuo's trial begins.
that afternoon Ishmael discovers evidence at the lighthouse.
Dec. 8 The jury begins deliberation. Ishmael offers the Imadas the notes he took from the lighthouse record.
Dec. 9 Judge Fielding dismisses charges against Kabuo.

AUTHOR SKETCH

Ecology activist David Guterson followed the advice of writing instructors to write what you know. A native and full-time resident of the north rim of Seattle, he was born on May 4, 1956, the third of five children of Shirley Zak and Murray

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

Guterson, an established criminal defense lawyer in Seattle. Guterson spent his early years bird hunting and hiking in the Columbia River Basin, the topography of his fiction. These facts impact Guterson's notable bestseller, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, which he dedicated "with gratitude" to his parents. The action takes place on the fictional San Piedro Island in Puget Sound in 1954 during a tense trial where a man's life and reputation are nearly destroyed because of racism. The seriousness of a moral question put to an insular community places Guterson's fiction in the American tradition of Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.

An average student, Guterson studied creative writing and the works of Shakespeare, the English Romantics, Austen, Hemingway, and Faulkner and the dark novels of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, and Turgenev. At the college level, he entered a creative writing program at Brown University in Rhode Island and lived on a tree farm. On his return to Seattle, he earned an M. A. at his alma mater, the University of Washington, where he studied with author Charles Johnson.

Simultaneously with his education, Guterson began submitting short fiction to the *Seattle Review*, *Iowa Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Esquire*. He published a first volume of short stories at age 33. After teaching high school English on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound for a decade, he wrote for *Sports Illustrated* and *Harper's* before leaving the classroom to edit and write fiction. Living with his wife, Robin Ann Radwick Guterson, and coaching and homeschooling three sons and a daughter, Guterson continues to mine the Seattle area for literary material.

CRITIC'S CORNER

David Guterson's conversation resonates with Buddhist and existential philosophy and commentary on Leo Tolstoy, Albert Camus, Franz Kafka, Jose Saramago, and John Gardner, all of whom chronicled the dark side of human nature. A devotee of the experience-centered fiction of Harper Lee, Guterson is not afraid to buck trends toward postmodern esoteric fiction. In the spare style of Ernest Hemingway, he specifies topography and action with first-hand observation. His first novel, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, parallels Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* in its multilayered examination of family, region, dilemma, and racism. Like his idol, Guterson incubated the work for a decade before completing it. His meticulous, understated prose derives from a stoic writer's regimen that begins at 5 A. M. An interest in Asian philosophy and outlook as it applies to the American Northwest impacts the title and text, particularly the characterization of Hatsue, whom he depicts as girl, lover, wife, and mother.

Guterson's brooding, melancholy masterwork thrives in print, on audiotape, and on screen on the strength of his poetic re-creation of human fallout from war, which he researched through interview and local and West Coast records. The novel earned him the 1995 PEN/Faulkner Award, Barnes & Noble Great New Writers Award, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Book Award, and the American Booksellers Book of the Year award. The book remained on the bestseller chart for a year and went into translation in 25 languages.

Guterson earned over a million dollars by selling screen rights to the book to Universal Pictures. The film version, adapted by Ronald Bass with Guterson's assistance, reprises a strong sense of place in scenes shot in Alaska, Washington, and British Columbia. The movie succeeds with an all-

star cast: Ethan Hawke as newspaperman Ishmael Chambers, Sam Shepard as his father Arthur Chambers, and Max von Sydow as Nels Gudmundsson, a courtroom genius based on Guterson's father.

GUTERSON'S OTHER WORKS

The Country Ahead of Us, the Country Behind, 1989
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East of the Mountains, 1999

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the impact of war on a community
2. To account for the success of aliens in low-paying jobs
3. To interpret social and religious customs
4. To contrast causes of bias and immorality
5. To discuss the themes of obsession and prejudice
6. To explain the main events in time order
7. To analyze war's influence on events
8. To describe attitudes toward interracial dating and Asian-on-white crime
9. To describe elements that delineate atmosphere and tone
10. To analyze the roles of witness, counselor, objective observer, and judge

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain how Ishmael perceives his losses
2. To analyze the symbolism of the title
3. To summarize Arthur Chambers's importance to family and community
4. To account for Etta Heine's spite
5. To justify Hatsue's confusion about interracial love and marriage
6. To predict how Kabuo will rebuild his life among islanders
7. To summarize Judge Fielding and Ishmael Chambers's impact on local justice
8. To discuss the implications of a hostile sheriff and prosecuting attorney
9. To describe the roles of Mrs. Chambers, Fujiko, and Susan Heine
10. To list events caused by hatred, suspicion, and revenge

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of David Guterson's fiction, present the following terms and applications:

anti-hero a protagonist or central figure who lacks the usual heroic qualities of an admirable person or leader, particularly skill, grace, honesty, courage, and truth. Ishmael Chambers exemplifies the behaviors of a non-hero because he is dominated by less admirable traits, particularly self-pity and regret. He redeems himself in part by studying the example of his mother and by choosing to reveal new evidence that will free Kabuo of a false charge of murder.

existentialism a loosely defined philosophy that contrasts the random nature of the universe with the inadequacy of human control or intelligence. The novel stresses that Japanese residents function well in their island environment, but that they fall victim to anti-Japanese sentiments that survive World War II and fester into the next decade. Like the soldiers serving in the war, Hatsue is a victim of the randomness of the universe in that she falls in love with a white man and is unable to remain true to her emotions after her family is relocated to Manzanar. Through no fault of his own, Ishmael suffers from losing her and from the war, which costs him an arm after the marine landing at Tarawa.

sociological novel reform literature that uses character and action to delineate a social problem. *Snow Falling on Cedars* studies the nature of justice in an insular community where post-war bitterness prevails and colors the outcome of a murder trial. The impact of unjust laws and repressive wartime relocation of Japanese residents reverberates into the 1950s, causing people to examine their biases and reevaluate local treatment of Japanese-Americans.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The milieu of David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars* is an obvious immersion in nature resulting from a lifetime of observation. He stresses the daily existence of ambitious stoop laborers and fishers of the Puget Sound waters by recreating the physical and climatic conditions that grow strawberries and fill the waters with salmon. The lush, but demanding milieu forces workers to adapt to the environment in order to succeed. The failure of Kabuo and Carl Heine, Jr., to thrive after moving from land-based work to gill-netting is part of the drama of their struggle over strawberry acreage once owned by the elder Carl Heine. The younger Carl's unforeseen death from the backwash of the S.S. *West Corona* enlarges the tragedy that ends his career, grieves his widow, and threatens Kabuo with execution for murder.

The element of snow is the equalizing force that throws all citizens into a challenging island emergency and forces the participants in the trial to work in cold rooms by candlelight. When Ishmael helps the Imadas get home safely after a branch damages their car, he begins settling smoldering issues that have deprived him of full enjoyment of life and career. By the time he acquires new evidence and works up the courage to end his vindictiveness toward Hatsue, he redeems himself from post-war trauma. Thus, the blanket of snow appears to cloak painful war memories and force islanders to focus on the present.

The title is an enigmatic word picture suggesting the gentle imagery of Japanese haiku. As a symbol of non-violent Japanese labor arriving in the harsh island milieu, the image suggests that Asians were destined to meet with adversity from harsh prejudices, exemplified by the sharp pointed ends of cedar branches. Within the story, the cedar shifts to a welcoming nook for Ishmael and Hatsue as they discover love and explore the possibility of a white-Asian marriage. In the final paragraphs, Ishmael ponders the knowledge that lies out of reach, like snow-banked cedars and the deep waters that claim the life of Carl Heine.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about Japanese Americans, World War II, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

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Willa Cather, *My Antonia*

Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain*

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Ernest Gaines, *A Lesson before Dying*

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Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*

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Monica Soné, *Nisei Daughter*

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THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in *Snow Falling on Cedars* should include these aspects:

Themes

- immigration
- farm labor
- family
- racism
- ownership
- loss
- justice
- logic
- change
- acceptance

Motifs

- coping with family financial setbacks
- understanding the soldier mentality
- loving and losing
- assuming the role of rescuer
- comprehending the decline of a community
- coping with war trauma

MEANING STUDY

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the novel. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can reread the passage in which it appears.

1. "This is called the *dura mater*." Horace pointed with his scalpel. (Chap. 5, p. 57)
(*Queasily, Sheriff Art Moran watches as the coroner, Dr. Horace Whaley, investigates the crushing head injury below the left ear that may have killed Carl Heine. Whaley indicates the brain's fibrous covering, called by the Latin phrase *dura mater* or "hard mother." The term is prophetic of Carl's mother, Etta Heine, a vindictive racist who tries to convince the court that Kabuo killed her son.*)
2. When she was thirteen her mother had dressed her in a silk kimono and sent her off to Mrs. Shigemura, who taught young girls to dance *odori* and to serve tea impeccably (Chap. 7, p. 82)
(*Significant to the training of polite young girls is the study of *odori*, a stylized dance in native costume requiring control of body, facial expression, rhythm, and gesture. Fujiko anticipates that Hatsue will become more refined by her study with Mrs. Shigemura. The serving of tea is a ritual accomplishment and demonstration of serenity and self-control. It is expected of well brought-up Japanese women.*)
3. Mr. Crow had been in coal mining and the manufacturing of pallet boards but had recently gone into the ship-build-

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ing business and was right now in Seattle financing the construction of frigates and minesweepers for Roosevelt's navy (though he didn't care a lick for Roosevelt, she said)—but why was Ishmael so blue? (Chap. 8, p. 101)

(Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd president of the United States, was elected an unprecedented four times. His policies to ameliorate the effects of the Great Depression, commonly called "The New Deal," were as popular as they were controversial. His pro-British policies prior to the U.S. entry into World War II also caused dismay among Americans who wanted to keep out of the war. Roosevelt died in Warm Springs, Georgia, on April 12, 1945, from a brain hemorrhage.)

4. "Well, I told you people about it when I sent on down the equity," returned Etta. "Said in my letter Carl'd passed on and that I'd had to go and sell the place." (Chap. 10, p. 137)

(Etta returns the money that the Miyamotos had invested in the strawberry fields. The money covers only the amount they had invested, not the \$2,500 profit that she made from Ole Jurgensen.)

5. In your mind, Mr. Jurgensen, did the deed read free and clear? That is, were there any encumbrances or conditions? Easements? Liens? That sort of thing? (Chap. 10, p. 143)

(Alvin Hooks, the prosecuting attorney, questions Ole Jurgensen about the purchase of property from the estate of Carl Heine, Sr. Alvin stresses questions about prior claims, including easements or right-of-way across the land, or liens, outstanding debts credited against the title which would have to be paid by the owner from any monetary return on the property. Ole assures Alvin that the deed was free and clear of such encumbrances.)

6. The death penalty, Kabuo said to himself. He was a Buddhist and believed in the laws of karma, so it made sense to him that he might pay for his war murders: everything comes back to you, nothing is accidental. (Chap. 11, p. 157)

(In contemplating the chance that he might be executed for killing Carl Heine, Kabuo sees his future in terms of Buddhist philosophy. He believes in karma, the religious principle of fate or destiny that requires people to pay for their sins in a previous life through an improved life in subsequent incarnations.)

7. Kabuo's training at kendo had begun when he was seven. (Chap. 11, p. 165)

(Kabuo studies ceremonial stick fighting with a bamboo dueling sword or stave wielded with both hands clasping the grip. A competitive sport resembling fencing, kendo requires the wearing of protective masks, gloves, and padding for the torso.)

8. "The sword that gives life, not the sword that takes life, is the goal of the samurai," my grandfather said then. The goal of the sword is to give life, not to take it. (Chap. 11, p. 167)

(Zenhichi explains to Kabuo the philosophy of the samurai, the hereditary warrior class of feudal Japan. The samurai's privileges included the exclusive right to own weapons, most notably swords. In 1868, as part of an effort to modernize Japan, the government banned the wearing of swords and ended the samurai's special privi-

leges. Many samurai took up arms in protest. The revolts were put down by the new government armies, ironically made up of peasants trained and organized on Western models and equipped the latest modern weapons, including rifles.)

9. The violence might at last die out of him and set him free to contemplate his destiny and his next life on the Great Wheel. (Chap. 11, p. 169)

(Kabuo believes in the circular concept of history that returns human beings many times to human existence, but in a new and unpredictable form. The purpose of reincarnation is cleansing the soul of past sins and unethical behavior. Kabuo hopes that reincarnation will purge him of regret for killing Germans during World War II.)

10. The young people sat with their books unopened and listened to a navy man describe in detail how to extinguish incendiary bombs, and then to reports of further Japanese attacks, Roosevelt's speech before the congress, an announcement by Attorney General Biddle that Japanese fifth columnists were being arrested in Washington, Oregon, and California. (Chap. 13, p. 180)

(Because of their nearness to the attack on Pearl Harbor and the danger of another attack on the West Coast, school children on San Piedro Island learn the necessities of war rather than classroom lessons. Their instructor, a military official, tells about Japanese aggression and relates President Franklin Roosevelt's text in the "Day of Infamy" speech, which he delivered on Monday, December 8, 1941, after the Japanese sneak attack on planes and naval vessels the day before. The speaker introduces the possibility of local infiltration by "fifth columnists," a term that implies treachery in local Japanese residents.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Motivation

1. What causes islanders to doubt their Japanese neighbors?

(After immigrating to San Piedro Island, Japanese immigrants acquire a reputation for hard work, strong family values, and ambition. White islanders admire Japanese production of strawberries and their ability to feed families on seafood and shellfish. They depend on immigrant stoop labor for successful harvests. Etta Heine is the exception. An outspoken racist, she insists that her husband refuse to sell seven acres of strawberry fields to Zenhichi Miyamoto. Carl, Sr., her husband, declares that she shares none of his feelings and rejects her advice. Even though it is illegal for Japanese residents to buy land, Carl accepts Miyamoto's money and arranges to transfer land to his son, a native born Japanese-American, after the last payment.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, this relationship between outsiders and natives alters quickly. More people express Etta Heine's overt racism and begin victimizing the local Japanese. Boys unscrew the light bulbs on a Japanese-owned movie house. Rumors circulate about a Japanese fifth column

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on the island. Within weeks, FBI agents round up male Japanese residents, handcuff them, and lead them away to work camps. In March, the remaining family members give away and store belongings before being herded onto the ferry for transport to Anacortes and south by train to Manzanar, an internment camp in the Mojave Desert. Hatsue Imada is so distressed that she no longer wants to be Japanese.

When the sheriff and his deputy find Carl Heine, Jr., dead in a gill-net under suspicious circumstances, the coroner, Dr. Horace Whaley, connects the head wound with Japanese-style killings during World War II. Anger and suspicion spread. After three months, a murder trial gives people an opportunity to testify. Sergeant Victor Maples declares that Kabuo is a trained killer capable of murder. Etta Heine accuses Kabuo of murdering Carl. In summation, Nels Gudmundsson accuses local people of vindictiveness. He reminds the jury that they must move beyond post-war racism and find Kabuo innocent of murder.)

Setting

2. Describe island life.

(People living on San Pedro in the San Juan Islands of Puget Sound share daily life and hardships because they are isolated from the mainland. Regardless of race, people know and respect each other, but keep to their own kind. For this reason, Hatsue Imada knows that a relationship with a white boy is unsuitable. After ferry service halts and lights go out during the snowstorm, people aid each other with allotments of food and fuel and transportation on treacherous roads. Ishmael helps the Imadas out of the snow when a fallen limb disables their car. He takes groceries to his mother and checks on her chickens, which, like the Japanese internees, huddle helplessly together.)

Fishermen offer investigators a glimpse of the code of conduct that governs behavior at sea. When Kabuo's trial resumes, he testifies that he noticed the Susan Marie dead in the water and, out of neighborly concern, went to Carl's assistance. After tying up alongside the boat, he offered a battery to restore Carl's electricity. The two men shared the labor of wedging the battery into place and restarting the boat. Their friendship ended a long-standing grudge. In gratitude, Carl was willing to offer the strawberry field that the Miyamotos lost after their internment.)

Character Development

3. How does Ishmael change over time?

(Ishmael Chambers is a helpful, upbeat boy when he meets Hatsue. Their friendship begins on the beach, where he teaches her to harvest geoduck clams. After they begin retreating to the hollow cedar tree in the woods for trysts, he grows to love and desire her and want her for his wife. He treats her respectfully and presses for sexual intimacy, but withdraws out of concern for her doubts about their relationship. Upon her departure for Manzanar, he arranges falsified return addresses for their mail exchange. His first letter states an ardent desire for marriage.)

The unexpected arrival of Hatsue's farewell letter alters Ishmael remarkably. He grows numb and hopeless of consummating a sincere love for her. At Parris

Island, South Carolina, he trains with other marines and anticipates fighting in war, but loses his ambition for a wife and family. After fighting against terrific odds at Betio, Tarawa, the unit triumphs, but Ishmael loses his left arm. His anguish turns into bitterness and self-pity.

On Ishmael's return to San Pedro, his mother thinks of Arthur, her husband, and his return from Belleau Wood after service in World War I. She attempts to help Ishmael acquire mature values, but he harbors his old grudge and fantasizes about reuniting with Hatsue. When they meet at the grocery store, he is unable to behave courteously and abandons his purchases in despair. On the beach, he implores her to hold him once more, even though she is another man's wife and mother of his children. After Ishmael uncovers new evidence in the lighthouse records to exonerate Kabuo of the murder charge, Ishmael conceals the pages from Seaman Philip Milholland's record and intends to write a pro-Japanese editorial in the San Pedro Review to make Hatsue beholden to him.

The neighborly exchange with the Imadas during the snowstorm returns Ishmael to reality. He tries to sleep, but cannot escape the weight of his discovery, which compels him to surrender the pages to the Imadas. After returning from a late-night visit to their home, he tries to sleep. On finding Hatsue at his mother's home the next morning, Ishmael alters from selfish lovelorn teen to respectable community member. His investigation and assistance to Judge Fielding allows the trial to end justly with dropped charges. As Ishmael types stories for the newspaper, he ponders the quiet secrets that human beings conceal in their hearts.)

Historical Milieu

4. How does one generation of teenagers suffer the brunt of war?

(It is important to the story to understand the children born in the early 1920s who come of age in World War II. Carl Heine, Jr., goes away to the military and returns stony and hardened. His wife is unable to understand the feelings he silently bears from the past. Dr. Horace Whaley returns with memories of Okinawa and the distinct wounds inflicted by Japanese soldiers. Kabuo carries the weight of killings that he considers murder. He relives the look in a German boy's face as Kabuo shoots him through the heart. Facing possible execution for killing Carl Heine, Jr., Kabuo considers the situation a form of destiny. As a devout Buddhist, he realizes that no event is accidental. Possibly, the next turn of the Great Wheel of life will set him free from blood guilt.)

The most torn by war is Ishmael Chambers. The son of a war victim from World War I, he knows the bitterness that stalks Arthur, his father, and colors his work as newspaper editor. Ishmael grieves over the grotesque amputation of his left arm at Tarawa and anguish over losing Hatsue Imada after her family is relocated to Manzanar. The two losses, physical and emotional, frustrate his daily life, causing him to live alone and loveless. The trial offers Ishmael a chance at self-redemption and cleansing. After he chooses to help Hatsue's husband find justice, Ishmael accepts that the mysterious nature of the human heart is common to all people.)

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Theme

5. How does justice become the antithesis of racism?
(Crucial to the story is the islanders' realization that their burden of hatred for the Japanese did not end with the truce. Their concealed animosities remain at the heart of daily interaction and attitudes, then come to full light in the arrest of Kabuo for murdering Carl Heine, Jr. In the courtroom, Judge Lew Fielding detects the undercurrent of racism, particularly in prosecutor Alvin Hooks's suggestion that Kabuo conceals murder beneath a typically Asian stoic posture.)

Guterson overturns racism by reuniting Hatsue and Ishmael for the investigation that clears Kabuo of a crime. Aided by his mother's frustrated efforts to help him overcome war trauma, Ishmael responds to the late-night pressure of conscience. Unable to rest with evidence in hand that Carl was inadvertently drowned, Ishmael sets in motion the swift turn of events that ends the trial and frees Kabuo. Ishmael is a better man and a more compassionate journalist from his change of heart and from an understanding of the deep currents of emotion and will in all people.)

Interpretation

6. Why does Guterson choose an enigmatic title for the novel?

(The title, which reads like an impressionistic line from Japanese haiku, carries useful implications for the action. Just like soft masses of snow landing on the upraised points of cedar boughs, the gentle Japanese immigrate to a land where prejudice limits their acculturation among whites and keeps them from settling on solid earth. The soft, pliant snow parallels the sweet, juicy strawberries that scent the island air. Out of respect for nature, Japanese workers are more capable of cultivating and harvesting than their white counterparts. This skill with delicate fruit suggests a gentleness of nature easily crushed by internment and public repudiation as the race that bombed Pearl Harbor.)

Another aspect of the title is the confrontation of emotion and fate. The gentle spirit of Ishmael as a teenager is unprepared for the harshness of war, relocation, loss of Hatsue, and training with marines in hand-to-hand warfare. On his landing at Betio, Tarawa, he observes death and despair among his buddies at the seawall and experiences his own grief from loss of an arm, which a pharmacist's mate lops off and callously tosses aside in plain view. The return home without hope of a normal life or anticipation of marriage to Hatsue twists Ishmael's heart like the arrow-shaped bows of cedar spearing mounds of snow.

The image of snow concludes the novel during the trial, when destiny once more intercedes. The island emergency forces the lights out and the Imadas into a ditch. Ishmael's gallantry and neighborliness restores in part the person he once was. Like his father, he returns to a former belief in justice and right. The irony of restoring Hatsue to the man who took her away from him fills Ishmael with philosophical musings. In the final paragraphs, he acknowledges the peculiarities of human emotion. Like snow falling on cedars, his thoughts blunt the regret that has speared his own heart and return him to his task as island reporter.)

Conflict

7. Why are Japanese residents interned?
(The historical conflict that launched the U. S. entry into World War II produced widespread paranoia, particularly on the West Coast, which was more vulnerable to attack. People who normally lived and worked among Japanese and other Asians singled out their racial features as an identifiable target for anger and anti-Japanese vengeance. There had been lesser examples of animosity toward American residents with German and Italian accents, but the viciousness of the bombing of Pearl Harbor exacerbated the hatred of Asian features, leading Americans to demonize yellow skin, slant eyes, and Japanese dress and customs.)

The interning of Japanese residents in the novel is an unfortunate aspect of war. The patriotism of Kabuo and other first-generation male citizens forces them to overplay the role of U. S. soldier to prove to islanders that they love their country. Husbands serve time in prison labor camps apart from wives and children in internment barracks. False rumors, vandalism, interrogation, and displacement cost the families their homes, possessions, and businesses and return them to the island as poor as they were when they immigrated from Japan. More unfair is the betrayal of native-born Japanese Americans like Hatsue and her peers, who lose their constitutional rights when agents arrest their parents and lock them away in dusty desert barracks as though they were criminals.)

Atmosphere

8. How does the storm affect atmosphere?
(The subtle beauty of the snowstorm entices San Pedro islanders to look out from the courtroom at the physical change in the sky, which pelts all, Japanese and American, with strong winds and thick snow. Like destiny, external forces deny the trial suitable lighting and causes sequestered jury members to spend the night in a dark, chill hotel. All people, Asian and Caucasian, who depart the courthouse face the difficulties of buying fuel and groceries and driving home to heat their houses and protect pipes and livestock from freezing. Through this atmosphere, Guterson implies that fate assails all people with an impersonal force as gentle and ominous as a snowstorm. The emergency cuts off communication with the mainland and forces islanders to rely on wit and endurance until the storm ends and electricity and telephone return to use.)

Because the storm is both harsh and gentle, Guterson indicates that fate has multiple effects on people and their surroundings. Although the storm disables the Imadas' car, it also restores Ishmael to communication with Hatsue and her parents and gives him an opportunity to act on an impulse to be kind and neighborly, just as Kabuo was helpful to a fellow fisherman. Like the wall of water that sweeps Carl Junior, off his boat and begins the novel's conflict, nature has no subjective will. It is the impartial force that arises from the elements, which challenge humankind to survive and flourish on the earth.)

Author Purpose

9. Why does the novel appeal to readers?
(Unlike other war stories, Snow Falling on Cedars appears to move beyond World War II to a time when

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daily life is once more in balance. The snow that blankets the coastline and halts the usual movements of islanders is a paradox—it forms a dazzlingly beautiful covering at the same time that it discloses the hidden hatreds that formed in 1941. This revelation creates an appealing interplay of characters—wife against husband, mother against child, and neighbor against neighbor. Their strengths and faults tease the imagination and intensify the suspense about Carl Junior's death and Kabuo's culpability.

In addition to plot and character, Guterson creates a moving tribute to island life, particularly the roles of strawberry farmers and fishers. Parts of the text speak the rhythms of outdoor life and farm family ambitions with grace and tenderness. The novel manages to describe widowhood, parenthood, and the adult child and parent relationship without demeaning characters or preaching. The result is a full, compelling study of a closed society made up of islanders of two starkly different races. A worthy addition to the plot is the significant arrangement of symbols—the S.S. West Corona that engulfs Carl in darkness, the lighthouse that sheds light on the crime, the investigative reporter who must discover his own hidden foibles, and the delicate strawberries, the goal of two strong fishermen who long to leave the sea and return to the land.)

Structure

10. Why does the novel end with Ishmael's typing? (After detailing the topography, fishing gear, island society, and courtroom procedures, Guterson suddenly drops the curtain on his microcosm. He allows a thorough recounting of Carl Heine, Jr.'s last moments before death, but makes no comment on the jubilation of Kabuo and Hatsue when Judge Fielding drops the murder charge. Guterson might have commented on Etta's response to the freeing of Kabuo or to the evidence that described Carl Junior's loss in the engulfing wake of the S.S. West Corona. He could have commented on Nels Gudmundsson's fatigue at the end of a wearisome trial. He might also have revealed public response to charges that they harbor racial hatreds dating to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. But he chooses otherwise.)

After the novel has disclosed private animosities and regrets in the exposition and development, it recedes like the ebb tide, leaving one small light shining on Ishmael, the island's sole journalist. Like his father before him, he returns to the typewriter to capture details and muse on the strangeness of human longings. The unknowable—Kabuo's private "palpitations" and Carl Heine's terror in the face of death—charge Ishmael with respect for the mystery of human will. In the final sentence, he "[gives] himself" to reportage while accepting a paradox: the fact that an unpredictable fate governs the universe, but human hearts function on will.)

HOW LANGUAGE WORKS

David Guterson reveals a poetic skill that departs from straightforward narrative to passages of flowing imagery, euphony, and symbol.

1. In Chapter 8, Ishmael is surprised by symptoms of mature love—that his "heart began the fretful pounding he'd experienced of late in [Hatsue's] presence. There

were no words for what he had to say and his tongue felt paralyzed . . . A knot of pressure was building inside him to declare the love he felt. It was not only that her beauty moved him but that they already had a history together that included this beach, these waters, the very stones, and the forest at their backs, too. It was all theirs and always would be, and Hatsue was the spirit of the place."

2. Kabuo, trapped in a murder charge erroneously based on vengeance against the Japanese who attacked the American military at Pearl Harbor, ponders the haphazard nature of destiny. He concludes that he deserves punishment for killing in war: "Such was the nature of cause and effect, such was the impermanence of all things. What a mystery life was! Everything was conjoined by mystery and fate, and in his darkened cell he meditated on this and it became increasingly clear to him. Impermanence, cause and effect, suffering, desire, the precious nature of life."
3. Susan Marie Heine relives the beginning of desire for Carl, an honest representation of physical yearning that parallels the love Ishmael feels for Hatsue: "Yet in another way she was not surprised at all to find herself, at the age of twenty, pressing herself against Carl Heine beneath a cedar above the West Port Jensen dance pavilion. After all, she had brought this about, willed it into being."
4. When Ishmael returns to his mother's kitchen, he studies her acceptance of widowhood, which parallels the huddling of chickens in her yard: "It had been for her in part the discovery that grief could attach itself with permanence—something Ishmael had already discovered. It attached itself and then it burrowed inside and made a nest and stayed. It ate whatever was warm nearby, and then the coldness settled in permanently. You learned to live with it."
5. The austere picture of an insensate wall of water rolling toward Carl's boat concludes Ishmael's re-creation of the crime. In his vision, "The sea rose up from behind the fog and welled underneath the *Susan Marie* so that the coffee cup on the cabin table fell to the floor, and the angle of deflection high up the mast was enough to jar loose the astonished man who hung there not grasping the nature of what was happening, and still he did not foresee his death."

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art

1. Make an illustrated notebook of touches of Japanese lifestyle among immigrants. Include odori dance, Japanese terms, kendo, green tea, and Buddhism.

Cinema

1. View films with harbor settings and characters and situations growing out of World War II or racism, such as *Hurry Sundown*, *Farewell to Manzanar*, *Islands in the Stream*, *Schindler's List*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Compare the movies' settings, themes, and dialogue to those of *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Comment on the interplay of people of different ethnic, social, educational, and professional backgrounds.

Drama

1. Draw stage settings for a dramatization of Carl hanging the lantern, Ishmael helping the Imadas out of the snow,

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Etta returning the equity, Zenhichi burying the kendo sword, Ishmael landing on Tarawa, Nels Gudmundsson summing up his defense, and Hatsue visiting Kabuo in jail. Supply sketches of costumes and props, such as the pinned-up shirt sleeve, twine, D-8 battery, net, kendo stick, lighthouse notes, cash, shovels, lantern, coffee cup, rifle, candles, cans of fuel, bags of groceries, and flats of strawberries.

2. Create a storyboard account of the trial, including sequestering the jury in a local hotel and holding court by candlelight. Indicate the location of jury, witnesses, judge, bailiff, prosecutor, defense attorney, defendant, reporters, and families.

Economics

Based on your understanding of the novel, lead a panel discussion of the effects of debt, mixed dating, service in wartime, low-paying jobs, internment, thwarted ambition, picture brides, and suspicion on Japanese family life. Support your opinions with facts from census reports, sociological surveys, and statistics obtained from almanacs and economic and employment surveys. For source material, consult the U. S. Census Bureau at <www.census.gov>.

Education

1. Role-play Sergeant Victor Maples's classes in self-defense. Indicate how Kabuo surprises him with polite bows and skill in kendo.
2. Propose curriculum for a class to teach immigrants about life in America. Include details about preparing for citizenship, banking, buying land, and obeying local laws.
3. Brainstorm ways of preparing Ishmael for taking over a newspaper. Name courses that might help him become a good reporter and editor, including journalism, ethics, philosophy, maritime law, and American history.

History and Social Studies

1. Discuss with a small group family patterns of behavior and expectations after serious financial setbacks. Explain why Kabuo persists in offering money for the strawberry field.
2. Report orally on the physical and psychological effects of jailing. Account for Kabuo's stiff, dignified posture and simple nods to his wife as she approaches and leaves the witness stand.
3. Divide the class into small groups to brainstorm ways to improve community relations after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Include activities for school children that will protect local Japanese residents and educate all in matters of respect and self-restraint. List ways of suppressing rumor and racial agitation.
4. Compose an extended definition of social and emotional isolation. Explain why the term describes Ishmael.
5. Create a mural or web site on the San Juan Islands. Note the sharp separation of classes into landowners and laborers, whites and Asians, law enforcers and civilians. Account for the high employment of stoop laborers and fishermen.
6. Make a web site or bulletin board characterizing attitudes of whites toward the Japanese. Explain why Kabuo compares Etta to Nazis. Why were Japanese Americans interned and despised and their civil rights

denied during World War II, but German Americans and Italian Americans not seriously victimized?

Language Arts

1. Read aloud from nonfiction, novels, plays, speeches, and stories that describe racism, crime, warfare, and injustice, such as Isabel Allende's *The House of the Spirits*, Yoko Kawashima Watkins's *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
2. Explain in a theme the significance of the title *Snow Falling on Cedars*, particularly as it applies to the gentleness of the Japanese and racist attitudes toward them. Propose other titles that express the hardship of life in a racist community.
3. Write a theme in which you explain the role of a minor character, such as Fujiko, Susan Heine, or Seaman Philip Milholland. Determine which characters interact fairly with people of other races and backgrounds.
4. Explain in an impromptu chalk talk how names reflect character and events, for example, Ishmael Chambers for the protagonist, San Pedro for the setting, and Victor Maples for the military instructor.
5. Listen to a recording of William Faulkner's Nobel prize acceptance speech. Apply his concept of "truths of the human heart" to Guterson's themes and motifs.
6. Contrast news releases for radio, television, or print announcing the deaths of Carl Heine, Jr., Arthur Chambers, and Carl Heine, Sr. Typify coverage of the battle of Belleau Wood during World War I and events of World War II, particularly the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the assaults on Okinawa and Tarawa. Indicate public reaction to each event.
7. Prepare a dialogue dramatizing the end of the trial. Indicate how Judge Fielding uses new evidence to drop charges against Kabuo and set him free.
8. Improve on Nels Gudmundsson's summation to the jury. Note where he could economize on language, choose more forceful or precise diction, strengthen and reorder examples, and emphasize eye contact and body language.
9. Lead a debate about Etta's role in exacerbating racial tension. Explain why Judge Fielding considers her mean and Kabuo likens her to a Nazi.
10. Make a web site or bulletin board that identifies these terms: sequester, Sousa march, Svenska polka, Illini, gill-netting, B positive, samurai, kendo, Manzanar, Guadalcanal, corked off, bailiff, daisy cutter, seppukku, hakama, bokken, naginata, kendo, bugeisha, TBX, Great Wheel, cedar, stoop labor, Tojo, solar plexus, kelp, geoduck clam, sixteen-point type, internment, and limited search warrant.

Law

1. Read aloud state laws governing the rights and responsibilities of fishermen in coastal waters. Determine whether Kabuo behaved properly and humanely toward Carl.
2. Make a chart of advice to Etta Heine about ending the dispute over the Miyamotos' land. Explain how ignoring their claim can lead to community unrest and enmity.
3. Discuss how Judge Fielding influences the trial. Cite his advice to Etta about her testimony and his issuance of a

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limited search warrant to Sheriff Moran.

4. Suggest additions and deletions in summary statements for both the prosecutor and defense attorney. What arguments would you have considered more compelling?

Music

1. Select mood music for a stage version of the novel. Cover the elegiac atmosphere of the snowstorm as well as martial music for the removal of Japanese residents, spirited tunes for days at the beach, romantic themes for the trysts in the cedar tree, and intense background for the investigation of the murder.
2. Distribute lyrics to the Navy hymn. Discuss how the prayer for protection for "those in peril on the sea" describes the predicament of Kabuo Miyamoto as well as Carl Heine, Jr.

Psychology

1. Describe aloud the drive for survival. Explain how Ishmael responds to multiple deaths by the sea wall at Tarawa and why Kabuo considers himself a murderer.
2. List aspects of death and dying that sicken the deputy while Dr. Whaley conducts an autopsy on Carl's corpse. Suggest ways that the sheriff can train his staff to attend to the unpleasant duties of law enforcement.
3. Using incidents from the book, comment on gradual changes in Ishmael. Discuss how he copes with unrequited love for Hatsue and why he begs her for recognition and affection. Explain the influence of his mother on Ishmael's decision to offer the lighthouse record to the Imadas.
4. Characterize the moral integrity and influence of Arthur Chambers. Summarize the personal traits that strengthen his newspaper and cause people to admire him.
5. Write an encyclopedia entry on suicide. Add details that explain why a samurai like Kabuo's great-grandfather would choose death with honor.

Religion

1. Characterize Buddhism as a religion and philosophy of life. Explain why Kabuo sits in his cell pondering his sons and the turn of the Great Wheel.
2. Compose a graveside service for Arthur Chambers or Carl Heine, Jr. Note their admirable qualities to family and the people of San Pedro Island.

Science and Health

1. Compose a lecture on head wounds, drowning, and amputation. List first aid, complications, and treatment for severe battle wounds. Account for the importance of Ishmael's amputated arm to the story.
2. Discuss technology that rescues amputees from isolation and public support. Propose explanations for Ishmael's lack of a prosthetic arm.

Speech

1. Organize a discussion of racism and other forms of persecution, classism, and exclusion. Answer these basic questions: What makes people belittle identifiable groups, especially members of a minority race? How does Arthur Chambers defuse tense situations? How do editorials, speeches, books, plays, monuments, music, murals, and other forms of creativity help quell hatred and prejudice?
2. Compose a tour guide of Puget Sound and the San Juan

islands. Express the importance of fishing to island economy. Contrast the harbor area with fields where stoop labor cultivates and harvests strawberries.

3. Outline a speech honoring Eleanor Roosevelt, who chaired the human rights commission of the United Nations and established standards for orphans, displaced persons, widows, the wounded, and refugees.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of violence in the lives of the characters, for example, Ishmael's landing on Tarawa, Kabuo's study of kendo, Zenhichi's grandfather's death, Carl's drowning, the German soldier's death, Arthur's emotions after serving in World War I, and Ishmael's loss of his left arm.
2. Compile a list of actions and statements that demonstrate racism at school, the courtroom, and homes, and in public.
3. Compose a scene in which Kabuo meets with other Japanese islanders to describe his three months in jail.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Carl's discontent, Etta's racism, fishermen's treachery, Fujiko's anger, Alvin Hooks's implications, Ishmael's theft and concealment of new evidence, Hatsue's deceit, Sumiko's snooping, Hisao's lies to his picture bride, and Horace Whaley's conclusions about a right-handed Jap.
5. Account for the recurrence of nature motifs, especially those describing strawberry fields and fishing grounds.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

VOCABULARY TEST

Complete each of the following sentences with the correct answer from the list below.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| advent | earnest | magnitude | perforated | stultifying |
| amtracs | equilibrium | mute | propriety | surpassed |
| awry | extricating | netherworld | relocation | tranquility |
| deference | immaculate | neurasthenia | scow | transit |
| descent | ineluctably | parabolas | sequestered | travesty |

1. The gulls had disturbed his _____, put him ill at ease.
2. They were taken from Anacortes on a train to a _____ camp—the horse stables at Puyallup fairgrounds.
3. He had taught her to dig geoducks, and they had dug them for four summers, but in the end she'd _____ him in it.
4. It was wrapped by way of a shroud in two white wool blankets of the type issued after the war, so that every fishing _____ on San Piedro Island seemed to have half a dozen or more.
5. In the gallery the citizens stood and yawned, then wandered off into the less _____ atmosphere of the hallway.
6. [They] gazed out the windows with awed expressions, watching the snow lash toward them in _____ before it struck against the leaded panes.
7. I have to think it's a _____. That they arrested him because he's Japanese.
8. The _____ of her pregnancy had been good for Kabuo.
9. A wind of this _____, so frigid and elemental, remained foreign to them.
10. The tide drift had taken him down into the kelp, and he'd wasted four hours _____ himself so as not to rip his gill-net.
11. Drifting on the tide, a gill-netter moved through it as though it composed its own _____ medium halfway between air and water.
12. Nels suffered from advancing _____.
13. Most had dressed with the same communal _____ they felt on Sundays before attending church services.
14. He wasn't chewing [gum] at the moment, mostly out of _____ to the American legal system, which he believed in wholeheartedly despite its flaws.
15. In the meantime there was a thousand dollars in _____ money—Carl put it on the table.
16. The Willys' station wagon's rear right tire had been _____ by a fallen branch still wedged up under both axles.
17. But gradually her rebellion against _____ subsided.
18. He'd come to his vocation as if driven _____; he had never formed the intention of being sheriff, yet, to his astonishment, he was.
19. In the meantime he sat facing the wind-driven snowfall, which had already begun to _____ the streets outside the courthouse windows.
20. Two strands had escaped from their _____ arrangement and lay pasted against her frozen cheek.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Identification (30 points)

Match each of the following quotations from the novel with its speaker. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left. Some of the answers will be used more than once and some not at all.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| A. Art Moran | F. Ishmael | K. Horace Whaley |
| B. Sumiko Imada | G. Carl Heine, Jr. | L. Fujiko Imada |
| C. Ole Jurgensen | H. Etta Heine | M. Hatsue Miyamoto |
| D. Lew Fielding | I. Alvin Hooks | N. Carl Heine, Sr. |
| E. Kabuo Miyamoto | J. Evan Powell | O. Nels Gudmundsson |

- _____ 1. I'm not screwed together like I used to be. It isn't like it was before.
- _____ 2. Last chance? . . . There's no one I really want to write to in that case.
- _____ 3. I bring it up with Etta, you see, because the Miyamoto family, they have a house on the property, I know seven acres has been sold to them.
- _____ 4. You know darn well Mrs. Miyamoto isn't going to slip Mr. Miyamoto any kind of weapon.
- _____ 5. My great-grandfather . . . was a samurai and a magnificent soldier.
- _____ 6. Find someone to marry . . . Have children . . . Live.
- _____ 7. You playing detective?
- _____ 8. We do a lot of record keeping.
- _____ 9. Puts me in mind of a type of gun butt wound I saw a few times in the war.
- _____ 10. I don't trust that woman . . . She's hateful.
- _____ 11. How on earth can we trust you?
- _____ 12. The whites, you see, are tempted by their egos and have no means to resist.
- _____ 13. People is people, comes down to it. And these are clean-living people.
- _____ 14. We're not such paupers as to sell to Japs, are we?
- _____ 15. I feel like a creep. But I have to show this to you.

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Hatsue believes her husband looks like one of Tojo's soldiers.
- _____ 2. Island fishermen dislike Kabuo for corking off small currents.
- _____ 3. Hatsue urges Kabuo to marry her before the train leaves for Manzanar.
- _____ 4. Kabuo believes himself a murderer.
- _____ 5. Mrs. Chambers tries to help her son recover from war trauma.
- _____ 6. Nels Gudmundsson warns Kabuo that the situation is grim and that he must tell the truth.
- _____ 7. After the lights go out, Judge Fielding warns the prosecutor that he may have to declare a mistrial.
- _____ 8. Judge Fielding declares that Ishmael has stolen papers from the lighthouse records of Seaman Philip Milholland.
- _____ 9. The discovery of B positive blood leads directly from Kabuo's army medical records.
- _____ 10. Rereading the old farewell letter helps Ishmael frame his thoughts about Kabuo and the trial.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in the blanks below with a word or phrase which completes the sentence. Place your answer in the space provided at left.

1. The smashed _____ indicates that the _____ hit the *Susan Marie* and caught Carl unaware.
2. At the hollow _____, _____ awaits Ishmael one last time.
3. _____ and other boys come to the Imadas' quarters to build _____ and furniture.
4. _____ returned from Belleau Wood a bitter man, but gained admiration from islanders for publishing the *San Pedro* _____.
5. The morning after visiting the _____, Ishmael finds _____ awaiting him at breakfast.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe how islanders and government agents respond to the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
2. Explain why Carl believes he and Etta are unsuited for each other.
3. Discuss the judge's influence on the investigation and trial.
4. Account for the value of the strawberry field to Kabuo.
5. Summarize events that acquaint Ishmael with racism, violence, and loss.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Select the phrase that completes each of the following sentences. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. After the S.S. *West Corona* passed, Carl smashed a
A. lantern. B. D-8 battery. C. coffee cup. D. gill-net.
- _____ 2. Kabuo returns from fishing contented because
A. he has made a deal for the land. B. Carl has loaned him a battery.
C. the price of silvers has risen. D. he got even with Carl for insulting the Miyamotos.
- _____ 3. After meeting Ishmael before relocation,
A. Hatsue determines to end the relationship.
B. Kabuo intends to join the marines.
C. Arthur writes an editorial backing the Japanese.
D. the FBI takes away Japanese residents in handcuffs.
- _____ 4. Stick fighting is the
A. style of the Samurai. B. skill that Zenhichi teaches his eight-year-old.
C. source of head wounds on soldiers at Okinawa. D. cause of Carl's death.
- _____ 5. Susan is not surprised that
A. Kabuo holds a grudge against the military. B. Mrs. Chambers hates Japs.
C. Etta testified that Kabuo plotted a murder. D. Carl is dead.
- _____ 6. After Hatsue meets Ishmael at breakfast,
A. they locate proof that Carl's boat had no electricity.
B. Judge Fielding issues a limited search warrant.
C. Alvin Hooks accuses Ishmael of playing detective.
D. the jury confers in the dark before being sequestered.
- _____ 7. Because the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor,
A. a Naval officer explains about blackouts.
B. the newspaper drops to four pages.
C. Hatsue doesn't want to be Japanese.
D. relocation agents force aliens into a horse stable at Manzanar.
- _____ 8. Ishmael transfers to a ship bound for
A. Okinawa. B. Guadalcanal.
C. an undisclosed island off New Zealand. D. Betio, Tarawa.
- _____ 9. Suicide was a
A. constant dream during Kabuo's jailing. B. choice of Kabuo's great-grandfather.
C. possibility for Susan Marie as she wrestled with grief. D. distant explanation of Carl's death.
- _____ 10. After the announcement about the bombing,
A. the aliens retreat into darkened houses.
B. boys unscrew the lights in the theater marquee.
C. FBI agents question Hisao about burying a scrapbook and dynamite.
D. Carl Heine, Sr., demands the final payment.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

Part II: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of characters from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left. You will use some answers more than once and some not at all.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| _____ 1. is embarrassed about vomiting in front of Horace Whaley. | A. Ishmael |
| _____ 2. steals pages from Philip Milholland's record. | B. Carl Heine, Jr. |
| _____ 3. writes a letter to Ishmael's parents. | C. Mrs. Chambers |
| _____ 4. regrets shooting a German boy. | D. Carl Heine, Sr. |
| _____ 5. wishes to help Ishmael recover from the war. | E. Victor Maples |
| _____ 6. fears a mistrial. | F. Fujiko |
| _____ 7. thanks Ishmael for helping his family get out of the snow. | G. Hisao |
| _____ 8. buries a sword. | H. Horace Whaley |
| _____ 9. regrets having to give up a home to move to a farm. | I. Ole Jurgensen |
| _____ 10. claims that Kabuo is a skilled swordsman capable of killing. | J. Kabuo |
| _____ 11. posts his land for sale after he suffers a stroke. | K. Abel |
| _____ 12. needs a battery. | L. Zenhichi |
| _____ 13. welcomes Zenhichi to his house. | M. Judge Fielding |
| _____ 14. reminds the jury that the island retains race prejudice. | N. Nils Gudmundsson |
| _____ 15. suggests that the sheriff look for a right-handed Jap. | O. Susan Heine |

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to the following questions. Explain the significance each has to the story.

1. Who teaches Hatsue to dig geoduck clams?
2. Who outperforms Victor Maples?
3. Who amputates the arm?
4. In what desert is Manzanar?
5. Who treats Carl's son for a cut?
6. Who is forbidden to buy land?
7. Who expects to reach manhood in time to receive a deed to the strawberry field?
8. What item does Carl keep hidden?
9. What raises a wall of water?
10. Who looks like Tojo's soldiers?

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain why Hatsue changes her mind about Ishmael.
2. Contrast Arthur and Ishmael as newspapermen.
3. Describe quarters at Manzanar.
4. Summarize the losses of Japanese residents after relocation.
5. Describe Carl's last fishing expedition.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. equilibrium | 11. netherworld |
| 2. transit | 12. neurasthenia |
| 3. surpassed | 13. propriety |
| 4. scow | 14. deference |
| 5. stultifying | 15. earnest |
| 6. parabolas | 16. perforated |
| 7. travesty | 17. tranquility |
| 8. advent | 18. ineluctably |
| 9. magnitude | 19. mute |
| 10. extricating | 20. immaculate |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Identification (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. G | 6. M | 11. I |
| 2. F | 7. A | 12. L |
| 3. C | 8. J | 13. N |
| 4. O | 9. K | 14. H |
| 5. E | 10. D | 15. B |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

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

Part III: Completion (20 points)

1. coffee cup, wave
2. cedar tree, Hatsue
3. Kabuo, shelves
4. Arthur Chambers, Review
5. Imadas, Hatsue

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. A |
| 2. A | 7. C |
| 3. A | 8. D |
| 4. B | 9. B |
| 5. D | 10. B |

Part II: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. K | 6. M | 11. I |
| 2. A | 7. G | 12. B |
| 3. F | 8. L | 13. D |
| 4. J | 9. O | 14. N |
| 5. C | 10. E | |
| 15. H | | |

Part III: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ishmael | 6. Japanese residents |
| 2. Kabuo | 7. Kabuo |
| 3. pharmacist's mate | 8. bamboo fishing pole |
| 4. Mojave | 9. Corona |
| 5. Horace Whaley | 10. Kabuo |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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