My Hiroshima
By Junko Morimoto

Book Overview
My Hiroshima follows a young Japanese girl through her experience with the Dropping of the Atomic bomb in Hiroshima. As a first hand account, the narrative poignantly describes this horrific event through the innocence of a child. She describes the beauty and culture of her life before the war, followed by the changes and militancy brought on by war. She conveys her sensations during the bomb dropping, and the stark destruction which followed as she lost everything she held dear. While she survived, she witnessed the desolation and death that spread across the country with lasting effects.

Response
This book emotionally drags readers through the experience of the bombing and the horrible realization of losing one’s culture, country, friends, and home in a few moments time. The simplicity and innocence of the storyteller makes the experience come alive for readers, and refuses to let them feel numbed to the consequences of this event. This book presents useful background information about the events of the bombing, while also giving readers a peek into the personal experience of one survivor.

Mini-Lesson Idea
1. Before beginning a unit dealing with the morality of war, have students make a list of people and things they value most.
2. After they set this aside, read My Hiroshima to the class. Afterwards provide the basic facts about Hiroshima as listed in the back of the book.
3. As a follow up to the book, show students video clips of real live footage from the dropping of the bombs. These can be found on YouTube by searching “Hiroshima Atomic Bomb.” Be sure to be sensitive to the age and maturity of your students.
4. Have students return to their list of valuables, and freewrite what it would feel like to lose those valuables in a similar experience.
5. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4 and photocopy selections from Hiroshima No Pika by Toshi Maruki. Have students read this account and discuss their reactions and freewrites in groups.
6. This activity can lead beautifully into a novel dealing with WWII, the morality of war, and/or understanding “The Other.”

**Corresponding Texts:**
- *Hiroshima No Pika* by Toshi Maruki
- *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr
- *Hiroshima* by John Hersey