

A Note from Caren Stelson



Ideas • resources • a wish for peace

Dear Teachers,

My years interviewing Nagasaki atomic bomb survivor Sachiko Yasui, researching WWII history, and writing *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story* and *A Bowl Full of Peace* were transformative. The work sent me on a life-long path to study peace, work for peace, and support others who are on that path too. This note is written to support you as you and your students explore Sachiko's story and her call for peace in the world.

Whether sharing the Y/A nonfiction *Sachiko* or the picture book *A Bowl Full of Peace*, you will find a Teachers Discussion Guide for each book on my author's website.

For the Teachers Guide for *A Bowl Full of Peace*, I used *The Art of Focused Conversations for Schools* by Jo Nelson to design a PowerPoint that will engage younger readers to discuss Sachiko's story at different levels. The scaffolded questions are color coded:

- **Objective** (yellow) slides ask about the literal setting and facts about the story;
- **Reflective** (dark gray) slides encourage students to respond personally to Sachiko's story;
- **Interpretative** (blue) slide fosters thinking about issues of war and peace,

- **Decision level questioning** (green) slides promote thinking about our responsibilities and possibilities for peacemaking at home, school, and in our communities.

For younger students, discussions about *A Bowl Full of Peace* may spark questions that may be answered in the Y/A nonfiction *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story*. Older students may want to compare and contrast the artforms of narrative nonfiction and picture book presenting the same story. You may want to have both books on hand as historical and artistic resources.

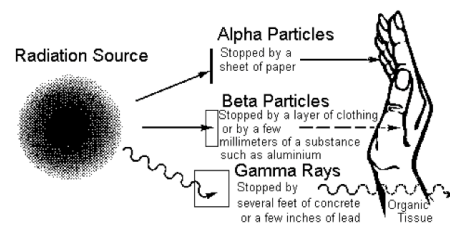
More Ideas:

If you'd like to delve deeper, consider these ideas:

Understanding Radiation

In *A Bowl Full of Peace*, radiation from the atomic bomb is specifically mentioned, but not fully explained to young readers. Should students ask for more details, the visual below and the symptoms of radiation listed will help you explain the dangerous and invisible impact of nuclear explosions.

Ionizing Radiation Types



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Acute Radiation Illness

Signs and Symptoms:

Nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite
 Skin burns, Weakness/Fatigue/Fainting
 Inflammation of tissues/Mucosal bleeding
 Anemia, Hair loss

Meet the Illustrator

The video interview of *A Bowl Full of Peace* illustrator Akira Kusaka is available on this website. Students will gain insight into Kusaka's artistic entry into Sachiko's story and his work creating digital art.

Interviewing to Learn More

My interviews with Sachiko Yasui were pivotal to writing both the picture book *A Bowl Full of Peace* and the Y/A *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story*. Numerous online links are available to help your students sharpen their interviewing skills. You may want to start with Edutopia's "How to Help Students Develop Interviewing Skills:" (<https://www.edutopia.org/service-learning-center-urban-pedagogy-interviewing>).

Children's Literature and Peace

My writing partner Ellie Roscher and I write a monthly article featuring picture books, resources, and support materials for exploring peace issues with children. You can find these articles on my website, or at Winding Oak's *Bookology* magazine. (<https://www.bookologymagazine.com/>) Each *Peace-ology* article pairs picture books with peace themes as well as provides resources for adults to think deeply about their own struggles and hopes for peace. No matter how old we are, the work of becoming a peacemaker is one of transformation. We cannot help children learn the art and skill of peacemaking without doing the work ourselves – right?

Resources for Social, Emotional, Ethical Learning

None of us escaped the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020-21. Separation, isolation, worry, illness, racial disparities and discrimination, on-line learning – the brunt of the harm of this historic event fell on our vulnerable children. More than ever, we need to focus on the social, emotional care of our children and the ethical learning that results from such experiences. The organizations listed below help you teach for a more just and peaceful world:

Jane Addams Peace Association/Children's Book Awards –

www.janeaddamschildrensbookaward.org

Emory University's See Learning: Educating Hearts and Minds –

www.seelearning.emory.edu

Learning for Justice (formally Teaching Tolerance) www.learningforjustice.org

The Innocent Classroom – www.innocentclassroom.com

Institute for Human Education- www.humaneducation.org

Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute- www.mnpeace.org

Peacemaker MN – www.peacemaker.mn.org

World Citizen – www.peacesites.org

Peace Literacy Institute – www.peaceliteracy.org

Birds of Peace – www.birdsofpeace.org

Folding Paper Cranes

The origami crane has long been a symbol of health, hope, and peace. Learning to fold origami paper cranes is not only an artistic skill, but a cooperative learning experience, meditative exercise, and gift-giving activity. This video offers easy crane-folding instructions kids can follow. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bd9UIOveEYA>)

I'm always interested in teachers and students' responses to *Sachiko* and *A Bowl Full of Peace*.

Please send me an email through my website, and I will respond. If you are interested in an author's visit, virtual or in-person, please contact me.

Thank you again for sharing Sachiko's story of peace with your students and thank you for being a teacher. Having been a teacher myself, I know the hard work and dedication teaching requires and the joy we receive when we touch the hearts of young people.

Caren Stelson

"Establishing lasting peace is the work of education."

– Maria Montessori

"If we are to reach for real peace in the world, we shall have to begin with the children." – Mahatma Gandhi