

Guiding Question: What was it like for Japanese Americans to live, work, and go to school in prison camps like Manzanar?

Mission Reflection

After completing the Prologue and Part 1, discuss the questions below.

1. Describe Henry's life before he and his family were forced to go to the Manzanar prison camp. What responsibilities did he have? What activities did he enjoy?
2. List two people, other than his family members, who Henry meets around Manzanar. What did you notice and learn about each? What opinions did they share?
3. What is most surprising, interesting, or troubling to you about the Tanaka's living conditions at Manzanar?
4. What part of life in the Manzanar camp do you think would be hardest for you to adjust to?

Time: 10–15 minutes

Instructions

Take 5 minutes to have students use these questions to reflect on their gameplay, individually or in small groups.

In a 10-minute discussion, ask students to describe their experiences learning about Henry, his family, and their experiences being forced to leave Bainbridge Island and adjust to life in Manzanar.

Encourage students to think about the responsibilities they have in their lives and the activities and hobbies they pursue. What would it mean to have their lives and the lives of everyone in their community suddenly uprooted?

Additional optional discussion questions:

- What choices did students make, as Henry, in the prologue? Did they go to Japanese language school and practice judo as Henry's parents wished? Did they play baseball and read comics instead?
- What have students learned about different groups of Japanese Americans, such as the JACL and the Terminal Islanders?
- What differences have students noticed about the perspectives of Mr. Ueno and Mr. Yamamoto? Which perspective are they drawn to the most? (*Mr. Yamamoto believed Japanese Americans should cooperate with government authorities to prove their loyalty, while Mr. Ueno believed in protesting their imprisonment.*)
- Great Aunt Lily says in her narration, "Our family had gone from being ordinary Americans to being seen as the enemy." What does she mean? What are some of the different ways students are seeing characters cope with being seen as the enemy?