

Lesson Title: Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Class and Grade level(s): 6th Grade Communication Arts

Goals and Objectives – The students will be able to:

- Identify effects of war on civilians,
- Evaluate pros and cons of military actions
- Compare Sadako's situation to current world events
- Identify personal "wish" to make the world better.

Time required/class periods needed: Approximately 5 days

Primary source bibliography:

Letter from Sadako's mother- Fujiko Sasaki <http://theglobalhuman.wordpress.com/come-back-to-me-again-sadako/>

Letter from Sadako's friend- Masako Nomura

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=343786652370064&id=143340505748014

Other resources used: *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr
Peace Crane Project <http://peacecraneproject.org/>

Required materials/supplies:

* Origami crane instructions * Origami paper of square paper * Journal

Vocabulary: civilian, Hiroshima, atom bomb, leukemia, origami, Kokeshi doll, kimono

Procedure: Day 1

Discuss students' prior knowledge of World War II, specifically in relation to Japan. Inform students that the story we will read is based on the true story of a civilian after a war. Predict ways in which civilians can be impacted by wars. Read aloud Chapters 1 through 4. Have students write a comparison between themselves and Sadako based on the first few chapters then write a diary entry Sadako's perspective describing how she must have felt at the end of chapter 4.

Procedure Continued:Day 2

Students can share their entries as a review of yesterday's reading. Read aloud Chapters 5-6. Have students write a response to these in their journal addressing what affected them most as they listened.

Day 3

Students can share their entries. Read aloud Chapters 7-9. Once again, students will write a response.

Day 4

Read the epilogue. Read and discuss the letters from Sadako's mother and friend. View pictures and discuss various memorials to Sadako. Introduce the Peace Crane Project. Distribute origami paper. Demonstrate step-by-step how to fold a crane. Each student should make at least one crane. After the crane is complete, students will write their "wish for the world" on the crane. Have students share their wishes. Collect cranes to be sent to the project according to the directions on their website.

Day 5

Class discussion about the atomic bomb. Have class brainstorm pros and cons of US decision. Have students offer ideas as to possible alternative solutions and their pros and cons. Compare this situation to current nuclear situations in the world today.

Assessment/evaluation: Students will be assessed on the following:

- Class discussions and journal responses