

# **Under the Blood-Red Sun Study Guide**

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## **Table of Contents**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. Book summary                             | Pg 3  |
| 2. Timeline                                 | Pg 4  |
| 3. Characters & Nicknames                   | Pg 8  |
| 5. Japanese/Hawaii Language                 | Pg 9  |
| 6. Locations                                | Pg 10 |
| 6. Japanese Culture and Traditions          | Pg 11 |
| 7. Moments of Hate – Moments of Help        | Pg 12 |
| 8. Citizenship                              | Pg 14 |
| 9. What Does it Mean to be a Victim         | Pg 15 |
| 10. How to deal with Angry People           | Pg 16 |
| 11. Choice Not Chance: Choices for Children | Pg 17 |
| 12. Word Search                             | Pg 18 |
| 13. Web Search Exercises                    | Pg 19 |
| 14. Discussion Questions                    | Pg 20 |
| 15. Quotations for Discussion               | Pg 22 |
| 16. Sequence of Events Exercise             | Pg 23 |
| 16. Name Exercise                           | Pg 24 |
| 18. Web Resources                           | Pg 25 |
| 19. Map of Hawaii                           | Pg 26 |

## **Under the Blood-Red Sun**

Author: Graham Salisbury

Graham Salisbury has written “Under the Blood-Red Sun” from the perspective of a Japanese American family. He speaks as thirteen year old Tomikazu Nakaji. Tomi was born in Hawaii and is an American. Tomi’s parents and grandfather were born in Japan and came to America to escape poverty. They are staunchly patriotic to their country and practice their Japanese customs daily. They make their living fishing in the waters of Hawaii.

One day when Tomi and his friends are playing, the Japanese launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor killing hundreds of American soldiers. Tomi recognizes the emblem of the Blood-Red Sun, the symbol of Japanese fighters, on the airplanes and is afraid. After the attack happens, the United States declares war on Japan. Tomi’s life, and those of other Japanese Americans, is changed forever. His father and grandfather are both arrested. Both men are taken to internment camps far from Hawaii. Tomi must become the man of the family and help his mother and younger sister survive.

Tomi is frightened and ashamed of his heritage. He learns that he has many real friends who are willing to stand by him and help him. They teach him that courage, loyalty and friendship can help you get through any situation.

# Under the Blood-Red Sun Study Guide

## Time Line

| 1941                               |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| September 14<br>Sunday Afternoon   | Grampa drying Japanese flag on the clothes line. Keet Wilson and Jake Davis harass Tomi's Dad's pigeons. Tomi struggles with his temper wanting to "save face."   |
| September 15<br>Monday Morning     | School. Conversation about USS Greer attacked on Sept 4. After school Tomi and Billy go to Diamond grass and practice pitching (pg 36). They bet on the World Series. Billy takes the Yankees and Tomi takes the Brooklyn Dodgers. They bet 15 cents (you could buy a new baseball for that-pg 67). Papa and Tomi check on the pigeons. |
| September 27<br>Saturday           | Fishing boat weekend with Sanji, Papa, Tomi and Billy.  |
| September 28<br>Sunday             | Sell fish at market. Billy gives some of his fish to Mr. Wilson and Keet.   |
| October 1<br>Wednesday             | World Series begins.  |
| October 5<br>Sunday                | Game four of the World Series. Rainy day in Hawaii. Jake Davis and Keet Wilson are shooting guns in the woods and almost hit Tomi accidentally.   |
| October 31<br>Friday<br>Halloween  | USS Reuben James is sunk by a German submarine.   |
| A School Day<br>(probably Nov 3-6) | Grampa is waving Japanese flag and singing Japan's national anthem. Mr Wilson becomes angry and confronts Tomi about Grampa's behavior (pg 78-79 "Jap crap").   |
| The Next Day<br>(a school day)     | Lucky has her puppies. Billy comes to see the puppies and meets Red (soon to be his new dog). That night US military at Pearl Harbor practice maneuvers (pg 85).  |
| The Next Day                       | Papa comes home and Tomi reads him the newspaper article about the sinking of the Rueben James.   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| November 14<br>Friday                                       | The boys meet the butcher. Science projects assignments are made with Mr Ramos. “I want to see some real progress by Dec 15, that is one month from now” (pg 90).  |
| December 6<br>Saturday                                      | Keet Wilson gets his rifle taken away from him. Tomi overhears a fight between Keet and his dad. Kimi names one of the puppies Azuki Beans.  |
| December 7<br>Sunday  | <p>Billy and Tomi have their regular Sunday morning baseball practice at Diamond grass. Tomi lets some of the pigeons (racers) out for exercise before 8 am. Billy reminds Tomi that he owes him 15 cents.</p> <p>Japanese fighters bomb Pearl Harbor.</p> <p>Grampa waves his flag at them. They bury the flag with the emperor’s picture under the Tomi’s house.</p> <p>At 8:40 am Billy and Tomi are at Charlie’s house to listen to the radio. By 9:30 am the planes are gone.</p> <p>That afternoon, Billy lies to US soldiers about Tomi’s Grampa waving a Japanese flag earlier that day.</p> |
| December 8<br>Monday  | Tomi and Grampa are forced to kill all of their pigeons. The Wilsons do not let Tomi’s mother come to work cleaning their house. Later that day, standing in line at the store, Tomi and his mother are feared and alienated (pg 131).   |
| December 9<br>Tuesday                                       | The US begins arresting Japanese fishermen, language school teachers, businessmen and Buddhist priests (pg 135). Tomi’s mom buries anything remotely Japanese (traditional kimono, a bundle of letters tied together with a white ribbon, a photograph of Tomi standing in the front row of his language school class with a Japanese flag in the background, grandma’s alter, incense wrapped in thin paper, the family katana, and a few other things pg 137).   |
| December 10<br>Wednesday                                    | Grampa discovers that Tomi’s dad was shot in the leg and has been arrested and that Sanji was killed (pg 141). Grampa also shares that the fishing boat was sunk in Ala Wai Canal.   |
| A Few Days Later<br>(more than 2 weeks since Kimi saw Papa) | Two of the three lost pigeons return to the loft (pg 144-145).   |
| A Few Days Later<br>(just before Christmas)                 | Jake and Billy build a bomb-shelter. Tomi delivers Red to Billy. Billy and Tomi talk about Billy’s lie. Tomi tells Billy about his father being arrested and Sanji’s death. Billy is a supportive friend.  |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              | <p>ID cards are distributed (pg 151).<br/>         Billy and Tomi practice ball at Diamond grass again.</p>  |
| In the Next Days             | <p>Tomi sees Mose and Rico again and tells them about his father being arrested. They go to the police station to find out about Tomi's dad. He is at Sand Island.<br/>         Tomi meets Grampa and Charlie in the woods with the katana (sword). Grampa hides the katana in the jungle safe and sound (pg 164).</p>   |
| December 27<br>Saturday      | <p>Tomi's family had to forget Christmas this year.<br/>         Billy and Tomi talk about the USS Arizona burning for three days (pg 166).<br/>         Tomi, Billy, Mama and Kimi go to visit Sanji's family (his wife: Reiko, and his daughter: Mari and Sanji's wife's mother. They brought a gift of a box of eggs.<br/>         Billy gave his binoculars to Sanji's daughter Marii (the one's his dad gave him for Christmas) in exchange for bananas (pg 170).</p> |
| Dawn<br>(probably Dec 28-31) | <p>Tomi swims to Sand Island and sees his father in a prisoner's camp. That night, after swimming back, Tomi falls asleep by the water and is caught by Military Police (MP). He is questioned and they drive him home. His family was worried about him. Grampa doesn't believe him, at first (pg 186-187). Mama tells Tomi that he is brave. Tomi thinks Mama is braver than them all.</p>   |
| <b>1942</b>                  |  |
| January 1<br>Thursday        | <p>Billy comes over to play baseball. Tomi invites Billy into his house and his room for the first time ever. The team is going over to play a game with the Kaka'ako boys. Tomi tells his friends about going to see his father. Tomi's team wins the game. The Kaka'ako boys intervene when the Coral Street punks pick a fight with Tomi and his friends after the game.</p>  |
| January 4<br>Sunday          | <p>Tomi has a nightmare about his father being shot by a firing squad.</p>   |
| January 5<br>Monday          | <p>Gift of kerosene shows up on the porch (five gallons: probably from the Davis family). "That stuff was as good as gold, and almost impossible to get" (pg 207).<br/>         Tomi, Billy, Kimi and Grampa go to Diamond grass and practice baseball. Grampa hits a pitch from Billy and dances in the grass. Four pups chase Lucky through Diamond grass</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | as Lucky drags the Japanese flag through the grass.   |
| January 6<br>Tuesday  | Grampa finds out that Papa has already been moved to the mainland. Mrs. Wilson asks Mama to come back to work (cleaning the Wilson's home).   |
| January 8<br>Thursday   | About 5:00 pm Grampa is arrested and taken away by the FBI. Mama tells Tomi about her first time arriving to Hawaii and having no one to turn to.<br>Tomi must look for a job.  |
| January 9<br>Friday   | Dawn: Charlie comes to visit and learns about Grampa's arrest. Charlie shows Tomi where the sword is hidden.<br>Keet threatens Tomi with a rifle and shoots the katana/sword. Tomi stands up to Keet and risks his life for the sake of the sword.  |
| Near the End of<br>January  | A postcard arrives from Papa.   |
| Early One<br>Morning<br>(probably first<br>week in Feb:<br>school had been<br>out almost 2<br>months) | Mr Davis tells Tomi that his dad is in Crystal City, Texas. They do not know where Grampa was taken yet.<br>School starts up again. Boys have to carry a gas mask with them at all times. Many things have changed.<br>Mr Ramos explains why this happened: talks about power and choice (pg 233-236).<br>After school: Tomi goes to see the Taigo Maru and his friends go with him to the canal.<br>On the way back Tomi is verbally attacked by a racist. Rico stands up to the man and says something to him. Tomi stands up to the man and says something to him. |
| Early One Sunday<br>Morning<br>(a few weeks later)  | Reiko and Mari visit Tomi's family bringing a bucket of crawfish as a gift.<br>Tomi makes plans with himself to oil the katana tonight. He is the keeper/guardian of the katana. He imagines his family together again passing the katana between him, his father and his Grampa.   |

## Characters

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Tomi                     | Book's main character. Story told from his point of view. |
| Billy Davis              | Tomi's best friend.                                       |
| Jake Davis               | Billy's older brother.                                    |
| Keet Wilson              | Jake's friend. Neighborhood bully.                        |
| Mose and Rico (brothers) | Tomi's and Billy's school pals.                           |
| Kaka'ako boys            | Rival baseball team.                                      |
| Mr Ramos                 | Tomi's teacher.   |
| Mr & Mrs Wilson          | Employs Mama. Tomi's family lives on Wilson's property.   |
| Mr Davis                 | Billy and Jake's dad.                                     |
| Sanji                    | Works on Tomi's Dad's fishing boat.                       |
| Reiko                    | Sanji's wife.   |
| Mari                     | Sanji's daughter (younger than Kimi).                     |
| Taro Nakaji              | Tomi's Dad.   |
| Mama                     | Tomi's Mom.   |
| Grampa                   | Tomi's Grandpa.   |
| Kimi                     | Tomi's 5 year old sister.                                 |
| Charlie                  | Grampa's Hawaiian friend.                                 |
| Lucky                    | Tomi's dog.   |
| Red                      | Billy's dog. One of Lucky's puppies.                      |
| Pigeons                  | Raised by Tomi's Dad.                                     |
| Tumbler pigeons          |   |
| Racers pigeons           |   |
| High-fliers pigeons      |   |

## Nicknames

Haole boy= Billy

Tomi-kun= endearing name for Tomi from Mama

Wilson-sama= name of respect from papa to Mr. Wilson (pg 63)

Joji-san= Charlie's nickname for grampa

Ojii-chan= Family nickname for grampa

## Japanese and Hawaiian Language

Haole= white skinned (Hawaiian)

Kimpatsu= yellow hair (Japanese)

Kuso= Japanese swear word

Hana-kuso= booger

Issei= first generation Japanese immigrant

Gamman= patience

Furoshiki= a silky scarf

Katana= samurai sword

Butsudan= family “altar”

Sake= Japanese rice wine

Itadakimasu= Japanese prayer/blessing for food. “let’s eat.”

Gochisoh-sama= prayer/blessing at the end of a meal. “means you’re done eating.”

Ii-na= good

Aku= skipjack tuna

Noio= birds feeding on the tuna

Ahi= yellowfin

Bento= lunch

Musubi= sticky rice wrapped in seaweed with ume inside.

Ume= small red pickled plum

Shoyu aku= tuna and soy sauce

Tamagoyaki= grilled egg shaped like little square cookies

Magokoro= love and attention

Ojii-chan= grampa

Benshi= the actor-guy, in Japanese silent movies, who would give you the dialogue.

Yakyu= Japanese baseball

Ka’ a ka pohaku= Hawaiian for “the stones roll.” Thunder.

Kimigayo= Japanese national anthem

Azuki Beans= small, pebblelike beans

Shikata ga nai= No can help...What is done, is done.

Usotsuki= liar

Daijobo-yo= It's all right

Doh sureba iino= How would we manage?

Shira-nai= I don't know

Katana o mamore!= Save the sword (protect the sword)

Nakaji no namae o mamore!= Protect the family name (save the family name)

Kahiko o ke akua= Hawaiian blessing for rain

### **Locations**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Diamond grass | Billy and Tomi's sanctuary/refuge (pg 33)             |
| Kaka'ako      | Japanese, Hawaiians, and Portuguese poor areas/ghetto |
| Nu'uau Valley | Where Billy and Tomi lived (pg 36)                    |
| Taiyo Maru    | Tomi's family fishing boat                            |
| Kewalo Basin  | Where Papa kept the Taiyo Maru                        |
| Wheeler Field | US air field (pg 52)                                  |
| Ala Wai Canal | Where the Japanese fishing boats were sunk            |

## Japanese Culture and Traditions

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Losing Face               | “If you are troublemaker, then I am troublemaker...I am bad father, bad family” (pg 9).   |
| Protect Family Name       | Causing trouble will bring shame to the Nakaji name (pg 7).   |
| Tatami mat                | Grampa slept on the floor in Tomi’s room on a tatami mat (pg 30).   |
| Butsudan                  | Japanese family alter. “A place to go to when you need some help, when you have a problem” (pg 32). A place to talk to one’s ancestors, seeking advice and guidance.  |
| Shaved (bald) head        | Grampa’s head was kept bald in an old traditional Japanese way for men (pg 37).   |
| Bad-luck on fishing boats | Bananas on a Japanese fishing boat brings bad luck and haoles on a Japanese fishing boat brings bad luck (pg 42).   |
| Rice and shoyu-egg        | Traditional Japanese breakfast food. Raw egg and soy sauce over rice (pg 44-45).  |
| Katana                    | Samurai sword. “That belong to your ancestor. Long time ago. Nobody since then bring disgrace or shame to the name of the family” (pg 164).   |
| Gift Exchange             | Billy gives an expensive gift to a poor family creating a awkward situation (pg 169-170). Billy thinks the generosity of the gift expresses his care. In fact, the generosity of the gift highlights Reiko’s poverty creating a little embarrassment. Tomi whispers to Billy to take something. For Billy taking something minimizes the value of the gift as gift (a thoughtful gesture, with “no strings attached.) To accept something suggests to Billy (and Westerners) that this is an exchange, not a gift; it suggests “strings were attached;” it suggests Billy gave the gift trying to get something in return. This is a difficult situation for many westerners. |

## Moments of Hate and Moments of Help

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Pg. 62      | Hawaiian fisherman will not wave to the Japanese fishing boat.   |
| Pg. 131     | “In my whole life, I’ll never forget that look, I realized that what that lady was wasn’t just a boy and his mother...What she saw was a Japanese boy, and his Japanese mother.”   |
| Pg. 135     | “Everybody nervous about Japanese, and lots of people with guns and machetes out there. They are looking for revenge. And rumors are going around now ...They say: you never know about them.”   |
| Pg. 135-136 | “They saying you never know about how maybe was true they went help show the planes where to bomb. There was one story about somebody went cut big arrows in the sugarcane fields that pointed to Pearl Harbor. And there was one about how they went check the Japanese pilots who was shot down and found McKinley High School rings on the finger...and they saying the water supply was poisoned...and that local Japanese peoples are hiding ammunition on their properties.” |
| Pg. 136     | “Sorry,” Charlie said, “You folks need anything, you come get me. Don’t go anywhere. Very dangerous.”  |
| Pg. 157     | “They think we’re spies or something....But Mose told the truth. Still, nobody knows nothing...so they scared...just like we all scared.”  |
| Pg. 160     | “I ain’t letting those Japs take me, man. Rico looked at me, kind of embarrassed. Sorry...everybody saying Japs now.” (Dehumanizing names.)  |
| Pg. 162     | “That dog – she always made me feel good.” Lucky is not prejudice.   |
| Pg. 230     | “I want you to know one thing,” Mr. Davis said. “If you or your mother ever need anything...anything...you come to us, okay?”  |
| Pg.240-241  | “Hey, Buddhahead – you got a lot of nerve coming out in the open after what your people did.” Rico stands up to the man and says something to him. What would you do? Stay silent, say something? What would you say? What would you say if you were Tomi? What would you say if you were Tomi’s friend? Have you ever had this happen to you?   |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Pg. 240-241 | <p>“You got it wrong, mister,” Tomi said. “I was born here. I live here, just like you do. And I’m an American.”</p> <p>“Beat it, Jap,” he said.</p> <p>“American,” I said again.</p> <p>He narrowed his eyes but didn’t say anything more. I eased away feeling...strange...very strange. Almost peaceful. Spooky, feeling peaceful when somebody hates you.</p> |
|-------------|---|

Bystanders = Mr. Wilson

Perpetrators = US Military, Zeek

Rescuers = Jake, Mr Davis, Charlie

Victims= Tomi, Tomi’s Dad, Sanji

**Bystander** is someone who remains silent, saying nothing and doing nothing when bad things are happening to people around them. For example when a bully is picking on someone during lunch or in the hall a bystander is someone who looks the other way, afraid to tell someone about the bully, glad the bully is not picking on them.

**Perpetrator** is someone who inflicts harm on another person. This is a bully. A perpetrator is someone who picks on others, intimidating, pushing, name calling or hitting an innocent person.

**Rescuer** is someone who reports to bully or bullying behavior to a teacher or parent. A rescuer might step in to help or protect someone from a bully. Rescuers stand by the victims and the innocent.

**Victim** is someone who is being attacked or picked on by a bully.

## Citizenship

Except for Native Americans, the United States is a nation of people who left their home country looking for a better life ([immigrants](#)). For this reason, the United States is sometimes called the "melting pot". As a result, the population of the United States is made up of a mixture of people from different countries, such as Ireland, China, and Mexico. The next time you are in class, look around. Everyone around you is different. Although your classmate may have been born in the United States, at some point, that person's family left their home country and came to the United States. Ask your parents about your family's history. But even though we are all different, we are all Americans.



However, living in the United States doesn't automatically make one an American citizen. Residents of the United States can be [aliens](#), [nationals](#), or [citizens](#).

- **Aliens:** Aliens are people who have left (emigrated) a foreign country to the United States. They have some of the same freedoms and legal rights as U.S. citizens, but they cannot vote in elections.
- **National:** American nationals are natives of American territorial possessions. They have all the legal protections which citizens have, but they do not have the full political rights of US citizens.
- **Citizens:** Persons born in the U.S. or to U.S. citizens in foreign countries are citizens of the United States. Persons born in other countries who want to become citizens must apply for and pass a citizenship test. Those who become citizens in this manner are naturalized citizens.

Citizens of the U.S. enjoy all of the freedoms, protections, and legal rights which the Constitution promises.

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/citizenship/index.html>

# What Does it Mean to be a Victim?

**Victim** is someone who is being attacked or picked on by a bully.

## **Not remaining a victim frees us:**

- From accepting, or being assigned the role of victim
- From situations that have hurt us, so that we can get on with our lives
- From struggling to manipulate others
- From using up all our energy thinking about the situation
- From reacting to life
- To use our potential and strengths, self-respect and power for us

## **The Payoffs for Remaining a Victim:**

- We get to stay angry
- We get to be irresponsible
- We get to have someone/something else to blame for everything that goes wrong in our lives
- We get to continue to fantasize about punishing the person or system
- We get to continue having a victim identity
- We get to wallow in self-pity and get sympathy from others
- We get to have a superior feeling
- We get to have an illusion of power and control (When in reality we are the ones allowing ourselves to be controlled by the situation/person)
- We get to avoid facing powerful feelings of loss
- We get to have something to always talk about with friends and family

## **The Price for Remaining a Victim:**

- We respond only to hurt, pain and loss of life rather than the good things
- We are reactive, rather than proactive
- We cannot take responsibility for ourselves (it's someone else's fault)
- We continue to hinder ourselves and our relationships
- We avoid our feelings
- We cannot get beyond our anger, hatred and resentments
- We lack self-worth, safety, growth and freedom
- We repeat the same behaviors and thoughts over and over

# How to Deal With Angry People

- Don't confront anger with anger - A soft answer really does diffuse the situation
- Let the person with the hurt feelings know that you understand what you said or did hurt their feelings
- Listen to what they have to say and don't justify what you said or did just to get out of the situation
- Accept any blame or responsibility that belongs to you
- Don't try to offer excuses or place blame elsewhere
- Express your feelings openly and honestly (e.g. If you feel defensive, acknowledge that fact and then do the right thing anyway)
- If possible, work together towards resolution of the cause of the problem and their anger

*"Use the 'Why Not?' Mindset—  
You will never change anything unless you ask 'Why Not?'"*



## ***Choice Not Chance: Choices for Children***

**Remember - Your destiny is determined every day by the choices you make. Choose wisely.**

- 1) Choose for the long term. Don't just think about how you feel right now – Ask yourself - what will happen if I do this now because I am mad? Ask “Where will this choice lead me?”
- 2) Choose a new way of thinking. No matter what mistakes you have made before (being mean, holding a grudge) you can always change. Don't go along with the crowd. Don't feel a certain way or act a certain way just because that is the way “it has always been done” or “my friends told me that I should do something mean to keep him from doing it to me first.”
- 3) Choose for the future. Bad things that were done in the past can't be changed, but we can't keep punishing people for the past. We can only go forward and change future behaviors. If your thinking doesn't change, then you don't grow emotionally.
- 4) Choose for yourself. Nobody can choose for you if you believe in freedom of choice. Think for yourself. Think deeply so you know what you believe.
- 5) Choose now. Don't put making choices off. Good choices won't wait. Procrastination is the result of fear of failure. Chances to succeed don't change by waiting.
- 7) Choose patiently. The ability to stick with a plan and finish what your start is key to good choices. Don't think you can do something mean and then go back and change it later. Words can hurt and can't be taken back.
- 8) Choose repeatedly. Make good choices over and over again. Get up every morning and choose to be kind and forgiving again. The opportunity to choose is yours.
- 9) Choose courageously. Sometimes you must choose all by yourself.
- 10) Choose decisively. Don't make just half a choice and don't justify why you should do something. Just do it.
- 11) Choose wholeheartedly. Believe you can choose who or what you want to be.



## Under the Blood-Red Sun Word Search

Find these 15 words that help you describe the conflict and resolution between the United States and Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Under the BloodRed Sun

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| H S S E N E V I G R O F G E D | AMERICA       |
| O V I Q J V F R F U J R N X L | ANGER         |
| B A T M J S P G K A J O I R A | CONFLICT      |
| J K C F I G H T P E Z M D O N | DIFFERENCES   |
| D N E I R F F A B N J F N B O | ENEMY         |
| I R X O R K N S T E P N A R I | FIGHT         |
| S K H X W E G L I M X S T A T | FORGIVENESS   |
| I W F C J P M T C Y V M S H U | FRIEND        |
| I P M R E G N A I J R C R L L | HAWAII        |
| A D I F F E R E N C E S E R O | JAPAN         |
| W W T F P A T I E N C E D A S | PATIENCE      |
| A O C O V R O F P U U K N E E | PEARLHARBOR   |
| H H I Q T C I L F N O C U P R | RESOLUTION    |
| Q E V C T R P A H C U G S F H | UNDERSTANDING |
| J F W B R M P K G X B R F X Y | VICTIM        |

[kokolikoko.com](http://kokolikoko.com)

# Under the Blood-Red Sun Study Guide

## Web Search Exercises

- 1) Look up USS Greer and tell the story about its attack.
- 2) Look up USS Reuben James and tell the story about how it was sunk. Who attacked it?
- 3) Look up the 1941 World Series. Who won the 5 game? How many total runs were scored by the Yankees during the entire series? This can be turned into a simple math exercise too.
- 4) Look up the 1941 calendar year. On what day did your birthday fall that year?
- 5) Look up pigeons. What is a tumbler pigeon? What is a racer pigeon? What is a messenger pigeon? What is a high-flier pigeon?
- 6) Look up P-40 Tomahawks. Report anything of interest you discover about this plane.
- 7) Look up Japanese Zero. Report anything of interest you discover about this plane.
- 8) Look up USS Arizona Memorial. How many men were on board this ship when it sank? How many visitors does it have each year?
- 9) Look up Japanese relocation centers. What were they? Why were they created?
- 10) Look up Japanese-American Reparations. What are they? Why were they given?
- 11) Look up 442 Regimental Combat Team of the US Army (Japanese-American).
- 12) What medals did the 442nd earn?
- 13) Look up the following medals. Which one is the highest? What do you have to do to get one of these medals?
  - Medals of Valor
  - Medal of Honor
  - Distinguished Service Crosses
  - Presidential Unit Citations
  - Silver Stars
  - Purple Hearts

# Under the Blood-Red Sun Study Guide

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Tomi and his mom have to bury things under their house that identify them as being from Japan. If your city was taken over by another country, what items in your house would identify you as an American? What would you have to bury or hide?
- 2) Why is the US military concerned about Tomi's pigeons? Why did they make Tomi and Grampa kill the birds?
- 3) Tomi's father is arrested and his fishing boat is sunk. They have lost their primary means of making money and getting food. What did they do to get food?
- 4) Billy lies to the Army men about seeing Tomi's Grampa waving a Japanese flag at the Japanese airplanes during the bombing of Pearl Harbor in order to protect Tomi's Grampa from getting arrested. Would you have lied to save a friend's grandpa? Why?
- 5) What does Billy do to be a supportive friend to Tomi when he hears about Tomi's father being shot and arrested; and when he hears about Sanji's death?
- 6) Several days after the bombing, Billy and Tomi practice pitching and catching together again. "I just wanted to get back to how it used to be....I tossed it back. Watching Billy catch it, just like it used to be, almost choked me up" (pg 152). Why did Tomi want things to get back to how it used to be? What had changed for Tomi? What had changed for Billy?
- 7) Tomi's family had to forget Christmas. What if you had to forget Christmas one year? Do you know anyone who has had to forget Christmas one year (because of poverty)?

- 8) Billy gave his binoculars to Sanji's daughter Marii (the one's his dad gave him for Christmas). Would you give your favorite gift to someone poorer than you?  
Would you give your favorite gift in exchange for bananas?
- 9) Four pups chase Lucky through Diamond grass as Lucky drags the Japanese flag through the grass while Tomi, Billy, Kimi and Grampa are there practicing baseball. Tomi and Billy catch Lucky and the flag and must rebury it. How would you feel if you had to bury the American flag and hide who you are?
- 10) Tomi must look for a job. What would it be like if you had to find a job to help your family survive?
- 11) Grampa is arrested and tells Tomi to look after the katana. Charlie shows Tomi where Grampa hid the sword in the jungle. "That thing was very important to him," Charlie said. "His history...your history, Tomi" (pg 222). "Ancestors. Honor...Respect...Not my katana...but the family katana. It belonged to no one, and to everyone...past, present, and future." (pg 222-223). Is there anything in your family that represents your history?
- 12) Tomi is verbally attacked by a racist. "Hey, Buddhahead – you got a lot of nerve coming out in the open after what your people did" (pg 240). Rico stands up to the man and says something to him. What would you do? Stay silent, say something? What would you say? What would you say if you were Tomi? What would you say if you were Tomi's friend? Have you ever had this happen to you?

## **Apathy and Indifference: Quotations for Discussion**

**Abraham Lincoln:** *"To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men."*

**William James:** *"When you have a choice to make and you don't make it, that in itself is a choice."*

**Albert Einstein:** *"The world is too dangerous to live in, not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who sit and let it happen."*

**Edmund Burke:** *"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."*

**Rev. Martin Niemoeller,** a pastor in the German Confessing Church, who spent seven years in a concentration camp: *"First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak up- because I was not a Communist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up- because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak up- because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Catholics, and I did not speak up- because I was a Protestant.*

*Then they came for me--and by that time, nobody was left to speak up."*

## Under the Blood-Red Sun Sequence of Events Worksheet

**Directions:** Put the following events in the correct sequence in which they happened in the book. Place the number “1” next to the event that happened first, a “2” next to the event that happened second, and so on.

- \_\_\_ A postcard arrives from Papa
- \_\_\_ Tomi swims to Sand Island
- \_\_\_ Jake and Billy build a bomb-shelter
- \_\_\_ World Series begins
- \_\_\_ Grampa is arrested
- \_\_\_ Tomi and Grampa are forced to kill all of their pigeons
- \_\_\_ USS Rueben James is sunk by a German submarine
- \_\_\_ Grampa drying Japanese flag on clothes line
- \_\_\_ Tomi has a nightmare about his father being shot by a firing squad
- \_\_\_ Lucky has her puppies
- \_\_\_ Keet Wilson gets his rifle taken away from him
- \_\_\_ Tomi goes to see the sunken Taigo Maru and his friends go with him to the canal
- \_\_\_ The boys meet the butcher
- \_\_\_ Japanese fighters bomb Pearl Harbor
- \_\_\_ Charlie shows Tome where the sword is hidden

Answers: 14,10,9,2,12,8,3,1,11,4,6,15,5,7,13

# Under the Blood-Red Sun Study Guide

## Name Exercise

What is your full name: first, middle, last?

Your name tells a story about your family. It tells us something about you, your history, your family, who you are. You were given your name for a reason, it was a conscious choice by someone, maybe even a family decision including your parents, your grandparents and maybe even brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles.

If you do not know the story of your name, go home and ask your parents what your name means, what your name represents. Some of us are named after another special family member who lived a long time ago. Some of us are named after another special person who is not a family member, but represent the beliefs and values your family hold important.

If you have a nickname share it. Who gave it to you? What does it mean? What does it represent? (Only share loving nicknames: nicknames you accept for yourself).

Names are important. They mean something. They tell everyone who we were. They remind us who we are.

This is why we do not call others bad names.

# Under the Blood-Red Sun Study Guide

## Web Resources

### Diversity

[www.education.byu.edu/diversity/activities.html](http://www.education.byu.edu/diversity/activities.html)

### Immigration: Discussion Guides

[www.publicagenda.org/issues/debate.cfm?issue\\_type=immigration](http://www.publicagenda.org/issues/debate.cfm?issue_type=immigration)

### Awareness Activities

[www.edchange.org/multicultural/activityarch.html](http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/activityarch.html)

[www.awesomelibrary.org/classroom/social\\_studies/multicultural.html](http://www.awesomelibrary.org/classroom/social_studies/multicultural.html)

[www.wilderdom.com/games](http://www.wilderdom.com/games)

### Internment Camps and Memorials

[www.infoplease.com/spot/internment1.html](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/internment1.html)

[www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/anthropology74/cep.html](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/anthropology74/cep.html)

[www.nps.gov/manz/forteachers/suggestedreading.htm](http://www.nps.gov/manz/forteachers/suggestedreading.htm)

[www.nps.gov/.../history/online\\_books/anthropology74/ceb.htm](http://www.nps.gov/.../history/online_books/anthropology74/ceb.htm)

[www.nps.gov/.../history/online\\_books/anthropology74/ce17.htm](http://www.nps.gov/.../history/online_books/anthropology74/ce17.htm)

[www.nps.gov/.../extContent/wapa/guides/first/sec7.htm](http://www.nps.gov/.../extContent/wapa/guides/first/sec7.htm)

[www.nps.gov/archive/manz/hrs/hrs3.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archive/manz/hrs/hrs3.htm)

[www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/89manzanar/89lrnmore.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/89manzanar/89lrnmore.htm)

[www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/89manzanar/89visual6.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/89manzanar/89visual6.htm)

[www.nps.gov/aleu/historyculture/stories.htm](http://www.nps.gov/aleu/historyculture/stories.htm)

# OAHU, HAWAII and PEARL HARBOR

