

**Video and Books Recommended**  
**for 2020 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorations**  
*plus*  
**“How to Make a Paper Crane”**

**VIDEO**

**“Hibakusha Our Life To Live”**

By *David Rothauer*

Trailer link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMB3Kpxt3Jo>

A documentary video about the life stories of Japanese, Korean, and American survivors of the 1945 Atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Featured as narrator of the film is the celebrated tv talk show host, Phil Donahue. The film had its American Premiere at the United Nations during the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference on May 19, 2010. UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon requested copies of the film. Japanese showings took place in Kyoto and Hiroshima in August, 2010. The video includes the 60th Anniversary Memorial Ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, plus survivor interviews and arts festivities. This film pulls no punches in targeting humanity's gruesome dance of death, engineered by scientists, military and politicians at the highest level. Now the survivors' stories become our stories some 67 years after the tragic bombings. Today the threat of a nuclear holocaust is far greater than in 1945. All major industrial nations have nuclear weapons thousands of times more powerful than those dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The survivors' voices offer us not only a poignant view of the worst terrorist act ever committed upon a single race, but also, by example, ways to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again.

*(Other suggestions appreciated!)*

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**BOOKS**

**For Adults**

**One Sunny Day: A Child's Memories of Hiroshima**

by *Hideko Tamura Snider* (1996) *(highly recommended!)*

"Every year when the days begin to stretch and the penetrating heat of summer rises to a scorching point, I am brought back to one sunny day in a faraway land. I was a young child waiting for my mother to come home. On that day, however, the sun and the earth melted together. My mother would not come home..". Hideko was ten years old when the atomic bomb devastated her home in Hiroshima. In this eloquent and moving narrative, Hideko recalls her life before the bomb, the explosion itself, and the influence of that trauma upon her subsequent life in Japan and the United States. Her years in America have given her unusual insights into the relationship between Japanese and American cultures and the impact of Hiroshima on our lives.

Hideko Tamura Snider, still alive for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bomb, living in California, agreed to talk with WILPF members in an August 2020 zoom webinar.

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**For Children:**

**Hiroshima No Pika**

by *Toshi Maruki* (Author, Illustrator) (1981).

The book opens on August 6, 1945, 8:15 a.m. in Hiroshima, Japan. A little girl and her parents are eating breakfast, and then it happened. This book is dedicated to the fervent hope the Flash will never happen again, anywhere.

From a reader's review: "Hiroshima No Pika is a true story of human suffering brought about from the use of an atomic bomb on the inhabitants of the city of Hiroshima, Japan. This story is written at an elementary school level, but can be appreciated by the adult reader. Miichan is having breakfast with her mother and father when the atomic device is detonated above the city of Hiroshima. This animated book describes the horror and suffering that Miichan and her father

and mother and the people of Hiroshima endure From another reader's review: "The illustrations in this book are haunting. It's not for the very young. We use it in junior high and it always spurs on the students a desire to find out why such a thing was done...it allows for much discussion, and differing perspectives. You won't forget this book. (reviews gave 4.3 out of 5 stars\_ 18 ratings)

[*Note: a pika is a Japanese guinea pig; it is also used in Japan to indicate that something is brand new or in excellent condition. In the title does it mean that Hiroshima is no longer "new" or is it a reference to a family pet?*]

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### **My Hiroshima**

by **Junko Morimoto** (*Translator*) (2017)

"This picture-book memoir of the 1945 Hiroshima tragedy is extraordinary. With delicate Japanese-style watercolors, photographs, and a spare text written from a child's perspective, it tells the horrifying story of an ordinary little girl whose family suffered through and miraculously survived the first atomic attack. . . . Her message of peace is . . . powerful and clear" --Entertainment Weekly. Publishers Weekly Critic's Choice, 1990. Full-color illustrations."

The book can be read/downloaded from this link. (It has strong illustrations of the devastating injuries and destruction of most of the city that might not be appropriate for young children.)

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### **Nobody Wants a Nuclear War: Story and Pictures**

by **Judith Vigna** (*Author*), *Jane Addams Children's Book Award* (1986)

When a mother discovers her small daughter and son have built a shelter to protect themselves from nuclear attack, she explains that grownups all over the world are working hard to make the world safe for children to grow up in.

Review in LA Times (suggested for ages 6-9) "A brother and sister are reading a magazine with a mushroom cloud on its cover and talking about being scared that they'll never grow up. "There'll be no more houses or trees or animals or parents. Only a dark, smoky desert like we saw on television." They sneak to the woods behind their house where they build a hideaway in a secret cave, "just in case." When their mom finds them, she hugs them and listens. Then she tells about the air-raid drills of her childhood and that she, too, had wondered if she'd ever live to grow up.

She comforts them by explaining "that lots of grown-ups all over the world will never ever stop working to prevent nuclear war." Even the teensiest effort helps, such as the letters their neighbor writes to newspapers and the community group that sometimes holds peace rallies. Now encouraged, the children plunge into a homemade project so that their small voices will be heard."

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### **On the Wings of Peace**

by **Sheila Hamanaka** (*Editor*) *1995 Jane Addams Children's Book Award*

"In prose, poetry, and art, sixty popular children's writers and illustrators explore the meaning of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and advocate peace in the world, between everyday people as well as between nations."

Short description from the *School Library Journal*: "To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, sixty children's book authors and illustrators have donated artwork, prose, and poetry dealing with peace. An important and powerful book, filled with stunning and varied artistic visions and provocative voices."

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### **One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue**

by **Ishii Takayuki** 2001

Ten years after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Sadako Sasaki died as a result of atomic bomb disease. Sadako's determination to fold one thousand paper cranes and her courageous struggle with her illness inspired her classmates. After her death, they started a national campaign to build the Children's Peace Statue to remember Sadako

and the many other children who were victims of the Hiroshima bombing. On top of the statue is a girl holding a large crane in her outstretched arms. Today in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, this statue of Sadako is beautifully decorated with thousands of paper cranes given by people throughout the world.

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### **Running with Cosmos Flowers: The Children of Hiroshima**

by **Shizumi Mizale** and **Richard Marshall**, 2014

“In the wake of the bombing of Hiroshima at the end of World War II, the congregation of All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, DC, sent school supplies to the students of Hiroshima's Honkawa Elementary School. In gratitude, the students sent back drawings-created with their new supplies-of their lives in the devastated city. These remarkable images depicted scenes of play and joy. The delicate cosmos flower, which grew and bloomed in spite of the radioactive soil, was a symbol of hope echoed in the students' drawings. Discovered and restored decades later, these images stand as a testament to the resilience and beauty of the human spirit.

“This fictionalized account begins with the rediscovery of these pictures. It is drawn from interviews with the students and teachers of Honkawa Elementary School, as well as from author Shizumi Shigeto Manale's mother's personal recollections. Filled with sincerity and hope, this harrowing tale is told through the voice of Hanako, a young girl whose life is abruptly shattered. Readers will experience with terrifying clarity the catastrophic effects of human destructiveness and the indomitability of the will.... Ages ten and up.”

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### **Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivors Story**

by **Caren Stelson** (2016), based on interviews with **Sachiko Yasui**. The book won several awards including the Jane Addams Children's Book Award in 2017.

From the Jane Addams Peace Association press release:

“***Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivors Story*** traces the life of Sachiko Yasui, a six year old playing with friends a mere half mile from ground zero when the United States bombed Nagasaki. Some, including Sachiko's brothers, died within days of the blast, while others, including a younger sister and her father, slowly died from cancer. Drawing strength from her personal teachers of peace - her father, Helen Keller, Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., the adult Sachiko finds the courage fifty years later to tell her own story and work publicly to change the world. Sachiko's dignified voice emerges with elegance and respect in this documentary based upon extensive interviews and extended with poignant and pointed historical photographs.

“***Sachiko*** concludes with a valuable 28-page section covering the 50th anniversary, authors statement, glossary of Japanese words, notes, bibliography, resources and index making this book quite useful for teachers and other activists.”

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### **Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes**

by **Eleanor Coerr**, **Ronald Himler** (*Illustrations*) (1999, first published 1977)

Hiroshima-born Sadako is lively and athletic--the star of her school's running team. And then the dizzy spells start. Soon gravely ill with leukemia, the "atom bomb disease," Sadako faces her future with spirit and bravery. Recalling a Japanese legend, Sadako sets to work folding paper cranes. For the legend holds that if a sick person folds one thousand cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again. Based on a true story, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes celebrates the extraordinary courage that made one young woman a heroine in Japan.

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### **Sylvia & Aki**

by **Winifred Conkling** (2011) | Jane Addams Children's Book Award (2013)

Recommended (internment, racism, friendship issues).

“Young Sylvia Mendez never expected to be at the center of a landmark legal battle. Young Aki Munemitsu never expected to be sent away from her home and her life as she knew it. The two girls definitely never expected to know each other, until their lives intersected on a Southern California farm in a way that changed the country forever. Who are

Sylvia and Aki? And why did their family stories matter then and still matter today? This book reveals the remarkable, never-before-told story—based on true events—of Mendez vs. Westminster School District, the California court case that desegregated schools for Latino children and set the stage for Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education at the national level.”

**One reader’s review:** “I read this as part of a reading challenge to read a children’s are middle grade book that won a diversity award prior to 2009. This is a charming book that I would have enjoyed when I was a child. It is written for ages 9-12. I think this would be a great book for a parent to read to a child as it will provoke a lot of discussion about race, discrimination, and some shameful periods of US history.

“Sylvia and Aki is based on the lives of two real third grade girls who lived in California in the 1940’s. Aki Munemitsu is a Japanese American who lives on a farm in California. When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, she and her family are sent to Poston internment camp in Arizona. Her family rents their farm to the Mexican American family of Sylvia Mendez.... The girls are linked when Sylvia finds a beautiful Japanese doll and a photo of Aki hidden in the back of her closet. She is curious and in the process both girls learn about racism and discrimination.”

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### **The Last Cherry Blossom**

by **Kathleen Burkinshaw** (2016)

**“Following the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, this is a new, very personal story to join *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*.**

“Yuriko was happy growing up in Hiroshima when it was just her and Papa. But her aunt Kimiko and her cousin Genji are living with them now, and the family is only getting bigger with talk of a double marriage! And while things are changing at home, the world beyond their doors is even more unpredictable. World War II is coming to an end, and since the Japanese newspapers don’t report lost battles, the Japanese people are not entirely certain of where Japan stands. Yuriko is used to the sirens and the air-raid drills, but things start to feel more real when the neighbors who have left to fight stop coming home. When the bombs hit Hiroshima, it’s through Yuriko’s twelve-year-old eyes that we witness the devastation and horror.

“This is a story that offers young readers insight into how children lived during the war, while also introducing them to Japanese culture. Based loosely on author Kathleen Burkinshaw’s mother’s firsthand experience surviving the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, *The Last Cherry Blossom* hopes to warn readers of the immense damage nuclear war can bring, while reminding them that the “enemy” in any war is often not so different from ourselves.”

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### **The Peace Tree from Hiroshima: Little Bonsai with a Big Story**

by **Sandra Moore**, illustrated by Kazumi Wilds (2015)

”This true children’s story is told by a little bonsai tree, called Miyajima, that lived with the same family in the Japanese city of Hiroshima for more than 300 years before being donated to the National Arboretum in Washington DC in 1976 as a gesture of friendship between America and Japan to celebrate the American Bicentennial.

**From the Book:** “In 1625, when Japan was a land of samurai and castles, I was a tiny pine seedling. A man called Itaro Yamaki picked me from the forest where I grew and took me home with him. For more than three hundred years, generations of the Yamaki family trimmed and pruned me into a beautiful bonsai tree. In 1945, our household survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. In 1976, I was donated to the National Arboretum in Washington D.C., where I still live today—the oldest and perhaps the wisest tree in the bonsai museum.”

**\*\*Winner of the 2015 Gelett Burgess Award for Best Intercultural Book\*\***

**\*\*Winner of the 2015 Silver Evergreen Medal for World Peace\*\***

**From one reader’s review:** “Wonderful historical picture book told from the point of view of the tree. My daughter is 4 years old and asked repeatedly throughout the book “did that really happen”. She is kind of a sensitive kid so I was not sure how the war part would go over with her. She was fine with it. I think it is a good book that offers discussion for now and when she gets older. The illustrations are lovely.....Being told from the point of view of the tree keeps it fun while still addressing an important part of history

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# How to Make A Paper Crane:

## Book: A Thousand Cranes: Origami Projects for Peace and Happiness

by Florence Temko, an internationally known writer on paper crafts and folk arts. Her more than forty books have sold over 2.5 million copies. (2011)

(The book includes 48 sheets of decorative Chiyogami folding paper) Adapted from the book by Florence Temko [I have a copy of this book and plan to donate some to children in Menlo Park as part of our Art Gallery/Public display of cranes -Judy Adams)

Making a strand of one thousand origami cranes has become an international movement for peace, happiness, and health. This book is an update of the Heian classic, with new photographs and projects, plus forty-eight tear-out sheets of colorful chiyogami to get you started. Included is the story of Sadako in Hiroshima and suggestions for how cranes can be used at schools and hospitals, as wedding gifts, and by people everywhere to demonstrate their commitment to world peace.

See Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfnyopxdJXQ>

## Diagram:

