



Curriculum Connections

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story

By Caren Stelson.
Carolholda Books, 2020

Illustrated by Akira Kusaka
Non-Fiction, Set in Japan

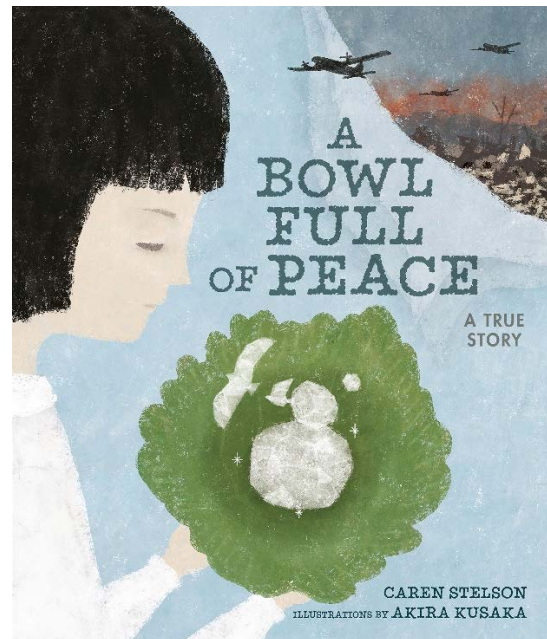
2020 Honorable Mention, Freeman Book Award for Children's Literature

Reading Level- 4 Accelerated Reader 3.6

Lexile- 650

Dewey- 940.54

Summary: *A Bowl Full of Peace* is a beautifully illustrated book about a Japanese family whose traditions are stronger than the harsh realities of the world. The book takes place prior to WWII in Nagasaki, Japan. The story follows the family through the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and afterwards for almost fifty years.



Vocabulary: (All vocabulary definitions are from dictionary.com)

Cicadas: *noun, plural* **ci·ca·das**,
ci·ca·dae (Pronounced : si-key-dee, -kah-)

any large homopterous insect of the family Cicadidae, the male of which produces a shrill sound by means of vibrating membranes on the underside of the abdomen.

Udon Noodles: *noun, plural* **u·don** (Pronounced : oo-DOHN)

a thick, white Japanese noodle made from wheat flour, often served in soup.

Torpedoes: *noun, plural* **tor·pe·does**

a self-propelled, cigar-shaped missile containing explosives and often equipped with a homing device, launched from a submarine or other warship, for



Curriculum Connections

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story

By Caren Stelson.
Carolholda Books, 2020
2020 Honorable Mention, Freeman Book Award for Children's Literature

Illustrated by Akira Kusaka
Non-Fiction, Set in Japan

destroying surface vessels or other submarines. Any of various submarine explosive devices for destroying hostile ships, as a mine.

Mackerel: *noun, plural (especially collectively) mack·er·el, (especially referring to two or more kinds or species) mack·er·els*

a food fish, *Scomber scombrus*, of the North Atlantic, having wavy cross markings on the back.

Atomic Bomb: *noun, A·tom·ic Bomb*

a bomb whose potency is derived from nuclear fission of atoms of fissionable material with the consequent conversion of part of their mass into energy.

a bomb whose explosive force comes from a chain reaction based on nuclear fission in U-235 or plutonium.

Radiation: *noun, ra·di·a·tion* (Pronounced rey-dee-ey-shuhn)

1. *Physics*

- a. the process in which energy is emitted as particles or waves.
 - b. the complete process in which energy is emitted by one body, transmitted through an intervening medium or space, and absorbed by another body.
 - c. the energy transferred by these processes.
2. the act or process of radiating.
 3. something that is radiated.

Rubble: *noun, rub·ble* (Pronounced: ruh·uhl)

1. broken bits and pieces of anything, as that which is demolished: *Bombing reduced the town to rubble.*
2. any solid substance in irregularly broken pieces.
3. rough fragments of broken stone



Curriculum Connections

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story

By Caren Stelson.
Carolholda Books, 2020

Illustrated by Akira Kusaka
Non-Fiction, Set in Japan

2020 Honorable Mention, Freeman Book Award for Children's Literature

Universal Theme: The universal theme of this book is about the sharing of experiences to prevent future repetition of history.

Literature Themes that are represented in *A Bowl Full of Peace*

- Good vs Evil
- Facing Darkness
- Power of Tradition
- Darkness and Light
- Displacement
- Everlasting Love
- Family blessing

Higher Level Questioning

REMEMBER: (Level 1) Recognizing and Recalling

1. List the main events that happen in the story in order from beginning to end.
2. Who were the family characters in the story?
3. Describe what happened when the bomb hit Nagasaki.

UNDERSTAND: (Level 2) Interpreting, exemplifying, classifying, summarizing, inferring, comparing, explaining

1. What can you infer from the pages (18 and 19) depicting the bombing that have only illustrations and no words?
2. How would you express the significance of finding grandma's bowl when their entire house was destroyed?



Curriculum Connections

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story

By Caren Stelson.
Carolholda Books, 2020

Illustrated by Akira Kusaka
Non-Fiction, Set in Japan

2020 Honorable Mention, Freeman Book Award for Children's Literature

3. Compare and contrast the contents of grandmother's bowl as the story progresses from peacetime to wartime.

APPLY: (Level 3) Executing and implementing

1. What examples can you find to show the importance of the bowl to the family?
2. How would you develop a plan of what you could possibly take with you if you had to evacuate because of a war?
3. How would you demonstrate a way to keep one of your family traditions alive?

ANALYZE: (Level 4) Differentiating, organizing, attributing

1. How would you explain the significance of the fact that everyone in the family, dead and alive, had touched the bowl?
2. Why do you think the author used the bowl in the story to represent family tradition?
3. How can you compare the melting ice in the bowl to what happens to their family as the story progresses?

EVALUATE (Level 5) Checking and critiquing

1. How did the illustrator portray the difficult times versus the good times in the drawings?
2. Predict the outcome if the bowl had not survived.
3. What facts can you gather about the effects the radiation had on the people in Nagasaki?



Curriculum Connections

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story

By Caren Stelson.
Carolholda Books, 2020

Illustrated by Akira Kusaka
Non-Fiction, Set in Japan

2020 Honorable Mention, Freeman Book Award for Children's Literature

CREATE (Level 6) Generating, planning, producing

1. Determine the value of the bowl to the family.
2. What choice would you make fifty years after the war had ended to ensure that such a terrible thing didn't happen again? What did the author do?
3. What is the most important lesson in this story? Why?

Research websites

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/atomic-bomb-history>

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/atomic-bomb>

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki>

Standards

Elementary

Language Arts - Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>

Math - Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>

Social Studies - Standards: <https://aos98.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/ncss-standards.pdf>

Middle Grades

Language Arts - Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>



Curriculum Connections

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story

By Caren Stelson.
Carolholda Books, 2020

Illustrated by Akira Kusaka
Non-Fiction, Set in Japan

2020 Honorable Mention, Freeman Book Award for Children's Literature

Math - Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>

Social Studies - Standards: <https://aos98.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/ncss-standards.pdf>

High School

Language Arts - Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>

Math - Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>

Social Studies - Standards: <https://aos98.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/ncss-standards.pdf>

Activities

1. Have students illustrate a story about a tradition they may have in their family.
2. Have students research the bombing and the effects radiation has on a person's body.
3. Have students calculate the distance between Nagasaki and their hometown.
4. Have students research and calculate the distance the effects of radiation were felt and what some of those effects were.
5. Have students create their own family vessel to represent themselves.
6. Have students write about how they would feel if their family went through this bombing. Students would need to use textual evidence in their reasoning.

Author: Meredith Lesney, Middle School Librarian/Author

2020

To learn more about the Freeman Book Awards, please visit:

www.nctasia.org/freeman-book-awards/