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## How Students Like *YOU* Experienced THE DAY OF INFAMY

*A 75th Anniversary Electronic Field Trip*

## Under the Blood-Red Sun

by Graham Salisbury

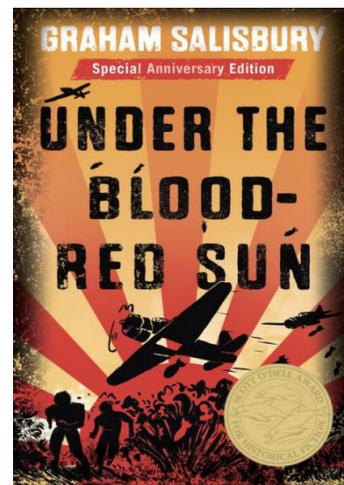
## Discussion Questions and Post-Reading Project

### BUY THE BOOK FOR YOUR CLASS!

December 7, 1941 — 13-year-old Tomikazu Nakaji and his best friend, Billy Davis, are playing in a field near their homes in Hawaii when the Japanese launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. As Tomi looks up at the sky and recognizes the Blood-Red Sun emblem on the amber fighter planes, he knows that his life has changed forever. His father and grandfather, both Japanese-Americans, are quickly arrested and taken to concentration camps. His mother loses her job because she is Japanese. Although Tomi feels frightened and ashamed of his native land, he is forced to become the man of the family. *Under the Blood-Red Sun* is an unforgettable tale of courage, survival and friendship.

Buy the book from the Museum Store: <http://store.nationalww2museum.org/under-the-blood-red-sun-pb.html>

Use the code **PEARL75** at checkout to receive 20% off!



Teachers wishing to order a class set of 12 or more books can receive a 40% discount by ordering through our wholesale department. Teachers can send in purchase orders via email to [museumstore@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:museumstore@nationalww2museum.org) or fax at 504-527-6088. Shipping costs will be included on the invoice. Please allow three to four weeks for class sets to arrive. For more information please call 504-528-1944 x 284.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The book is set in 1940s Oahu, Hawaii. Describe the Nakaji house and Tomi's bedroom. How is it similar and different from your own? [Chapter 4]
2. After Keet and Tomi fight, Mama gives Tomi this advice, "Whatever you think about that boy—do you want people to get that same thing in their minds when they think of Tomikazu Nakaji?" What does she mean by that? How can that advice apply to your life today? [Chapter 2]
3. Describe the Wilsons' relationships and interactions with the Nakaji family. How does Keet's relationship with his dad influence how he treats Tomi? [Chapter 10]
4. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, cite specific examples of how the Nakaji and other Japanese families were treated differently from white families. Why were they seen as suspicious even though they didn't do anything

READING PROJECT

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wrong? Do you think the treatment was justified? Why or why not?

5. Why did Billy give Sanji's daughter, Mari, his binoculars? Have you ever given a gift to someone because you knew they were feeling down? How did it make you feel? [Chapter 16]
6. Why did Tomi swim to Sand Island? What adjectives would you use to describe his actions that day and why? What were the dangers if he was caught by the military police? [Chapter 17]
7. Flags can be important symbols. What does a flag represent? Throughout the book, Grampa's Japanese flag becomes a liability for the Nakaji family. How was the flag used as evidence by the FBI to arrest Grandpa? [Chapter 21]
8. Tomi and Billy's favorite activity is playing baseball with the Rats. Their big game against the Kaka'ako boys made Tomi feel like life was going back to normal after the attack. Is there an activity you enjoy that even helps you cope with tough times? [Chapter 19]
9. Gaman is a Japanese term meaning "enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity." After Tomi's fight with Keet, Papa urges him, "You must learn gaman—patience. You cannot be a troublemaker and bring shame on this family." How does Tomi and the Nakaji family show gaman after the attack on Pearl Harbor?
10. Before Grampa is taken away, he shouts at Tomi to save the katana. What does the katana represent for the Nakaji family? How does the katana give Tomi strength when his Papa and Grampa are gone? Do you have any objects in your family that have been passed down from generations? Why are those objects meaningful?

## POST-READING PROJECT:

In the Electronic Field Trip, Jimmy talks about losing track of his Japanese American friend Toshi after his family is ordered to vacate their home following the attack on Pearl Harbor: <https://youtu.be/VrM9h3zswPk>. In *Under the Blood-Red Sun*, Tomi needs the companionship of his friend Billy and others more than ever after his Dad and Grampa are taken away because of false suspicion that they helped out the enemy.

### Directions:

Using Jimmy and Tomi's stories as inspiration, brainstorm the qualities of a great friend as a class and write them on the board. Then, have each student write a poem about the meaning of friendship and its importance in dealing with tough situations, using the qualities brainstormed by the class.



Submit a picture of your students holding up their finished poems with your name and school address to [virtualclassroom@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:virtualclassroom@nationalww2museum.org) and you'll receive a free Pearl Harbor classroom poster!