

My Name is America: The Journal of Ben Uchida

Answer all questions in your reading notebook! Define the vocabulary words and write the page number you found them on.

Day 1: Pages 3-12

1. Why is Ben keeping a journal?
2. What news did the Uchida family hear over the radio? How did it make everyone feel?
3. Why was the family burning all of their belongings?
4. Do you think Ben's answer to the question, "Are you Chinese or Japanese?" was a good one? Why or why not?
5. Why did the men take Papa?

Vocabulary:

motto, hesitated

Day 2: Pages 12-22

1. Describe some ways the Japanese people were being treated unfairly.
2. Where are all the Japanese people going? Why?

Vocabulary:

evacuated

Day 3: Pages 22-32

1. Summarize Ben's description of the first time he sees Mirror Lake. What does it look like? Does it seem like it will be a nice place to be?
2. Describe Ben, Naomi and Mama's new "apartment".

Vocabulary:

administration, frisked, miraculously

Day 4: Pages 32-40

1. Who is getting off the trains that Ben and Naomi watch? Is this good news or bad news?
2. What is eating meals like at Mirror Lake?
3. What are some ways Mr. Tashima is trying to make their barrack feel like home?

Vocabulary:

bizarre, rear

Day 5: Pages 40-47

1. What exciting news did Mike share with Ben?
2. The first time Ben ran into Charles was on June 1. The next time he saw Charles was June 22. Why did so many days pass in-between Ben and Charles seeing each other if they are both living at Mirror Lake?

Vocabulary:

ashamed, baffled, pathetic

Day 6: Pages 47-55

1. Why is it surprising that the guard in the watch tower was cheering on Ben?
2. What are some things Mr. Tashima is in charge of now that he is block manager?
3. Why does Ben think Independence Day is not something to celebrate?
4. Why do you think Robbie is not at Mirror Lake with Ben?

Vocabulary:

appointed

Day 7: Pages 55-63

1. When a kid yelled out "Chicago" it was funny for two reasons. What were those reasons?

2. This is the second time Ben mentions that Papa's letter has sentences crossed out. Why do you think his letters are half crossed out?

Vocabulary:

summoned, clenched

Day 8: Pages 63-71

1. Based on his letters, how would you describe Robbie as a person or as a friend?
2. Why did Aunt Mitsuko come to America?
3. What is Miss. Kroll's one condition to being out of uniform?

Vocabulary:

racket

Day 9: Pages 72-79

1. Why do you think Mike told Ben he wasn't talking to Mr. Shibutani? What do you predict that they talking about?
2. What do you think the letter from Papa said that made Mama upset?
3. In August we learn that the school got new blackboards and the camp made it first newspaper. What do you think this means for the people in the camp?

Vocabulary:

excel, quarantined

Day 10: Pages 80-87

1. What did Mike want the boys to do? What does this tell us about Mike's character?
2. What did Mike find in the residence area?
3. What was upsetting about the Wannabes having a baby?

Vocabulary:

prime

Day 11: Pages 88-95

1. Why did the baseball game have to end after only four innings?
2. Does Robbie seem mad that Ben hasn't written him back?

Vocabulary:

surplus

Day 12: Pages 95-104

1. Why didn't Mike care about winning the championship? What does this have to do with Mr. Shibutani?
2. What happened to Mr. Wantanabe?
3. Do you believe Mr. Wantanabe did what the review board said? If not, what do you think really happened?

Vocabulary:

retaliation, scam

Day 13: Pages 104-114

1. Why was Naomi upset?
2. Why were riots happening in other camps?

Vocabulary:

desolation, shortage, emphasized

Day 14: Pages 114-122

1. Why do you think Papa didn't look glad to see his family after almost a year of being away?
2. What was Ben's birthday like?
3. We learn that Papa is too sick to move. What do you think happened to him?
4. Describe how Papa acts and spends his days.
5. Where are Mr. Tashima's wife and daughter? Does this place sound familiar?

Day 15: Pages 123-129

1. The man in the audience wanted to know why the Japanese-Americans would make a military separate from the other Americans. What was the soldier's final response to this? Do you agree with him?

Vocabulary:

recruiting