

SYNOPSIS

Weedflower is a story of a twelve-year-old Japanese descendant girl named Sumiko who was born and raised in California. Sumiko and her brother, Tak-Tak, were orphans. They lived with their Uncle's family whom were Uncle, Auntie, Ichiro and Bull, her cousins, and also Jiichan, her grandfather. Sumiko's family leased a flower farm. Weed flower is Sumiko's favourite among others because of its peculiarity and wildness.

Sumiko was the only Japanese girl in her class. She had no friend at school because it was uncommon for white American children to make friend with a Japanese child. Besides avoiding to be Sumiko's friend, some of the boys often taunted her at school bus because she was different from others. However, life was never so hard for Sumiko. Even though she had no friend at school, but she loved her family and flower farm much.

Life was unpredictable. One day, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor which was known as United States' biggest military quay. The bombing worsened white American's prejudice and discrimination toward Japanese Americans. As the result of white Americans' prejudice was the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in relocation centers. They were put in several camps under American government's control. White Americans were afraid that somehow Japanese Americans became spies for their Emperor in Japan.

Living in alienation was boring and very limited. They lived in a very small house without furniture except mattresses, a table, and a chair. Bath and

dining were communal. They had electricity but was prohibited to listen to the radio or watch television. They were totally blind about what happened outside.

Then, few months after the alienation, young Japanese American men were offered to join American army and fight for United States. Others were offered to have a job outside since United States needed a lot of laborers. At the end of the story, Sumiko's cousins registered themselves to join American army and Auntie got a job in a sewing factory near Chicago. Leaving at the same point was considered to be the best for the rest of the family. Uncle and Jiichan had separated first when FBI came to capture them at their previous residents. They were caught without being charged of any crime. Simply it was because once they were leaders at a Japanese community.

Prejudice and discrimination toward Japanese Americans is the main topic of this novel. However, the unequal treatment and the alienation were ended at the end of the war. Japanese Americans lost properties and belongings during the evacuation and alienation. After the war, they started their life from the very beginning.