

NOTE: If you missed the fishbowl, it's up to you to respond in writing to ONE set of fishbowl questions—on dry land ;-)

Fishbowl Questions for *Picture Bride*

FISHBOWL #1

Physical Landscape in fiction often reflects characters' interior psychological landscape.

1. Consider these two passages from *Picture Bride*:

•Hana's passage from Japan, p. 1

•Hana and Taro's walk through Topaz camp. p. 206

2. Discuss how the physical and interior landscapes are similar.

3. Then select other moments from the story when this same theory could be applied.

4. Finally, determine what argument the author is making about the impact of internment on Japanese-Americans.

BIG MONEY: What do you believe to be Uchida's central argument? In what way(s) did fictionalizing this chapter of history enhance the author's argument?

FISHBOWL #2

The characters in *Picture Bride* have significant flaws as well as endearing qualities.

1. Discuss what the author reveals to be the flaws and endearing qualities of
 - Hana...?
 - Taro...?
2. Discuss how giving these characters “balanced” traits-- rather than creating them as heroic or villainous impacts the readers.
3. Select at least one other “round” character from the story and discuss his or her flaws and good qualities.
4. Finally, determine how these balanced characters enhanced the author’s purpose of telling the tragic story of Japanese internment.

BIG MONEY: What do you believe to be Uchida’s central argument? In what way(s) did fictionalizing this chapter of history enhance the author’s argument?

Fishbowl Questions for *Farewell to Manzanar*

FISHBOWL #1

In fiction, characters' external clothing often helps to illustrate their internal psyche

1. Consider these two passages from *Farewell to Manzanar*:

- The winter clothing issued to the internees: p. 21
- Jeanne's gown she wears when she's crowned "carnival queen": p. 128

2. Discuss how the clothing matches the psychological state of the characters.

3. Then select other moments from the story when this same theory could be applied.

4. Finally, determine what argument the author is making about the psychological impact of internment on Japanese-Americans.

BIG MONEY: What do you believe to be Houston's central argument? In what way(s) did fictionalizing this chapter of history enhance the author's argument?

FISHBOWL #2

Food is often associated with culture; for many of us, it's our only link to our heritage.

1. Consider these two passages from *Farewell to Manzanar*:

- The first breakfast served to the internees in the camp: p. 19
- The party food, Jeanne would not be invited to share: p. 130

2. Discuss how food serves as a reminder of the characters' ostracization in the novel.

3. Select at least one other incident revolving around food from the novel and discuss its implications in the story.

4. Finally discuss the paradox of being given enough to eat but remaining hungry. What unhealthy ways do the character's seek to satisfy their "hunger?"

BIG MONEY: What do you believe to be Houston's central argument? In what way(s) did fictionalizing this chapter of history enhance the author's argument?