

Nihonjin Face

Tomiko's Necklace



Grades 6 – 12

Objective To identify things that are most special to you, recognizing that those things can give you comfort in times of distress

Materials Necklace Activity Sheet (included) or blank paper
Writing/drawing utensils such as colored pencils, crayons, pencils
String, various beads, ephemera, symbolic objects (optional)

Background

Faced with the question of what to take with her when her family is forced to the camp, 10 year-old Tomiko chooses a necklace made for her by her friend Alice. When Tomiko and her family must leave their previous lives behind, the necklace serves as a reminder of what Tomiko holds dear: friendship and kindness. She keeps the necklace the rest of her life.

Lesson Procedure

1.) Discuss and Chart

Ask students to imagine that they and their family had to leave and travel far away. What are the special things they would want to hold onto and keep close to their hearts? Chart these ideas as a list or brainstorm.

- What are some of the things you would want to hold onto in your memory? What are the places? Who are the people? What are the foods? How about your core beliefs?
- How about some of your favorite activities or mementos?
- Some of the “things” might not be material things, they might be feelings, relationships

2.) Create your necklace

Utilizing the Necklace Worksheet and the special things discussed in the previous step, draw your most precious things in the spaces on the necklace. List the “important things” on the back or label your drawings.

3.) Share & Reflect

Present your necklaces to the others doing this activity.

- What were the special things you chose to include in your necklace? Why?
- What things were not included in your necklace?
- How does remembering things that are special or dear to us help in challenging or scary times? How can our necklaces help us during this time of COVID-19?

Tips for at home application:

1. If you cannot print the worksheet, draw your own necklace on a sheet of paper and fill it in.
2. Use beads and string/pipe cleaners/ribbon to make your own physical necklace. Choose bead colors and shapes that represent the items from your necklace worksheet. If you don't have beads, try using small toys or trinkets!

My Necklace

