

## Flowers from Mariko: Wartime Liberties

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**Created:** 06/25/2017  
**Last Modified:** 07/18/2017  
**Class Time:** 30 minutes-full class period

**Type of Contribution:** Lesson/Project  
**Technology Needed:** Smart Board, LCD projector

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### Summary:

How does the government protect its people during war, yet still preserve civil liberties? Use this question to examine the Japanese internment camps during WWII. Here's how using *Flowers from Mariko* by Rick Noguchi and Deneen Jenks.

### Teacher Instructions:



Show the students the newspaper from [Pearl Harbor](#). Have students write down how they would feel if they saw this newspaper headline in 1941. What questions might they have? What reactions would they have?

Discuss the student answers.

Then show the students the [Dr. Seuss Cartoon](#). Have the students analyze the cartoon with a partner. What symbols/people do they see in the cartoon? How are they depicted? What is the cartoonist's message? What is he trying to persuade Americans to do/think/feel?

As a class, discuss how the country might be feeling about Japan during World War Two. Then ask students what about Japanese-Americans? Do they pose a threat to the country? What about German-Americans? Will they be loyal to their Fatherland? Should the government treat people differently during wartime?

Play the video of the song [Kenji](#) on YouTube

Have students write down how the government treated the Japanese Americans during World War Two. Discuss as a class.

Read the story *Flowers from Mariko* to the class using the document camera. Have the students discuss with a partner how the Japanese internment camps affected Japanese Americans after the war was over.

Post the compelling question on the board: **How does the government protect its people during war, yet still preserve civil liberties?**

Exit slip: Have the students attempt to answer this question, but revisit the question throughout the World War Two Unit as well as current day examples.

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**Teacher Resources:**

None

**Student Handouts:**

None

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**Credits**

"Flowers from Mariko." Center for Philosophy for Children. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 June 2017. FortMinorVideos. "Kenji - Fort Minor." YouTube. YouTube, 30 Aug. 2010. Web. 25 June 2017.