

GRENADE BY
ALAN GRATZ:
**PEDAGOGICAL
APPROACHES &
CURRICULAR
CONNECTION**

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SUMMARY

- The action of the novel *Grenade* takes place on the same day the Battle of Okinawa commences. In the novel, we follow two protagonists from different sides of the conflict:
 - **Hideki Kaneshiro, an Okinawan native**
 - **Ray Majors, an American soldier**
 - When they eventually encounter each other, it's a moment where we see the compassion of human nature win out over the violence of war.
 - The novel gives us glimpses and insights into the harrowing nature of war and the mental effects of indoctrination and violence along the way.
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ANALYSIS

- *Grenade* is an apt middle school novel that can be used in tandem with any 6th-to-8th grade curriculum that includes material about World War II, the Pacific Theater, or about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- The novel provides perspectives into motivating factors that propel Hideki and Ray that stem from cultural mores, geopolitical fractures, and militaristic attitudes.
- Our main characters are reflections of normal, everyday individuals – essentially nameless soldiers to everyone else but the reader – who are putting their lives on the line for ideologies and political circumstances





CULTURAL & HISTORICAL THEMES

- Realities of War – Brutality of World War II
- Japanese Army Indoctrinating Child Soldiers
- Propaganda & Intentional Falsehoods (Japan, United States, etc.)
- Experience as Okinawans
- Honor & Duty on Both Sides of Conflict
- Humanity Above All

CONNECTION TO “THE U.S. IN THE WORLD”

- United States Involvement in World War II
 - **Democratic Institutions vs. Rising Tides of Authoritarianism**
- Re-Shaping of Japanese Political Structure
 - **New Constitution, Demilitarization (Article 9), & Democratization**
- Inextricable Links Between Japanese and U.S. Cultures & Economies
 - **Inextricable Links Between Media, Music, & Industries (Financial, Sports, etc.)**
- Okinawa & U.S. Military Bases
 - **Continued history of occupation; clashes between soldiers and civilians**



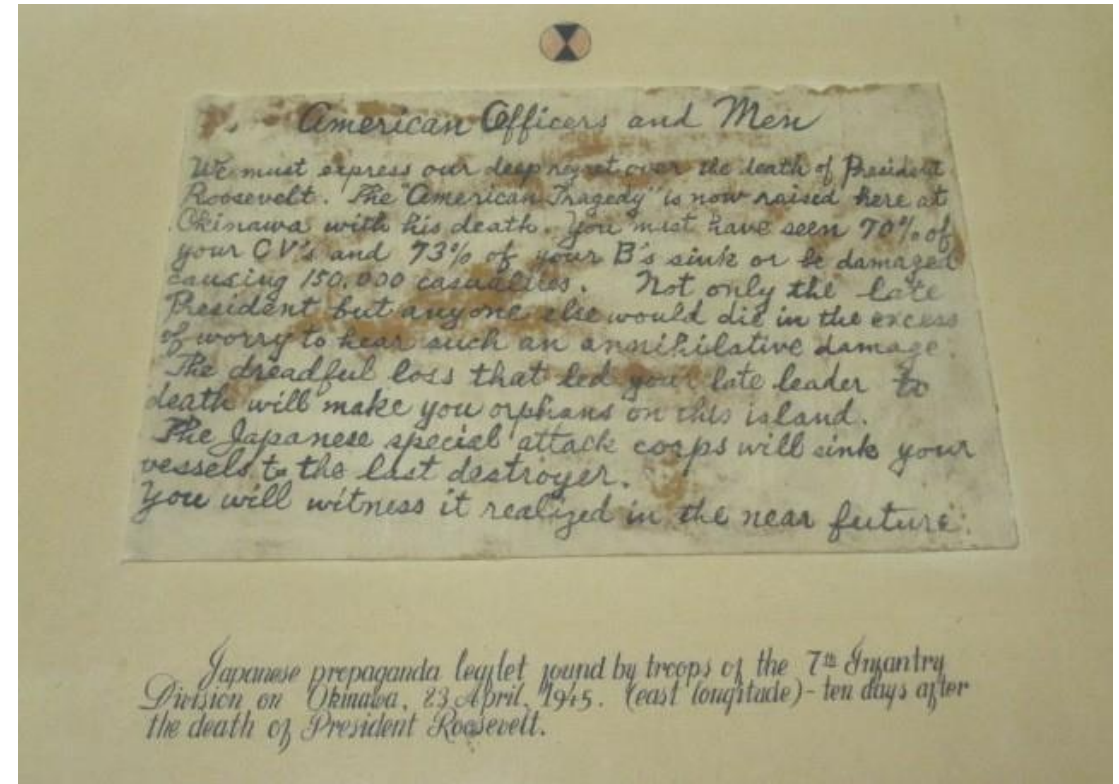


TRANSNATIONAL NARRATIVES & DIALOGUES

- Human Rights & Conditions
 - *Hiroshima & De-nuclearization*
- Individual vs. Community
- Cultural Perspectives of Alliance
- Migration & Relationship Between Governments
 - Approximately ~100,000 Americans live in Japan
 - 330,00-340,000 U.S. residents were born in Japan
 - *National Association of Japan-America Societies*

PEDAGOGICAL STRATEGIES PT. 1

- The appropriate grade levels for *Grenade* would be middle school readers in any grade level between 6th-to-8th grade. Given issues with reading levels, it may be appropriate for 9th grade readers as well.
- **In-Class Reading & Discussion**
 - Socratic Discussions
 - Reflective Pauses
 - Moments to Increase Critical Thinking





PEDAGOGICAL STRATEGIES PT. II

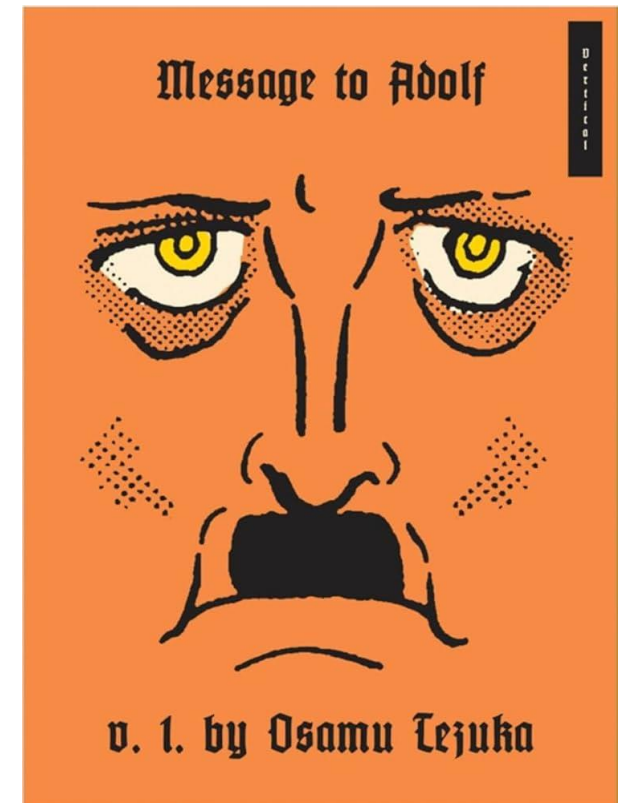
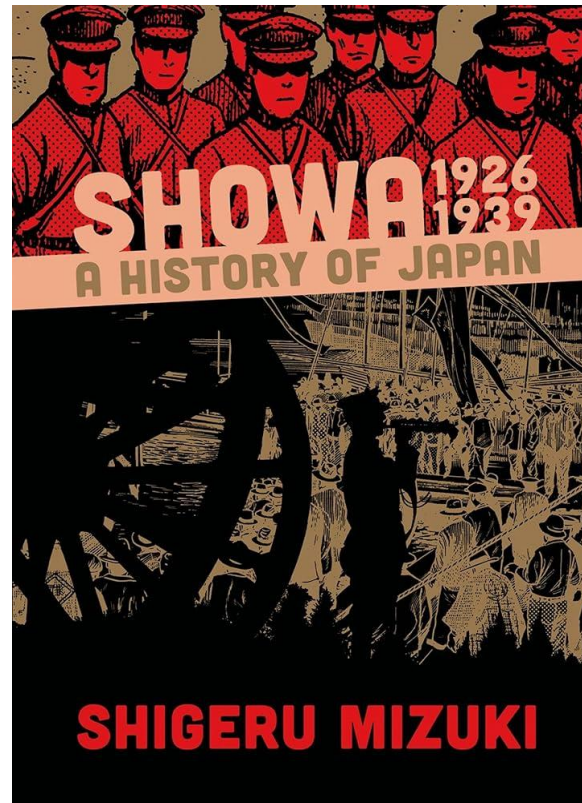
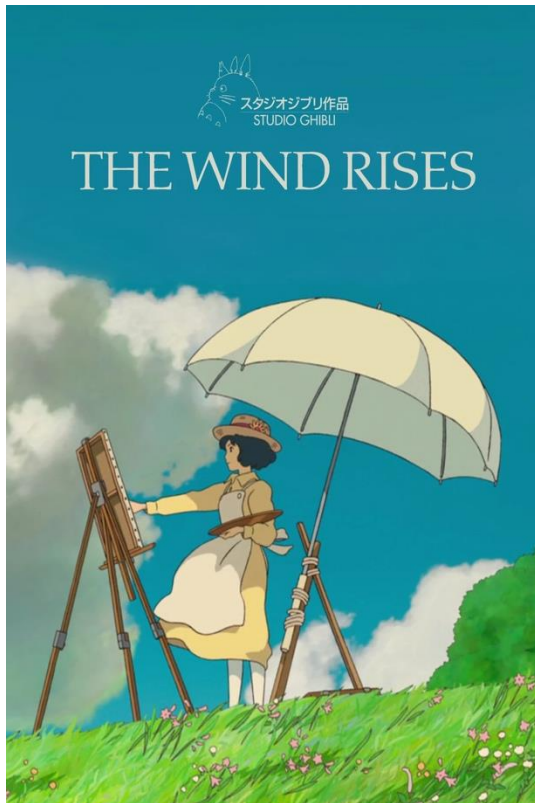
- **Group Project Presentations & Reports**
 - Foray into Historical Events
 - Research Papers or PowerPoint Presentations
- **Primary Source Reading with Flow Charts**
 - Documentary Footage
 - Testimonials
- **Cultural Immersion Activities**
 - Cultural Artifacts
 - Exposure to Cultural Elements & Day-to-Day Japanese Life

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS/RESOURCES

- **Middle School Text:** *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr
- **High School Text:** *Onwards Towards Our Noble Deaths* by Shigeru Mizuki
 - Further Reading - **Shigeru Mizuki's** *Showa: A History of Japan*
 - Further Reading – **Osamu Tezuka's** *Message to Adolf*
- **Film Connection:** *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*, both directed by Clint Eastwood; *The Wind Rises* by Hayao Miyazaki



CURRICULAR RESOURCES: MIZUKI, TEZUKA, AND TEXTS





IN REVIEW...

- *Grenade* – Perspectives & Dissection of Motivations
 - A good middle-school foray into larger themes and history around World War II
 - Insight into Okinawan Identity & Trials
 - Post-WWII Impact & Connection on U.S & Japan
 - Pedagogical Strategies & Curricular Connections
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THANK YOU!
Q&A TIME
