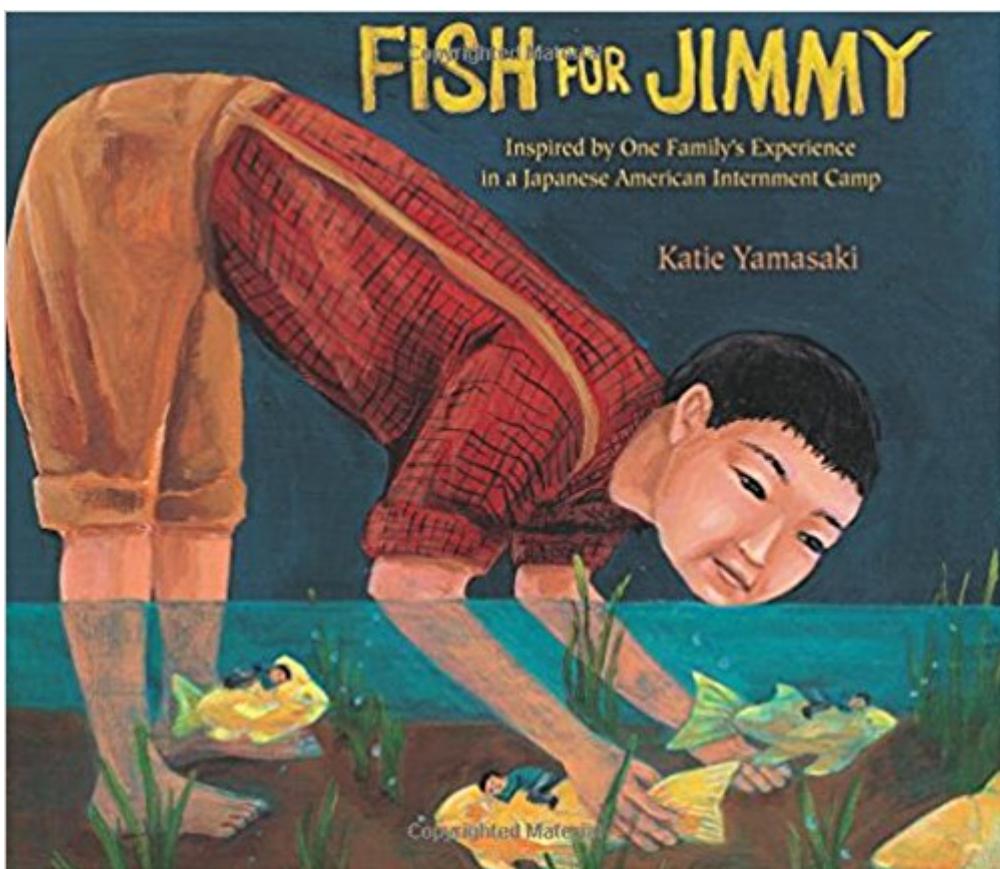


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# Fish For Jimmy: Inspired By One Family's Experience In A Japanese American Internment Camp



## **Synopsis**

For two boys in a Japanese-American family, everything changed when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States went to war. With the family forced to leave their home and go to an internment camp, Jimmy loses his appetite. Older brother Taro takes matters into his own hands and, night after night, sneaks out of the camp, and catches fresh fish for Jimmy to help make him strong again. This affecting tale of courage and love is an adaptation of the author's true family story.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 880L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.5 x 9 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 1-3-Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Taro's father is taken away for questioning by the FBI, and Taro, his younger brother, and their mother are transported to an internment camp. Jimmy refuses to eat and becomes withdrawn and listless. Taro finds a way to slip outside the camp fences to obtain fresh fish to entice his brother to eat. While the story is moving, it is the acrylic illustrations that are exceptional. The style has a primitive quality, with expressive facial details and body positioning. Yamasaki combines representational and abstract elements in her images. Children will be intrigued immediately by the cover. Taro is picking up fish that have small human figures sleeping on them. Readers soon discover that the figure is Jimmy. By combining what the

characters are doing with what they are thinking, the illustrations invite viewers into a deeper level of connection with the story. Space and scale also are used imaginatively. The scene in which Taro leaves the camp is shown as a spread. His movement is demonstrated by four small images of him running, avoiding spotlights and guards. A larger Taro cutting a hole in the fence is the focal point of the painting. Another scene in which Taro is considering how to help Jimmy provides the visual clue of "fish" in an intriguing manner. Although the story is appropriate for a slightly younger audience than Ken Mochizuki's *Baseball Saved Us* (Lee & Low, 1993) and Eve Bunting's *So Far from the Sea* (Clarion, 1998), the sophisticated visual images have cross-generational appeal. This book would be appreciated by young children, middle school students learning more about internment camps, and anyone interested in how art can explore emotion.-Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Taro and his little brother, Jimmy, love swimming in the ocean. It reminds them of their parents, who emigrated from Japan to make a better life in America. However, that dream shatters with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Their father is taken away by the FBI, and shortly thereafter, they, along with their mother, are rounded up and taken to an internment camp. Jimmy, still young enough to be a picky eater, is traumatized and grieves for their father by refusing to eat and longing for the "good rice and noodles, fresh vegetables, and fish" they used to eat at home. In order to keep his brother healthy, Taro makes a daring escape to find fresh fish. Muralist and debut author Yamasaki has adapted a story from her own family's history in a Colorado camp. Her surreal, vivid, and detailed art, rendered in acrylic on canvas, is rough with emotion and drama, and carries with it the power of familial devotion and love. The final pages include a brief letter to the reader, and some photos of Yamasaki's family. Grades 3-5. --Courtney Jones

Thank you for writing this book, Katie Yamasaki. This was an interesting story to read about. My children and I have been enjoying this book. My father who is a WWII veteran tells about having a friend when he was about 15 who was Japanese American. When Pearl Harbor was bombed this friend just disappeared and he never heard from him again. That is how we learned about this often not talked about time in our country's history.

My two year old son (who is half Asian) loves this book. Each night he asks for "Jimmy." It is good for our little guy to see books with characters who look like him. Beautiful story. We are fans!

The beautiful illustrations are mesmerizing and compliment as well as add depth to this well told personal story. Not only is it entertaining it can also educate children as well as their parents about this often overlooked and/or forgotten event in U.S. history.

Good condition

Educational for both parents and children. I liked the artwork. I've read this a half dozen times to my son and he still reaches for it during bedtime stories. Nice addition to our library.

Good history book

Wonderful book!

My girls loved the story, my oldest read the book to me. They loved and were amazed by the illustration in the book.

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