

Hook; Who doesn't find World War two interesting?

Thematic Statement: Most people would agree that World War two personal stories are the most interesting way to learn about any war.

TAG - In fact, in the poem, "What I remember of the evacuation" by Joy Kogawa, we hear exactly that, her personal remembrances of the war.

Topic Sentence = In the poem, Kogawa shows us how war affects us, and sometimes permanently.

The poem is a beautifully written personal narrative. It tells the tale of a young six year old's memories of being moved out of Vancouver during World War Two because her family was of Japanese descent. It was written many years after the event being told, yet clearly, the memories remain strong.

At the beginning of the poem, we hear that at first there was "excitement" about going on a train trip. Soon after that, we hear that it was a scary trip for a young girl, as she overhears news of people being "herded... like cattle." And the young girl hears "families are broken up" which is a big fear for most young people. The dark memories are the prominent ones and the poem ends with the tragic memory of the girl being tormented by classmates even after the war ended. Indeed, she ends the poetic remembrance with the haunting idea that after this horrific series of events, she "prayed to God who loves all the children in his sight" that she "might be white."

Obviously the memory is still with her as she can write about it so clearly so many years later. Kogawa's poem helps the reader understand the tragedy of the long ago event and how memories like this can haunt us and change us forever.