

APPENDIX I

SYNOPSIS OF THE WHEN MY NAME WAS KEOKO

Linda Sue Park's *When My Name Was Keoko* (2002) is a young adult work of historical fiction about the Japanese occupation of Korea during World War II. Many people laud the novel for bringing to light an often-overlooked aspect of history, authentically portraying Korean life, culture, and perspective in the 1940s. Park wrote the story in alternating chapters from the first-person perspectives of two Korean siblings, Sun-hee (aka Keoko) and Tae-yul (13). (aka Nobuo). They live in a small town with their father (Abuji), mother (Omoni), and Uncle. The story has the feel of a personal diary thanks to the descriptive writing style.

Sun-hee and Tae-yul explain how Korean families must operate and survive during occupation before Japan enters the war in 1942—since Japan invaded Korea decades before the war. Students must learn Japanese, study Japanese, and ignore their Korean ancestors. It is illegal to mention, display, or keep any symbol of Korean heritage, and it is punishable by imprisonment or police beatings. To make matters worse, as the war approaches, Korea's situation deteriorates. The Japanese start enforcing more irrational laws, such as requiring each resident to change their name. Each character must abandon their Korean name in favor of a Japanese one. Nobody is happy, but they must abide by the rules or face punishment. Sun-family hee's names him Kaneyama, which honors the gold hidden in Korea's mountains.

Abuji remains calm and rational throughout the story, refusing to resist the Japanese in obvious ways. Uncle, on the other hand, is more rebellious, openly opposing the unjust laws and becoming involved in a secret Korean resistance as a printmaker to combat the Japanese oppressor. However, his life continues to be jeopardized as a result of his involvement in his Korean resistance newspaper, and the family becomes concerned. Meanwhile, as the story progresses, Sun-hee becomes more studious and fearless—even for a young Korean girl whose traditional role is in the kitchen. She admires her Uncle and notices his changing attitude as Japanese tyranny tightens its grip. She is inquisitive, observant, and supportive, and she is constantly calculating ways to help her family survive. Tae-yul, her older brother, invests equally in his family's well-being, but because he is a boy, he is given more permission to assist his Uncle with minor tasks. Both of these young characters adore Uncle, who teaches them forbidden knowledge such as how to draw the Korean flag.

When Sun-hee learns of a potentially dangerous situation from a Japanese schoolmate, she reacts instinctively by alerting her Uncle, knowing he could face severe punishment. Uncle expresses his gratitude, packs his belongings, and flees in silence, unable to explain why or where he is going. This act devastates the family, and it marks the start of many drastic changes they will all face for years as Japan's treatment of Koreans during the war escalates. Soon after, the Japanese begin to closely patrol every neighborhood and even invade homes for random searches. Fear and anxiety cause strain in the family, and each character's sense of right and wrong, good and bad becomes distorted. Tae-yul becomes irritated by his father's passivity, and Sun-hee becomes depressed and blames herself for Uncle's departure. There are small moments of community and trust, however, such as when Sun-hee and Omoni defend Mrs. Ahn, their widowed neighbor, from soldiers during neighborhood searches.

Tae-yul, a laborer and plane enthusiast who helped build an airstrip for the war, joins the Japanese Imperial Army out of desperation and with dwindling supplies and options. He is nearly 18 years old at this point and sees himself as a provider in the family. He thrives in training and dedicates himself to becoming a kamikaze pilot after being inspired by his Uncle's bravery. Since the Japanese censor his letters, he and Sun-hee devise a secret communication system. At first, he appears to be doing well and to have a plan. But his fate changes quickly, and it appears that his mission has failed when soldiers report him dead. When the news is delivered to the family, they are devastated. It is the story's climax, a series of unfortunate events that destroy the Korean community's ability to sustain joy or hope during this historical period.

The war comes to an end in 1945, when the United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese occupation of Korea also comes to an end. Tae-yul returns home from the war, explaining how his mission failed but he had no way of contacting his family since being imprisoned as a Japanese war prisoner. The story concludes with the revelation that Abuji was secretly involved in Uncle's printing press, and Tae-yul, though perplexed and angry about his country's plight, decides to re-open his Uncle's shop.

“When My Name Was Keoko” published in 2002 that written by Linda Sue Park recorder won several awards such as, [Jane Addams](#) Honor citation, [Publishers Weekly](#) Best Books of the Year, [School Library Journal](#) Best Books of the Year, *CCBC Newbery Award Discussion: Honor Book*, *CCBC Printz Award Discussion*. *And according to this novel recorded won another awards, 2003 ALA Best Book*

for Young Adults, 2003 ALA Notable Book for Children, 2003 Bank Street Best Children's Books of the Year, 2002 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Book for Children and Teens (DC), 2003 CCBC Choices Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Nominee (AR), 2003-2004 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award Nominee (VT), 2005 Garden State (NJ) Teen Book Award Nominee, 2003 IRA Teachers' Choices Reading List, 2003 Jane Addams Book Award Honor Book, 2004 Maine Student Book Award Master List, 2005 Mark Twain Award Master List (MO), 2002 Michigan Library Association's Mitten Award Winner, 2002 New York Public Library, 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing, 2003 Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, 2003 NYPL Books for the Teen Age List, 2002 Publishers Weekly Best Books of the Year, 2005 Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award Master List (IL), 2002 School Library Journal, Best Books of the Year, 2005 Sequoyah Book Award (OK) Nominee, 2004 Skipping Stones Honor Award, 2006 Sunshine State Young Readers' Master List (FL), 2004 Utah Beehive Book Award Nominee. With all of these awards, the writer is sure that this novel is proper to be analyzed and discussed.

APPENDIX II

BIOGRAPHY OF LINDA SUE PARK

Linda Sue Park is the author of numerous books for young readers, was born in 1960 in Urbana, Illinois, to Korean-immigrant parents including. She had degree on Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, and Birkbeck College, Higher Diploma in Anglo-Irish Literature M.A. in Modern British Literature from the University of London. *A Single Shard*, which won the Newbery Medal in 2002, and *A Long Walk to Water*, which was a New York Times bestseller. *Prairie Lotus*, a historical fiction middle-grade novel, is her most recent release. She devotes the majority of her time to equity/inclusion work for We Need Diverse Books and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators when she is not writing, speaking, teaching, or caring for her two grandchildren. She also serves on the Rabbit hOle national children's literature museum project's advisory board.

Linda Sue has served on several award and grant panels, including the Kirkus Prize, the National Book Award, the PEN Naylor grant, and the SCBWI Golden Kite Award. She has traveled to more than 30 countries and 49 states to promote reading and writing. Linda Sue is well aware that she will never be able to read every great book ever written, but she persists in her efforts.