

50:6 "My Objectives as a Writer": Photocopied Typescript

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MY OBJECTIVES AS A WRITER:

In my earlier books, I hoped primarily to bring about a better understanding of Japan, its people and its culture, through three collections of Japanese folk tales and several books about the children of Japan.

During the past ten years, however, my goals have changed with the changing world. Young Japanese Americans, aware of their ethnicity, began to search for a sense of self and continuity with their past. I wanted to reinforce their self-esteem and self-knowledge and turned to writing about the Japanese American experience in California, with special emphasis on the World War II uprooting and incarceration, (the subject of my first book for adults).

I have tried not only to eradicate the stereotypic image of Japanese Americans still held by some non-Asians, but also to evoke the strength and courage of the 1st generation Japanese whose survival over countless hardships is truly a triumph of the human spirit. I hope my books will convey their spirit, as well as their sense of affirmation, purpose and hope in life, so today's young people can learn from and cherish the traditions and values of the past.

Although all my books have been about the Japanese, I hope they will enlarge and enrich the reader's understanding of the human condition as well. Each of us must take pride in our special heritage, but there is purpose in searching our past to better understand ourselves only if we can one day understand each other and thereby celebrate our common humanity.