



One Book, One Coast Book Discussion Questions

Thursday, May 28 from 6:00 – 7:00pm at the Port Townsend Library

1. What did you know about Japanese American incarceration during World War II before reading the book? What new information or details did you learn?
2. George Takei recounts his experience from the perspective of a small boy. How does that benefit or take away from the narrative?
3. Takei's mother smuggled in a sewing machine to make clothes for her children, even though it was forbidden. What items would you bring?
4. Readers see Takei deal with the trauma of the camps (pages 141-145). He argues with his father and questions the choices his father made during that time. What do you make of the argument? Is Takei's critique of his father fair?
5. How do you think being incarcerated at a young age shapes identity or affects someone as an adult?
6. What was the most powerful moment or scene from the book?
7. In 1988, President Reagan apologized on behalf of the United States and signed an act granting \$20,000 to each of the surviving 60,000 internees. What are your thoughts? Can we place a price on what was done?
8. Takei has told the story of Japanese American internment camps in different forms during the years. What do you think about his decision to share this story in 2019 as an illustrated graphic memoir? Have you read other graphic novels?
9. How does Takei's story connect with issues going on in the United States today?
10. What will you take away from this story?

