

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

It Began With a Page

Written by Kyo Maclear, Illustrated by Julie Morstad
48 pages / Grades 2-8

Gyo Fujikawa was a groundbreaking Japanese American artist who fought for racial diversity in picture books. Art was always a part of Gyo's life. Growing up in the time of World War II, she resisted the rules often set upon her, while also being influenced of the war happening around her. Living in New York and seeing great diversity, she was determined to have all children feel represented.



C Context

A look at the world through the eyes of **Japanese Americans** in the 20th century. Growing up in **World War II**, students will have a glimpse into **Japanese Internment Camps**, in a child friendly way, which will foster important conversations around **segregation** of all people.

Biographies and **timelines**. The story is told as a narrative picture the book, and the final section of the book is written more factually, with photographs and a more detailed look at Gyo.

A Arts

What is **artist block**? For many students blank pages are scary, whether in art or writing.

Line drawings

Japanese brush painting

Wood block carving

Calligraphy

T Themes

Determination

Representation

Segregation

Sticking to your beliefs

Staying positive

Not letting events around you break you.

Trailblazing - going against the norms.

C Create

Start with a blank page every day and fill it! It doesn't matter how students fill it. Consider binding many blank pages and let it be a chronicle of their work.

A teacher caught Gyo's talent. Have students write a letter or create a piece of art for a teacher that has made a difference in their life.

H Heart Words

"When the world felt gray, color lifted her."

"A book can be anything that anyone imagines it to be."

