HIROSHIMA
By John Hersey
Hiroshima by John Hersey Chapters 1-4 written in 1946

I strongly suggest that you read the book and do the worksheets by yourself.

When you report on the first day of school, I will collect them and give you a test regarding the reading

Good Luck and enjoy!

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As you read, keep notes on the following characters, it will help answer questions later in the packet

Hatsuyo Nakamura

Dr. Terufumi Sasaki

Father Wilhelm Kleinsorge

Toshiko Sasaki

Dr. Masakuzu Fujii

Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto
Chapter 1
A Noiseless Flash

1. On what date, at what time, and where was the first atomic bomb set off?

2. Describe the geographical situation of Hiroshima at the time the bomb was dropped.

3. Why did the atomic bomb take the Japanese by surprise? Why were they not expecting it?

4. What was unusual about the way the bomb affected the people at the time of its explosion?

5. Why do the Japanese call the B-29 bombers Mr. B?

6. Several things contribute to Mr. Tanimoto’s physical and mental exhaustion leading up to the bombing. List at least 5 of those things. (Hint: pp. 3-4)
7: You have seen in magazines, and on TV, before and after pictures. This assignment requires you to draw a picture of one of the people just before the bomb and one just after. Pictures must be colored.

7. Why does Mrs. Hatsuyo Nakamura ignore the air-raid warning that morning?

8. Why does Mrs. Nakamura have to take in sewing to support her children?

5. Explain the design (layout) and physical location of Dr. Masakazu Fujii's hospital/home.
6. Why had he been turning patients away for the last month?

7. Explain how his life is saved in the aftermath of the blast.

**Father Wilhelm Kleinsorge**

8. Two things particularly bother Fr. Kleinsorge on the morning of the bombing. What are they?

9. Where does he end up after the blast, and what condition is he in?

**Dr. Terufumi Sasaki**

10. Why does Dr. Sasaki treat patients illegally in his rural hometown?

11. Dr. Sasaki is the only unhurt doctor in the Red Cross Hospital after the blast. What is ironic about this?
12. What responsibilities did Miss Sasaki have to complete at home before she left for work?

13. Explain Miss Sasaki’s condition after the blast.

14) On what date, at what time, and where was the first atomic bomb set off?

15) Describe the geographical situation of Hiroshima at the time the bomb was dropped.

16) Why did the atomic bomb take the Japanese by surprise? Why were they not expecting it?

17) What was unusual about the way the bomb affected the people at the time of its explosion?
Chapter 2

The Fire

1. Describe the “rain” that falls on Hiroshima after the blast. (p 18)

2. Where does Mrs. Nakamura stash her sewing machine, and why does she hide it?

3. How does Fr. Kleinsorge explain the perfect condition in which his paper-mache suitcase was found? What important contents did the suitcase hold?

4. What realization motivates Dr. Fujii to save himself from the debris in the river?

5. Where does Dr. Sasaki get replacement glasses?

6. Explain Dr. Sasaki’s strategy to treat people in the Red Cross Hospital (pp 25-26)

7. Explain the human impact of the blast, by the numbers (p 25)

8. The priests cannot save many of the people trapped in the debris fires, but they do save Mr. Fukai. Why doesn’t Mr. Fukai want to be saved?

9. Explain the emotions Mr. Tanimoto’s feels, as a Christian and as Japanese citizen, as he passes the wounded. (pp 29-30)

10. Describe Mr. Tanimoto’s reunion with his wife alongside the river.

11. Once freed from the factory debris, what shelter does Miss Sasaki get from the rain?

12. What happened when Mrs. Nakamura and her children drank from the river?
13. Explain the bizarre weather the people in Asano Park endure.

14. What happened to the vegetables in Fr. Kleinsorge’s garden?

15. Why was the young woman, Mrs. Kamai, holding the dead infant?

16: Create a bubble map describing one of the main people in the story. This contains only adjectives. In the frame of reference answer the following question: "What uniquely happened to this person to cause them to survive? What decisions did they make in the aftermath of the destruction to preserve?” Naturally write the questions and use direct quotes from the novel to justify your responses.
1. List and explain five (5) examples of physical injury/suffering mentioned in this chapter.

2. List and explain five (5) examples of hope/survival that occur during this chapter.

3. Why did soldiers draw swords on Mr. Tanimoto and the priests?

4. How did Mr. Tanimoto's efforts to transport people across the river backfire? (p 49)

5. According to the army doctor, the first duty in an emergency like this is to take care of the slightly wounded, and leave the heavily wounded alone. Why is that?

6. Fr. Kleinsorge helps a group of men who are horribly injured get water. Do you think it was humane for him to help them, considering they will likely die from their injuries? Explain your answer.

7. What is Miss Sasaki's diagnosis at the relief station? What is the second diagnosis at the army hospital?

8. How many hours of sleep did Dr. Sasaki get during the first three days?

9. What happened at 11:02 am, August 9th?

10. What does Mrs. Kamai want from Mr. Tanimoto?

11. What is a greater moral responsibility to the Japanese than caring for the living?
1. What does Miss Sasaki observe about nature’s response to the bomb?

2. What new environmental disaster hit the city that caused further destruction?

3. Explain the three stages of radiation sickness Dr. Sasaki identifies.

4. What kind of known poisoning does radiation sickness resemble?

5. What symptoms does each of the following endure?
   
   Mrs. Nakamura -
   
   Mr. Tanimoto -
   
   Father Kleinsorge -

6. Miss Sasaki has different types of effects as a result of surviving the blast. What is it that she now struggles with?

7. How did the blast affect some cemeteries?

8. Why did MacArthur censor Japanese scientists’ findings about the bomb?

9. **OPINION**: Do you think that censorship was necessary? Explain.

10. How did Mrs. Nakamura provide for her family?
11. In Japan, “face” is of utmost importance, even to institutions. What does that mean?

12. What one feeling did the six survivors share?

13. Explain how Mrs. Nakamura, Fr. Kleinsorge and Dr. Fuji’s thoughts about the bomb contrast with Dr. Sasaki’s.
14) Define each word and use each in a sentence.

Talismanic

Excruciatingly

Unremittingly

Hemorrhages

Anemia

15) Describe some of the physical ailments of the people of Hiroshima. One paragraph required.

16) Explain this statement from page 81: "They reported that 78,150 people had been killed, 13,983 were missing, and 37,425 had been injured. No one in the city government pretended that these figures were accurate - though the Americans accepted them as official - and as the months went by and more and more hundreds of corpses were dug up from the ruins, and as the number of unclaimed urns of ashes at the Zempoji Temple in Koi rose into the thousands, the statisticians began to say that at least a hundred thousand people had lost their lives in the bombing." Why would Americans, who were occupying Japan, not want to confirm the number of people who died?
1) In your opinion, which person's life was most amazing after the bombing? Why? Did they use the bombing as an excuse or did they manage to rebuild their life and make something out of the ruins? You are required to write at least one paragraph.

2) Create a flow-map of one of the people's life. It does not have to be the same person that you chose for the question above.

4) Write 4 paragraphs about a fictional person who survives the bombing of Hiroshima.
5) Did the Naval hospital ship ever come to help the victims?

6) On page 60, why do you think Mr. Tanimoto picked that Psalm to read to rich dying man?

7) What person’s story was most amazing to you? Why? Requires at least one paragraph.
The following questions are found throughout the book

1. Mr. Tanimoto, like the other survivors, was amazed when he looked out over the city after the bomb. Why?

2. Identify Asano Park. What is it and what was it used for?

3. The condition of Fr. Kleinsorge’s room after the bomb was fairly typical of the bizarre effect of the bomb. Describe his room.

4. What explanation did Dr. Machii give for the destruction?

5. At first there were very few fires. Why were so many people burned?

6. Why were so many citizens who were hurt unattended by doctors and nurses?

7. What were the estimated casualties just after the bomb hit?

8. What was unusual about Mr. Tanimoto’s meeting with his wife?

9. Why did the people go to the park and to the river?

10. Why were the people nauseated?

11. Why did many people die in the river?

The following quote states, “As a Christian he was filled with compassion for those who were trapped, and as a Japanese he was overwhelmed by the shame of being unhurt, and ….” Explain this statement. Why would a Christian feel compassion? A Japanese ashamed?
Last Question

Write a review on your thoughts regarding the book