



Hello! Thank you for your interest in
**BEST FRIENDS FOREVER: A WORLD WAR TWO
SCRAPBOOK**

If you are reading this to your class, with your class, on your own or even with book club buddies, you may enjoy discussing some of the topics that come up in the story. If you have feedback to share, or questions you'd like me to answer, I am only an email away.

I'd also be happy to visit your group in person or via zoom. Just drop me a line on my Contacts page and we'll talk.

Thanks for stopping by and happy reading!

Beverly Patt

Discussion Questions for Best Friends Forever: A World War Two
Scrapbook

1. At the beginning of the story, Dottie has been “relocated,” along with her family and other Japanese American families. Nowadays, families might be relocated because a parent’s job has moved to a new state or country. How are these two kinds of relocations different?
2. The Masuokas and other Japanese American families were allowed to bring only what they could carry to the camps. This included essentials such as blankets, sheets, pillows, toiletries, clothes, cups, plates, and utensils, leaving little room for special belongings. If this happened to you, what is one “non-essential,” treasured item would you try to fit into your suitcase?
3. In the camp, Dottie’s mother volunteers Dottie to keep old Mrs. Yatsushiro company and Dottie is not pleased at first. Have you ever spent much time with an older relative or friend? How was your experience similar to or different from Dottie’s?

4. Dottie writes the common refrain of many camp internees is, “Shikata ga nai,” or, “It cannot be helped.” Why do you suppose this was used as the ‘battle cry’ (as Dottie calls it) for the internees? Do you think such a phrase would be used today? Why or why not?
5. The theme of prejudice runs throughout the story. Talk about Dottie’s and Louise’s different experiences with prejudice.
6. In the beginning, Dottie seems mad at and embarrassed by her Japanese looks, saying, “Why was I born with this Japanese face? No one can see my American heart.” Why was being an American so important to her? Do you think people feel this way now about the country in which they live? Why or why not?
7. In 1945 email and cell phones did not exist, so Dottie and Louise had to wait for a letter to arrive to hear from one another. Werner, Louise’s brother sent a telegram with Christmas wishes and news that he was safe. What do you think it would be like living with such “slow” communication?
8. Explain your understanding of rationing, and why it was done.
9. Children and young adults were relied on to help in the war effort, by working in their Victory gardens, knitting socks, collecting tin cans, writing letters to soldiers and caring for babies and the elderly while their parents worked war jobs. How would you feel about living in those days and having these responsibilities? What kind of things can you do today to help your community or country?
10. Mr. Hunter destroyed mail going to the camps, stating, “I will not let these people endanger my country.” Explain his fear. Does this happen in today’s world? Give some examples.

