

The Buddha in the Attic – Julie Otsuka

You have been asked to read the book before hand in order to work on it in class.

Here is what is expected: a box has been found by someone, whether an Angel descendant or somebody else. This box contains some elements you will work on in class, linked to some chapters of the book.

Some of the elements will be given to you randomly, some you will get to choose. For each chapter, you will have a full hour to work on.

Beware: some things must be ready beforehand! Make sure your work is done before coming in class.

You will be given an extra week to get your treasure box ready. This box will be used for your Final Task.

What to read, what to do?

1- Come Japanese!

you will write a letter from – a woman – a mother – a father
giving details about what was expected vs
feeling – education – father's point of view – mother's point of view

2- Whites

You will write a letter about husband – white men – white women – life in the US
concerning 2 or 3 themes you get to choose:
survival – opposition – work – obstacle – daily routine – America

3- Babies + The children

TO BE HANDED BEFOREHAND: on a piece of paper, write 3 Key Words which summarize best these two chapters.

WRITE ONLY 3 WORDS and no name. You will be given a task in class.

4- Traitors + Last Day

TO BE HANDED BEFOREHAND: In a big envelop, gather 3 objects which summarize best these 2 chapters.

Do not put your name, do not put any explanation.

It may be a paper clip, a drawing, a page from a diary, a letter or an extract of a letter, a photo, an object...

You may use twice the same type of object.

You will keep these objects for your final task

5- A disappearance

You will write one last letter, whether from a relative from Japon or a friend from the USA, or from the camp.

IN THE END, your box will contain 4 letters, the 3 objects and a small text explaining your choice, 2 other surprise object illustrating a moment of the book + their explanation, a last text explaining why the person who digs up this box finds it his attic.

BEWARE : the presentation is part of the grading.

YOUR FINAL TASK:

You meet a friend or two and happen to have your box with you. You discuss your finding and the meaning of it. You must be logical: are you an Angel descendant? An Angel's friend? An Angel's foe?