**Snow Falling on Cedars** – **Date assigned: March 16, 2020**

**Date due: April 24, 2020**

**Journal Collected April 24, 2020**

**Timed Write: April 25, 2020**

Before reading book, read the attached oral history of the internment and the information about the fictional island of San Piedro

Reader’s Journal Assignments

Cover page: Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson

Page 2: Copy map of San Pedro Island into journal

For all of the typed elements in this handout you may cut them up and paste them into your journal.

Page 3 (probably 4 and 5 also): Title – Chapters 1 through 5 – Introduction of Characters

Complete this section ***after*** you have read chapters 1 - 5. ***Match*** the quote provided below with the character. You should cut and paste these quotes into your journal and put the character’s name above it. There may be more than one quote to match with the character.

Kabu Miyamoto (pronounced Me ya mo toe)

Carl Heine (pronounced Hi Knee)

Judge Llewyellyn Fielding (his first name is pronounced Lew ellen)

Ishmael Chambers

Art Moran

The *Susan Marie*

Ned Gundmundsson

Quotes:

“He weighed two hundred and thirty-five pounds, much of it carried in his chest and shoulders. On Winter days, picking fish from his net, he wore a wool cap knitted by his wife and an infantryman’s battered field jacket. He spent no time at the San Piedro Tavern or drinking coffee at the San Piedro Café…” (15)

“He banged his head,” whispered Abel Martinson, pointing to a wound Art hadn’t noticed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blond hair. “Must have banged it against the gunnel going over.” (19)

“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the attorney appointed to defend Kabu Minamoto, rose to cross-examine Art Moran with a slow and deliberate geriatric awkwardness, then roughly clearned the phlegm from his throat and hooked his thumbs behind his suspenders where they met their tine black catch buttons. At seventy-nine, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was blind in his left eye and could distinguish only shades of light and darkness through its transient, shadowy pupil. The right, however, as if to make up for this deficiency, seemed preternaturally observant, even prescient, and as he plodded over the courtroom floorboards, advancing with a limp toward Art Moran, motes of light winked through it.” (20)

“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was a thirty-foot stern-picker – a standard, well-tended San Piedro gill-netter- with her cabin just aft of midship.” (13)

“The accused man, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sat proudly upright with a rigid grace, his palms placed softly on the defendant’s table – the posture of a man who has detached himself insofar as this is possible at his own trial.” (1)

“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ishmael Chambers, the local reporter, found that he was sweating too. He was a man of thirty-on with a hardened face, a tall man with the eyes of a war veteran. He had only one arm, the left having been amputated ten inches below the shoulder joint, so that he wore the sleeve of his coat pinned up…The accused man, Kabuo, was somebody he knew, somebody he’d gone to high school with…”(7-8)

“The sheriff stared at him doubtfully for a moment. By nature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was an uneasy person, nervous in the face of even trivial encounters. He’d come to his vocation as if driven ineluctably; he had never formed the intention of being sheriff, yet to his astonishment, here he was.” (10-11)

“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ called for a recess at ten forty-five that first morning. He turned to observe the silent sweep of the snowfall, rubbed his graying eyebrows and the tip of his nose, then rose in his black robe, slid his hands through his hair and lumbered into his chambers.” (28)

Page 6 – Title: Chapters 6 – 8

Who is Horace Whaley? Why did he say “It’s my job to infer…”? (65)

Is Horace missing something in the injury? Why/why not?

Who is the quote speaking about? “She was always dressed impeccably for her duties a hostess, in a pillbox hat, tweed suit, and beige gloves: taking coffee from her sure hand he’d found pleasurable. She wore her blond hair pinned up under her hat and a double strand of costume pearls around her neck, a neck that reminded him of alabaster.” (68)

How many Japanese descent individuals lived on San Piedro island before WWII? (78)

Explain how even the symbol of the Strawberry Princess was a symbol of implied racism.

Who is Hatsue Miyamoto? Draw a picture of her visiting Kabuo in jail. (79).

What did Mrs. Shigemura teach her? Why are these lessons important now?

What would Hatsue’s and Kabuo’s wedding night be like in the camp?

What happened in the tree with Hatsue and Ishmael?

How are Hatsue’s parents prejudiced?

Title: Chapter 9 – 12

Pages 113 – 120 – Title Carl vs. Etta & Make a T chart

On Etta’s side, write down all the ways Etta is prejudiced – There a numerous, besides just the Japanese

On Carl’s side write down all the ways that he is the direct opposite of Etta. Include quotes in both

What law did Judge Felding explain to the court? (122)

What diction (word choice) does Judge Felding use to explain that he is glad that the unfair law is no longer applicable in Washington State? What does Judge Felding do to get the court to focus on the murder? (123)

Who did Etta sell the land to after the Miyamoto’s were sent to internment camp? Why did she do this? How many payments were left to be paid by the Miyamoto’s?

If Carl Hine Senior had lived, would he have let Etta sell the land? Why/why not?

What point did Nels Gudmundsson make when he was cross-examining Etta? How did this point add proof to Mrs. Hine’s prejudice?

What agreement did Carl Hine, Jr. make with Ole? Why the “politeness had gone out of the Japanese man, the unreadable Japanese expression on his face when he heard that the land he coveted had been sold.” What had happened to harden Kabou? (149-151)

Did Kabou tell Nel’s he was guilty or not guilty? What game did Nels want to play with Kabou. Draw a picture (this is ch 11)

Title: Chapter 14

What did the Japanese community pledge to the people of San Piedro after Pearl Harbor?

Who was arrested by the FBI and why? Was it fair? Why/Why not?

How does Hatsue try to bring some practical sense to her relationship with Ishmael?

What do Hatsue and Ishmael do right before Hatsue needs to leave? What does Ishmael really want?

Title: Chapter 15 – the Internment

Draw a picture of the internment camp as described in this chapter.

How did Hatsue’s sister betray her sister?

How did Hatsue’s mother feel about Ishmael and why did Hatsue tell her not to worry? What did Hatsue admit to?

Chapter 16: Title Ishmael goes to war (p233)

Draw three cartoon drawings of what happens to Ishmael when he goes to war and how his attitude towards the Japanese changes.

Chapter 17 – 21 Title: The Trial Unfolds

What led Sheriff Art Moran to suspect Kabuo in the first place? (258)

How do terrorizing war memories contribute to the prejudice against Miyamoto? (261-262)

What did the Sherriff find on Kabuo’s boat that led to his arrest? Was the Sherriff jumping to conclusions? Why/why not (268)

What incriminating evidence is presented in chapter 19 that points the case towards Kabou committing the murder? (271-276)

Do you think that Kabou committed the murder? Why/why not?

What did Sargeant Maples testify to and why, again, does it point to potential prejudice? (284)

Title: Chapter 22 – 25 It’s Personal for Ishmael

What did Hatsue ask of Ishmael to do? (325) Why?

What discovery did Ishmael make about what happened the night of Sept. 15 in the shipping records? (355) How does this twist the plot?

Chapter 24 – What does Ishmael’s mom want for Ishmael?

“Tomorrow he would write the article she wanted him to write, in order to make her beholden to him, and then in the trial’s aftermath he would speak with her as one who had taken her side and she would have no choice but to listen. That was the way, that was the method. Sitting by himself in the cold of his old bedroom, her letter held uneasily in his hand, he began to imagine it.” (356) Who is the ‘he’ in this quotation – is he being honest with himself and kind to Hatsue?

Chapter 26 – Hatsue on the witness stand

How does Nel’s question Hatsue?

How does Alvin Hooks direct his questions so that one could think that the Miyamoto’s were trying to hide something?

Chapter 27 & 28 – The Storm and Lies, lies, lies

Paragraph 1 (387) of this chapter is filled with symbolism. How is the metaphor of the storm, the wind, linked to what is happening in the trial? Are people thinking and seeing clearly or are they caught up in a storm?

Why did Kabou lie to his lawyer? (389-391)

Why did Kabou board Carl’s boat? (400-405)

Draw a picture of Kabou and Carl shaking hands and the blood of Carl’s hand getting on Kabou’s.

How did Carl’s blood get on the fishing gaff?

In chapter 28, how does Mr. Hooks questioning imply prejudice?

Chapter 30 - 33 – Ishmael Comes to Terms with Himself

“The counsel for the state has proceeded on the assumption that you will be open, ladies and gentlemen, to an argument based on prejudice…he is counting on you to act on passions best left of a war of ten years ago.” (424) How are Ismael’s own prejudice and his own desires co-mingling to prevent him from doing the right thing?

In chapter 31 (436) there is an allusion to Jane Austen’s book, *Sense and Sensibility*. Is Ishmael dealing with the trial of Kabou with sense and sensibility? Why/why not?

In chapter 31 , Ishmael realizes he is “his father’s son” and that he will miss his mother when she is gone. How do these realizations make his heart grow bigger and warmer? What has he learned about himself?

Chapter 32 – The Resolution

Why did the sheriff, Ishmael Chambers, and Abel Martinson go to look at Carl’s boat? What did they find?

The book ends with:

“Well, thought Ishmael, bending over his typewriter, his fingertips poised just above the keys: the palpitations of Kabuo Miyamoto’s heart were unknowable finally. And Hatsue’s heart wasn’t knowable either, nor was Carl Heine’s. The heart of *any* other, because it had a will, would remain forever mysterious.

Ishmael gave himself to the writing of it, and as he did so he understood this, too: that accident ruled every corner of the universe except the chambers of the human heart.”

Obviously, the author is using ‘the heart’ as a symbol. Draw a picture of it. Then describe why the heart is a symbol for the work of a whole.

End of book questions:

What are the universal themes of this book?

Is Kabou a static or dynamic character? Why?

The symbol of snow is obviously important in this book. What is it a symbol of?

**Be prepared to discuss these ideas in class:**

* America’s laws say that we are innocent until proven guilty – but is this the way that cases seem to play out? Prepare arguments for and against this idea – is accusation as good as condemnation?
* Racial tensions after WWII and the internment camps were incendiary – meaning that they sparked strong emotional reactions from the Japanese community and the white community. Locally, Auburn, at the time, was a farming community with a population of 4,000 people. The internment sent 1,000 people of Japanese ancestry from farms and homes to what were in effect prison camps. In what ways is the discrimination today similar and different?
* Racism is responsible for the internment of Kabuo, Hatsue, and their families, for Kabuo’s loss of his land, and perhaps his indictment for murder. In what ways do the book’s Japanese characters respond to the hostility of their white neighbors? How does bigotry manifest itself in the thoughts and behavior of characters like Etta Heine – whose racism is keenly ironic n view of her German origins – Art Moran, and Ishmael himself. Are we meant to see these characters as typical of their place and time?
* One way that Guterson interweaves his novel’s multiple narrative strands is through the use of parallelism: Ishmael spies on Hatsue; so does Kabuo. The two men are similarly haunted by memories of war. Both Kabuo and Carl Heine turn out to be dissatisfied fishermen who yearn to return to farming. Where else in this novel does the author employ this method and to what effect?
* *Snow Falling on Cedars* begins in the middle of the story – **a narrative technique known as media res.** To complete the narrative, the author must at some point write about past events as well as present. How does this technique affect the novel’s plot (does it heighten the suspense in any way)?