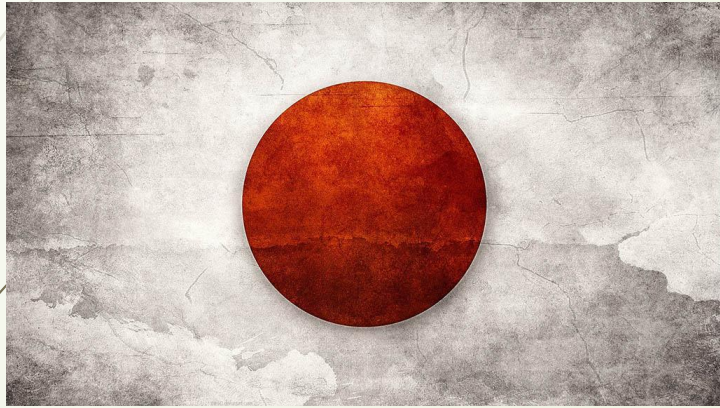




*American Japanese
Literature*

Japanese American Literature was developed in 1970th when three famous anthologies were published. They are “Asian-American Authors”, “Anthology of Prose and Poetry“, Aiiieeeee! An Anthology of Asian-American Writer”.



Reasons of the development:

Japanese American literature was deeply affected by the internment in remote relocation camps of Japanese and Japanese Americans living on the West Coast from early 1942 until 1945. This infamous political event, became a key subject of Japanese American literature.

The main themes of Japanese American literature:

1. Social and cultural self-determination.
2. Discrimination (gender, race).
3. Conflict of generations.
4. Problems of immigrants. Idealized image of Japan.
5. The problem of “hybrid identity”

Famous authors and their works:

Hisaye Yamamoto - "Poston," "Eucalyptus," "A Fire in Fontana," and "Florentine Gardens."

Kyoko Mori - "The Dream of Water", "One Bird", "Polite Lies".

Daisuke Kitagawa - "Issei and Nisei", "Race Relations and Christian Mission".

Toshio Mori - "Japanese Hamlet," "Tomorrow is Coming, Children".

Yoshiko Uchida - "The Terrible Leak, Sumi and the Goat and the Tokyo Express"

Cynthia Kadohata - *The Floating World, The Glass Mountains*

Hisaye Yamamoto **(1921-2011)**

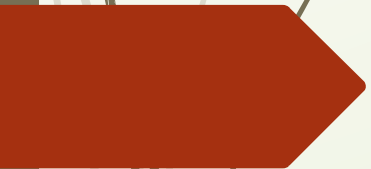


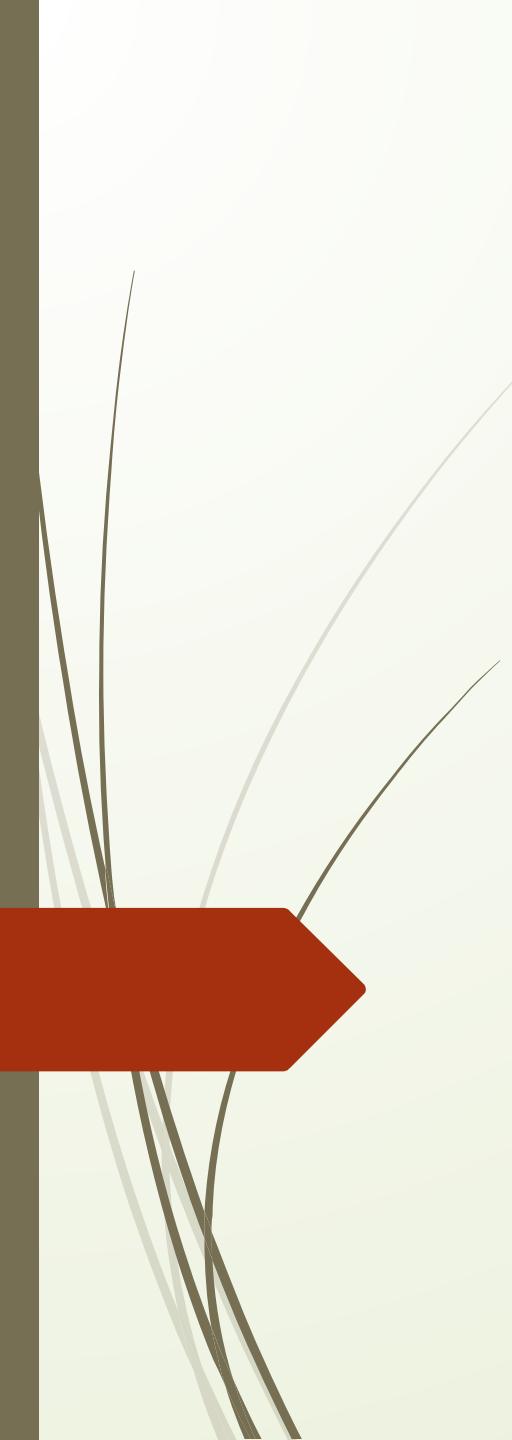
- ✓ Was a Japanese American author. She is best known for the short story collection *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories*, first published in 1988.
- ✓ Wrote from an early age.
- ✓ Her family and she were placed in internment camp in Arizona.
- ✓ After the war worked as a journalist and writer.
- ✓ Mother of five children.

Style of writing:

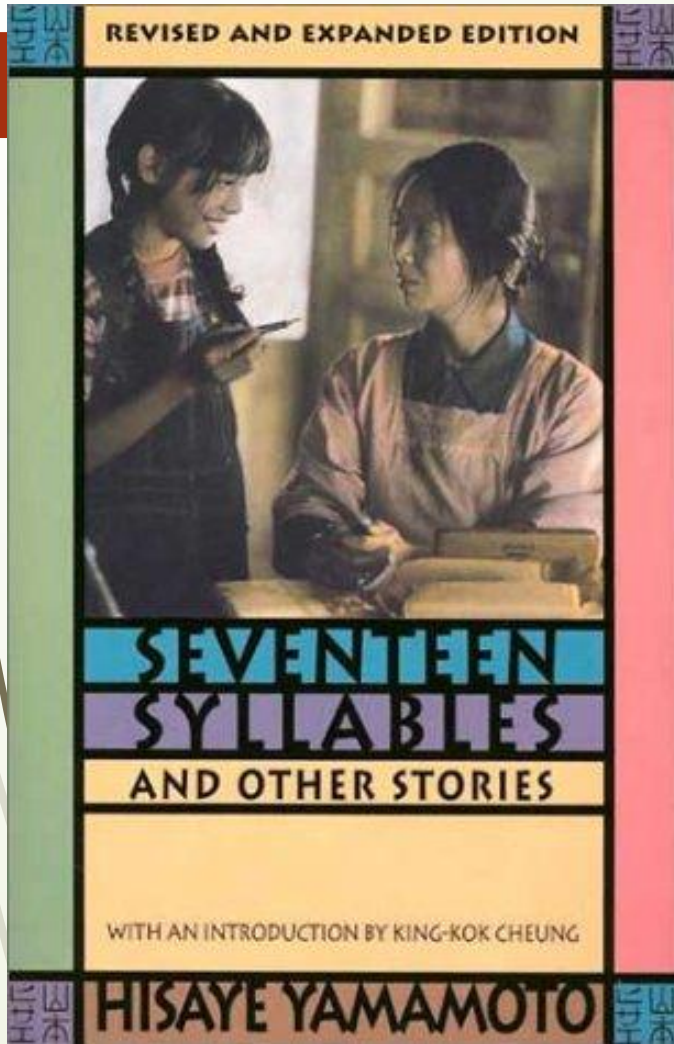
Her writing is sensitive, painstaking, heartfelt, and delicate, yet blunt and economical, a style that pays homage to her Japanese heritage while establishing contemporary appeal.

Yamamoto's stories are often compared to the poetic form, haiku.





Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories:
This collection was first published in 1988,
and includes stories written across a time
span of forty years, since the end of World
War II. The collection includes some of
Yamamoto's most-anthologized works, such
as "Yoneko's Earthquake," "The Legend of
Miss Sasagawara," "The Brown House," and
"Seventeen Syllables," considered by many
to be Yamamoto's definitive work.





- The stories, arranged chronologically by the time of their composition, deal with the experiences of first generation Japanese immigrants (Issei) and their Nisei children. The title is drawn from one of the stories within the collection and refers to the structural requirements of Japanese haiku poetry. Many of the stories have admittedly autobiographical content, making references to the World War II Japanese internment camps, to life in Southern California during the 1940s and '50s, and to the experience of being a writer.

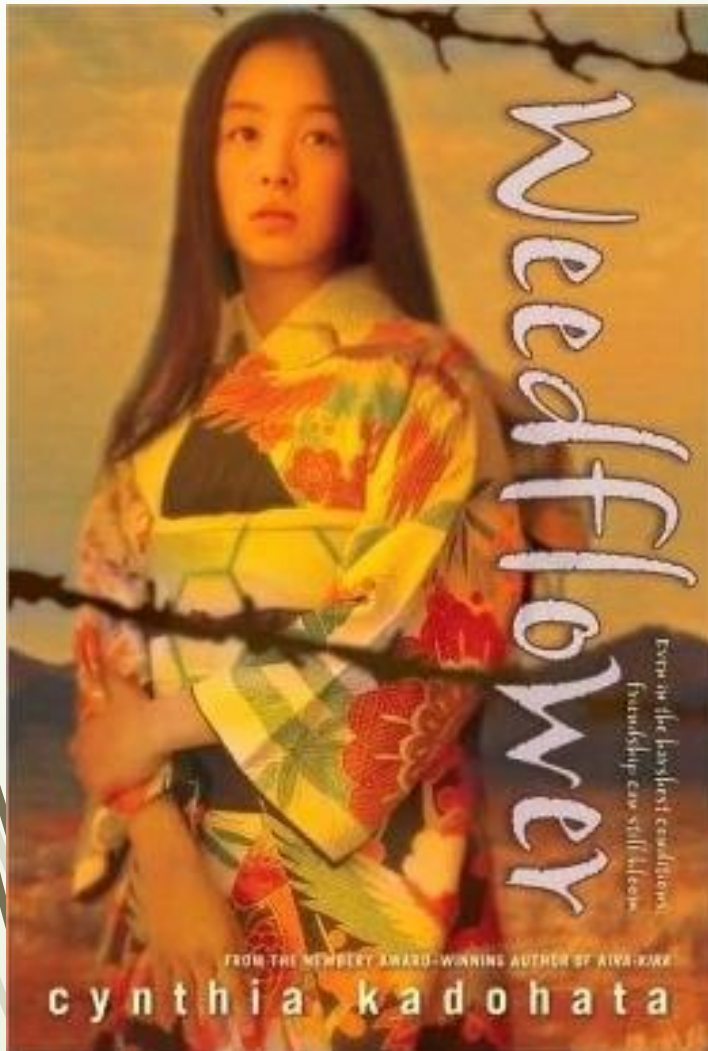
Cynthia Kadohata

□ Cynthia Kadohata is a second-generation Japanese American and has been viewed as one of the most compelling novelists in the United States. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1956. After leaving school she took a job as a clerk in a department store and then flipped hamburgers at a fast-food restaurant. When she was eighteen years old Kadohata was admitted to Los Angeles City College. She later transferred to the University of Southern California, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. After graduation Kadohata had a life-changing experience when a car jumped a curb and barreled into her as she was walking down a street in Los Angeles.



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- *During her recovery Kadohata went to live with her sister in Boston, Massachusetts. While working at various temporary jobs Kadohata began writing her own stories and submitting them to national magazines, including the Atlantic and the New Yorker. Over the next four years the struggling writer submitted over forty stories to magazines and was rejected time and time again.*
 - *Kadohata was persistent, however, and finally, in 1986, the New Yorker accepted a short story called "Charlie O." Several other stories were subsequently purchased by other magazines. While submitting stories, Kadohata improved her writing skills by taking classes at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania and New York's Columbia University. Her advanced education was cut short, however, when she was discovered in 1988 by literary super-agent Andrew Wylie.*

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- Wylie had read one of Kadohata's New Yorker stories and was so intrigued he wrote two letters asking to represent her. A stunned Kadohata agreed and soon after Wylie sold *The Floating World* to the publishing company Viking Press. *The Floating World* was enthusiastically received by critics, who praised Kadohata for her vivid and stark writing style.
 - All of her books are coming-of-age stories that explore such common themes as feeling different and struggling to find an identity. Another reason that Kadohata's books are so appealing is that she draws from her own childhood experiences. In 2004 she mined those memories to pen *Kira-Kira*, her first novel aimed at a younger audience.



□ The story takes place in 1941 in the United States. It is told about twelve-year-old Japanese-American girl - Sumiko who was sent to the Poston camp together with her family as prisoners.

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