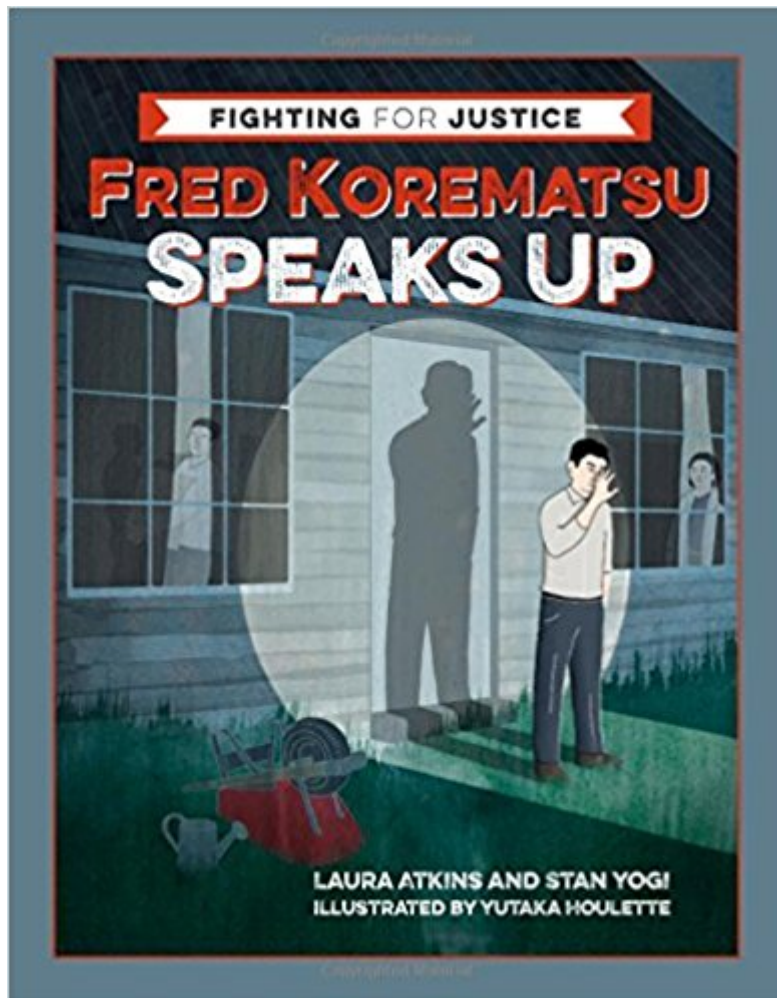




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Fred Korematsu Speaks Up (Fighting For Justice)



Synopsis

The first book in the Fighting for Justice series Fred Korematsu liked listening to music on the radio, playing tennis, and hanging around with his friends—just like lots of other Americans. But everything changed when the United States went to war with Japan in 1941 and the government forced all people of Japanese ancestry to leave their homes on the West Coast and move to distant prison camps. This included Fred, whose parents had immigrated to the United States from Japan many years before. But Fred refused to go. He knew that what the government was doing was unfair. And when he got put in jail for resisting, he knew he couldn't give up. Inspired by the award-winning book for adults *Wherever There's a Fight*, the Fighting for Justice series introduces young readers to real-life heroes and heroines of social progress. The story of Fred Korematsu's fight against discrimination explores the life of one courageous person who made the United States a fairer place for all Americans, and it encourages all of us to speak up for justice.

Book Information

Series: Fighting for Justice

Hardcover: 112 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Children's Books > Biographies

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

“Atkins and Yogi raise good questions that will inspire a new generation of activists.

This first book in the Fighting for Justice series is a must-read for all civics classrooms.”

--Kirkus Reviews, starred review “An invaluable profile of a civil rights hero whose story deserves greater attention. Middle schoolers will take to the superb writing and original

format. — Laura Simeon, School Library Journal (starred review) — “Its appeal and user-friendly presentation are undeniable....Honors the legacy of an oft-forgotten champion of human rights in America. — Booklist — “A new book about civil rights icon Fred Korematsu’s fight against Japanese American incarceration wants to teach young readers to ‘stand up for what is right.’ — Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, NBC News — “This timely history...describes the case and much more, serving admirably as a tutorial on civil rights, an introductory civics lesson, and a clarion call to action. — Susan Faust, San Francisco Chronicle — “The relevance of the themes in Fred Korematsu Speaks Up in today’s world is unmistakable — | This book gives young readers, their parents, and their teachers a suitable way to create a meaningful discussion of these important public policies that affect us all. Best of all, young readers might even be inspired by this book to take action to change public policy. Korematsu’s is an important story and should be part of our national educational curriculum. — Eileen Kurahashi, Los Angeles Review of Books — “Now’s the perfect moment for a civil rights refresher, which makes Fred Korematsu Speaks Up — | right on time. Korematsu, an Oakland-born Japanese American who resisted internment during WWII, is given powerful treatment by authors Laura Atkins — | and Stan Yogi and compelling images by Oakland illustrator Yutaka Houlette. Read it with a young revolutionary by your side. — Linda Lenhoff, San Francisco Magazine — “Questions aim at getting kids to look at their own lives, and an activist spread gives kids tips about how they can get involved — | The current political climate seems ripe for Korematsu’s story. — Marta Yamamoto, East Bay Times — “This story should be in every classroom. — Rethinking Schools — “To the reader who is an immigrant, this is an empowering story. To the one who is not, this is the bridge to help him understand what it took for his neighbor, classmate, or friend to enjoy the same freedom today. — Nathalie Mvondo, Multiculturalism Rocks — “We don’t inherit democracy; we create it. ‘Fred Korematsu Speaks Up’ shows us how. — Suzanne Enzerink, Public Books — “A rare gift for young readers and parents of young activists-in-the-making. — Tamiko Nimura, International Examiner — “Quite delectable — | The book not only pays homage to Korematsu the man, but underlines the particular importance of his story. — Greg Robinson, Nichi Bei Weekly — “Brilliant — | The authors do a terrific job of placing Mr. Korematsu’s bravery in its historical context, and don’t flinch at exposing the heavy price he paid for his choices. — Elizabeth Partridge, award-winning author of Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don’t You Grow Weary — “A powerful, nuanced book about a man who has had a profound impact on American civil liberties. — Patricia Wakida, coeditor of

Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese American Internment Experience

“Fred Korematsu Speaks Up has it all: a compelling storyline with an appealing hero, thorough and accurate background information that places his story in different contexts both historical and contemporary, and an inviting design that uses many visuals even those familiar with the story will not have seen. Easily one of the best nonfiction children’s books on any aspect of Asian American history.”

—Brian Niiya, content editor for Densho

“This is a book for all the young people who deserve to feel the joy and power of making a difference in this world and for the educators, parents, and grandparents who love them.”

—Jane Kurtz, cofounder of Ethiopia Reads

“The authors and illustrator have given a gift to the world with their telling of this story, one which instead of needing to be ‘required reading’ will simply be devoured by young and old alike.”

—Craig Wiesner, cofounder of Reach and Teach

Laura Atkins is a children’s book author and editor who grew up in an activist family and participated in social justice work herself, with a focus on diversity and equity in children’s books. She lives in Berkeley, California, with her daughter and their dog. Stan Yogi is the coauthor, with Elaine Elinson, of *Wherever There’s a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California*. He managed development programs for the ACLU of Northern California for fourteen years and is the coeditor of two books, *Highway 99: A Literary Journey through California’s Great Central Valley* and *Asian American Literature: An Annotated Bibliography*. His work has appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *MELUS*, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, and several anthologies. He is married to nonprofit administrator David Carroll and lives in Los Angeles.

Great book with lots of easy to understand info and timelines. Would recommend for everyone as this part of history is very hidden from the public.

Fred Korematsu Speaks up is an amazing Educational book, It teaches you about an activist who stands up against discrimination. It has a great blend of images and words. This should definitely be in elementary schools for kids to read and for teachers to read. This book took me through many emotions, i felt sad sometimes, then happy sometimes. I hope that the fighting for justice series will have VERY large selection of these books soon.

Good book for children to learn about civil rights.

Written in poem style and appropriate for a 9 yr. old child.

Excellent written for young and the mature.

I didn't know much about Fred Korematsu's story before reading this brand new book. I'm so thankful, now, that I do. The book shares the story of Fred, and second-generation Japanese American living on the West Coast during World War II, when the United States forced immigrants and citizens alike into internment camps. Fred resisted the order, and was jailed. The ACLU took up his case, which he eventually lost. He lost more than just the case. Many Japanese Americans turned on him, and he was officially considered a convicted felon. More than 40 years later, the ACLU decided to try his case again after finding new documents showing that the government had lied in his original case and this time they won, setting an important precedent going forward. Fred knew what was happening was wrong and stood up against it. He was a changemaker. Here's an excerpt from the main text: "Fred challenged something he thought was unfair. He spoke up for himself and for all Japanese Americans, even when no one stood with him. It was not easy. But Fred fought to make the United States his country a fairer place. And he won. We all won." I love the lyrical, spare text of the book. I love the engaging layout and design featuring illustrations, full-color photos, definitions of terms, and historical timelines. There are also sidebars and pullout boxes that explain concepts in greater detail and add context. And I especially love the callout bubbles that ask readers direct questions, such as, "Have you ever been punished for something you didn't do?" These make Fred's story all the more relatable and help readers make personal connections from Fred's story to the injustices they see all around them every day. In addition to nonfiction text features such as source notes, bibliography, photo and text credits, and an index, the book also includes a fantastic section about how readers can stand up for social justice themselves. I'm sure it will encourage readers to pursue activism and changemaking for themselves. I urge you to check this one out for the children in your life, for yourself, for our country, and for ALL of its citizens.

Both of my kids have really enjoyed the storytelling parts of this book. This is one that I'm reading as well with them, and I am personally learning so much. I like the background information, timelines, questions posed for kids to think about, and other related facts. Would definitely

recommend this book.

Everyone should learn the history of this story; it's not just for kids. Fred lived long enough to be vindicated in court. Especially relevant now that some people talked of internment camps for Muslims. I bought the book to share with others and then donate to a school.

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