**WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF THE EVACUATION?**

**By Joy Kogawa**

I remember my father telling Tim and me
About the mountains and the train
And the excitement of going on a trip.
What do I remember of the evacuation?
I remember my mother wrapping
A blanket around me and my
Pretending to fall asleep so she would be happy
Although I was so excited I couldn't sleep
(I hear there were people herded
Into the Hastings Park like cattle.
Families were made to move in two hours
Abandoning everything, leaving pets
And possessions at gun point.
I hear families were broken up
Men were forced to work. I heard
It whispered late at night
That there was suffering) and
I missed my dolls.
What do I remember of the evacuation?
I remember Miss Foster and Miss Tucker
Who still live in Vancouver
And who did what they could
And loved the children and who gave me
A puzzle to play with on the train.
And I remember the mountains and I was
Six years old and I swear I saw a giant
Gulliver of Gulliver's Travels scanning the horizon
And when I told my mother she believed it too
And I remember how careful my parents were
Not to bruise us with bitterness
And I remember the puzzle of Lorraine Life
Who said "Don't insult me" when I
Proudly wrote my name in Japanese
And Tim flew the Union Jack
When the war was over but Lorraine
And her friends spat on us anyway
and I prayed to the God who loves
All the children in his sight
That I might be white.

Information to process and discuss :

1. What type of poem is this? How do you know?
2. Can you find an example of
	1. Allusion
	2. Simile
	3. Alliteration
3. What is the tone of this poem?
4. What do you think is the author’s purpose in writing this poem?
5. Choose either: text-text (poem to excerpt), text-self (poem to you), or text-society (poem to political climate) and discuss what you learned and feel.
6. What further questions do you have about this poem or about this topic?