**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?