

The Characters

Mieko

Mieko is a complicated character. In Chapter 1, Mieko seems to be feeling sorry for herself. But after you realize how many problems she has-she is homesick, she is injured, she can't do her calligraphy, she has been hurt and traumatized by the noise and horror of the atomic bomb, she is having nightmares, she is worried about the safety of her parents, and she is only 10 years old- you start to feel compassion for her. **Compassion means feeling sympathy or pity.**

Since Mieko is the main character in the novel it is important to make notes on the information you learn about her. To do this you can use a graphic organizer called a character map.



Using Examples to Support Descriptions

Read the following sentences carefully. Notice how each descriptive statement is followed with an example that supports the description. The example makes the description more real, more "concrete."

Example

She is having nightmares when she goes to bed.

Her right hand was badly injured in the bombing

Description	Example
Mieko is traumatized by the bombing experience.	She is having nightmares when she goes to bed.
Mieko is hurt.	Her right hand was badly injured in the bombing



Start a character map for Meiko and her grandfather. Use as many adjectives as you can but leave spaces to add other points as you read more of the novel.

Your character maps will be graded at the end of the unit.