

College of Science and Technology

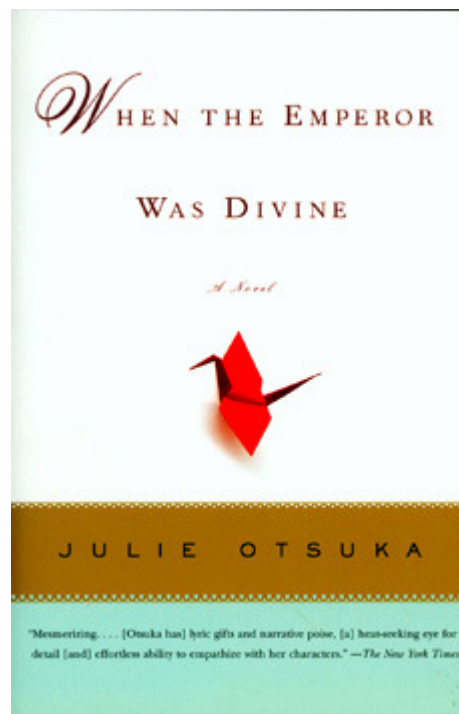
*Ideas and Possibilities for Integrating the Text

When the Emperor Was Divine

Biology 1107—Classes could possibly examine the effects of malnutrition on the body and the topic of cardiovascular disease. World War II represented the first major conflict in which infectious disease wasn't the primary cause of death to soldiers.

Pressures brought by WWII helped stimulate antibiotic research in the U.S. Between 1935-1945 there were significant advances made in mass producing first-generation penicillin and testing the effectiveness/safety of existing antibiotics. The subject of antibiotics could, therefore, be integrated in one or more Principles of Biology I topics: evolution, bacteria, cell structure/function, DNA replication, translation.

Finally, the brother of a main character suffered from scarlet fever; the nature of this disease and others caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* (group A strep) is another possible discussion topic.



Chemistry (first-year courses)

-Classes could examine the processes behind the physical deterioration of various materials with prolonged exposure to the dry, gritty air of the “salt flats” in the Western U.S

-Classes could also examine the effects on metals (silver, silver plate) expected following being buried for more than three years in Berkeley, CA. (See novel, pp. 95, 113).

-During WWII, some consumer products were rationed to provide resources to the troops. Of these products, many were foods (sugar, butter, meat) but other products were not (lipstick, nails, silk stockings, two-way stretch girdles).

Chemistry (first-year courses) cont'd

Additional Questions to Consider:

- What were the rationed non-food products used for? (See novel, pp. 37, 61, 63, 69,113,117)
- On their way to the camp, they passed the Great Salt Lake “where nothing ever sank.” Why don't things sink in that lake? Describe the animal and plant life of the lake. (See novel, pp. 46, 59)
- What is the chemical composition of the western desert which was described by the following: “dusty alkaline plain,” “alkaline made your skin burn,” “alkaline earth could not absorb water,” “soil's too alkaline.” (See novel, pp. 49, 64, 77, 85)
- What causes mirages? (See novel, p. 58)
- What was the function of an iron lung and are they still used today? (See novel, p. 62)
- The mother was recalling her childhood when she would catch fireflies then practice writing Chinese characters by their “pale glowing light.” How is light produced by the flies? (See novel, p. 95)
- While listening to the radio, the boy heard an advertisement for “Dr. Fisher's tablets for intestinal sluggishness.” The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938 was enacted in 1938 and included provisions requiring evidence of drug safety, quality and truthfulness in labeling. What impact did this have on drug development?

Psychology— Classes could examine a slew of intersections between text and class: human memory (how does it work, memory reconstruction); psychological ramifications/effects of being uprooted, “never going home again”; construction of normativity, bias and prejudice; behavior of groups of people; guilt.