

Displacement

by Kiku Hughes

An eye-opening novel on the Japanese internment camps, *Displacement* teaches the experiences of the past with a more modern twist to it.

This author has worked in volumes I and 2 of *Beyond Anthology*, Short Box no. 6, and the *Alloy Anthology*. *Displacement* is her first graphic novel.

This novel is about 16-to-17-year-old Hughes, who time-travels from the Trump presidency to the WWII incarceration camps; she calls these shifts in time "displacements." Following her grandmother around the camps, she learns about her heritage, why her family is not as close to Japanese culture as they used to be, as well as struggles that Japanese-Americans endured in these camps. Hughes also strongly compares these camps to the modern-day government, specifically with Donald Trump's attitude towards immigration and religious minorities.

I liked this book because of how much I learned from it. In the author's note, Hughes mentions the amount of studying and documentation she went through to illustrate history as accurately as possible. I already had some background knowledge about the camps beforehand through school and personal curiosity, but the novel still taught me lots of information that I wouldn't have learned otherwise. Furthermore, watching Hughes and the friends she made along the way turn something as traumatic as this into something more humane and comfortable was great to watch. The only part I wasn't a fan of was the political bias near the end. It turned an educational story into a political stance; which is understandable in Hughes's scenario, but I would've preferred it better if people could make their own decisions based off of the information itself, rather than it being spoon-fed to the reader. Otherwise, it's a really well-developed graphic novel.

I would recommend this book to anyone looking to learn more about the issues Japanese-Americans were forced through during WWII. The author has the second-hand experience, and I ended up learning a lot about history I wouldn't know otherwise. It's also entertaining at the same time, which is a win-win!

-Priyanka, age 17

