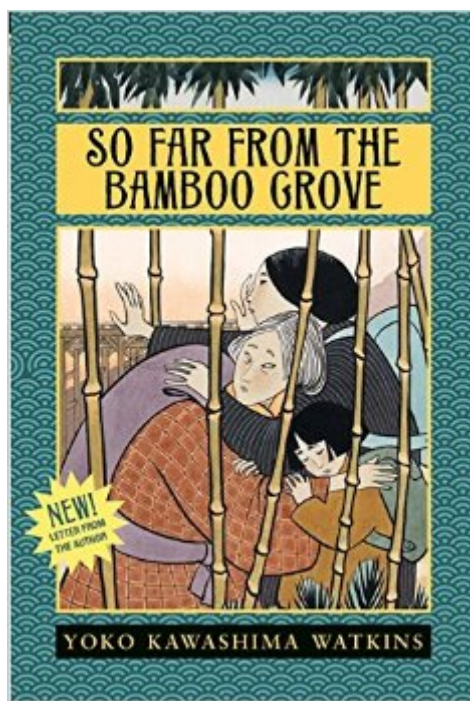


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# So Far From The Bamboo Grove



## Synopsis

In the final days of World War II, Koreans were determined to take back control of their country from the Japanese and end the suffering caused by the Japanese occupation. As an eleven-year-old girl living with her Japanese family in northern Korea, Yoko is suddenly fleeing for her life with her mother and older sister, Ko, trying to escape to Japan, a country Yoko hardly knows. Their journey is terrifying and remarkable. It's a true story of courage and survival that highlights the plight of individual people in wartime. In the midst of suffering, acts of kindness, as exemplified by a family of Koreans who risk their own lives to help Yoko's brother, are inspiring reminders of the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1st Beech Tree ed edition (August 12, 2008)

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (148 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #36,849 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia](#) #50 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #64 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Thank you Mrs. Yoko Kawashima Watkins for writing this book. I am an ethnic Korean. I have lived 10 years in South Korea as a minor. I have lived 20 or more years in the United States of America. Please forgive the unfair and hurtful reaction by the Koreans and Korean Americans who have said that you lied, that your memory is faulty. I would boldly say that most of them did not read your book. North Koreans and South Koreans are taught from home, school, entertainers, and politicians that everything bad is the fault of the Japanese. This is obviously not true. As an older adult, I also

realized it is a convenient way for South Korean politicians to maintain popularity, and blaming another nation works when domestic issues are a mess. Please forgive the Koreans who hurt you. You wrote a beautiful book. There has never been a war on earth, where rape, murder, and retaliation has not taken place. You spoke the honest truth from your childhood, and you survived the war. Your book should be read by all school children as a textbook. If I could, I would support every effort to make this happen. Thank you for writing this book. I have not cried in many years, while I read a book. I cried reading your book. Thank you.

This book takes place at the end of World War II in Korea. As the Japanese lose the war, the Korean Communist Party (empowered by the Soviet Union and China) attack the Japanese stationed in their country. Many, many were killed. This story is about Yoko, her sister, her brother, and their mother who make the trek from the northern area of Korea to the safety of Japan. When they get there, they have only what they were able to carry on their backs. This is a sad, sad story, but we need to read books like this so that we don't forget the atrocities that have occurred in our past.

The book was written by a Japanese who tried to escape from not only Russian army but also Korean bandits which used to attack Korean territory crossing from the Russia. Japan modernized Korea during its annexation and improved living standard of Korean people. Japanese lost everything when Japan lost the war and had no choice but to return to Japan. Russian army was so brutal it killed and raped many civilians when it broke the non-aggression treaty with Japan. The author could return to Japan but many did not make it. This is a book which illustrates what actually happened.

I loved this book as much as the sequel. It gives detailed account of how one girl, along with her sister, leave their home in Korea to journey back to their homeland of Japan. No pity needed, just lots of guts.

I read an article of S Korean major newspaper that was encouraging to oppose this book for degrading their nation. Some low evaluations may be for that reason.

This is the true story...This is the history. In fact, Koreans were determined to take advantage of surrender of Japan, although they were willing to become Japanese before the defeat. I recommend

this book to the people all round the world.

My daughter and I read this book. Just loved it. This book was great, show how cruel war is to elders, women and children, to whole family. I don't understand why this book was not in school for children to teach.

Very touching and honest reflection of life at that time in Asia. Everyone in the family read the book. It is balanced and treats all characters and countries with respect. This is the type of book which brings people together. Highly recommend for 12 years old and up. I appreciate the author writing this book.

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