“Farewell to Manzanar”

Questions to keep in mind as you read and answer as you go:

1. Who made the decisions about the Japanese-Americans?
2. Where were the relocation camps located and what were the conditions?
3. Is there a significance to the geographical location of these camps?
4. How were the families selected to go to the location camps and what happened to their property?
5. How were these people treated in the relocation camps and who was responsible for their welfare?
6. What can citizens do to right the wrongs committed by the U.S. government?

Take notes as you read this novel. When you have finished the book, you will address each topic below in an essay. You may use any kind of organizer that you wish to, but be specific in your answers to the topics.

1. Describe the Characters
   - Describe the life of the Wakatsukis before, during, and after internment. For instance, you might include: where they lived, what they did with their time, how they were treated by non-Orientals, how they related to each other, and how they felt about their station in life.
   - As you describe each family member’s personality, note any changes that took place in his or her belief system.

2. Japanese Shame & Honor
   - Explain the concepts of shame and honor in Japanese culture.
   - How did the imprisonment in internment camps destroy honor and create shame for some of the family members?

3. Conflict
   - Person vs. Self (inner conflicts of feelings & thoughts)
   - Person vs. Person (protagonist vs. antagonist)
   - Person vs. Society (larger organizations/belief systems of society)
   - Person vs. Nature (battling the elements of nature)

4. Theme of Racism
   - Discuss the racism towards Asians in the early to mid 20th Century America as depicted in the book. Give specific references to events that occurred in the lives of the Wakatsukis.
   - Search the WWW for historical/factual events. Include a search on the Manzanar Internment Camp.

5. Jeanne’s Teenage Years
   - Discuss some of the difficulties Jeanne (and other teenagers) experienced trying to live as Japanese Americans.
   - Describe some of the conflicts Jeanne felt as she tried to be accepted by both her traditional family and the American caucasian society. How was she "torn" between two cultures?

6. Section Three - Farewell to Manzanar
   - Describe the purpose of Section Three.
   - Why is it important for Jeanne to return to Manzanar to say a final farewell?
   - Explain in detail the significance of the book’s title.