



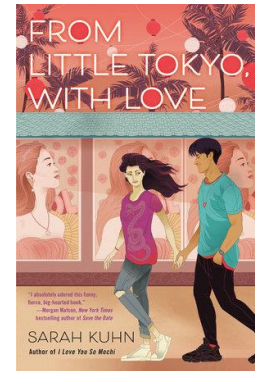
From Little Tokyo, With Love

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Grades 9-12

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Reading Guide by Ms. Kahlon, 12th grade, West High School

Questions

1. Rika often complains about the new businesses and people entering Little Tokyo. At the same time, she's longing for her community to change and progress. How do the physical changes in Little Tokyo relate to the cultural changes Rika wants to see? Have you observed physical or cultural changes in your neighborhood? How are they similar or different to the changes in Little Tokyo? Why do you think these changes are taking place?
2. Rika and Grace Kimura reunite in the JACC Garden. According to its website, Isamu Noguchi, one of the artists whose work is on the campus, "understood that the Issei and Nisei (second generation) envisioned the JACC as a permanent home for Japanese and Japanese American art and culture to flourish in the United States." How is the role and purpose of the garden related to Rika and Grace reuniting there?
3. After Grace Kimura flees the Nikkei Week parade when she sees Rika, Rika is plagued with guilt because she believes she is responsible for running the day, ruining Belle's role in the parade, and ruining her and Eliza's chance to impress the UCLA scout. How might this relate to the responsibility and shame Grace felt when she had to leave her baby, family, and community after Rikka was born.
4. Rika journeys through Little Tokyo, to Hollywood, and to Santa Monica with Henry. In what way is she a native in her own town and in what ways does she allow herself to be a tourist when she's with Henry? Be a tourist in your neighborhood! Create a map of all the places you discover and share it with a friend. What will you learn?
5. Many of the chapters begin or end with a page written in the style of a fairy tale. Is Little Tokyo Rika's kingdom? Is she a princess or peasant in this kingdom? Why?



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