

such as their smiles for a long period. We had many victims who died for Japan. Thanks to them, we can have peace today. People at war hid their pain of parting with their families at the bottom of their hearts and lived strong in a positive way for the future to rebirth Japan. Today it is common for me to have important people and live a comfortable life. If I lost my family now, I couldn't live strong. Other people as well as me think so. I won't repeat such a sad thing again.

So, I would like to keep such peaceful present days.

Peace and a War I Learned in Hiroshima

Daiichi Junior High School, 1st Grade Yabe Shuuma

At the end of March 2018, my grandfather took me to Hiroshima in commemoration of my graduation from elementary school. When he was 2 years old, he suffered from the atomic bombing at the place apart from the center of atomic-bomb in Hiroshima prefecture. That's why as a first step to wish for peace, he gave me a chance to learn things about Hiroshima which had been destroyed by an atomic-bomb, and how important it is to make a peaceful world. It was just like the proverb; seeing is believing. Seeing Hiroshima with my own eyes is more than what I learned at school and so I will never forget the experience.

I first saw the Atomic Bomb Dome and as soon as I arrived there, I lost my smile. Though a part of the outer wall remained, most of the dome was destroyed and only its iron frame remained. I thought, what a decrepit building! When I imagined that the building was blown away in a moment and many people were killed instantly I got goosebumps on my whole body.

I also saw thousands of paper cranes sent from people who prayed for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. I wished for peace and hope while ringing the Peace Bell with a smile. However, when I looked at the Atomic Bomb Dome over the arch standing in front of the monument of the victims, I realized hundreds of thousands people were killed in an instant. My heart was filled with terror and sorrow, so I started shaking again. When I visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, I lost my smile and was lost for words for a while. When I saw the various remains, I felt cruel misery from the bottom of my heart. Vivid pictures of people who had their skin sloughed, people who suffered from permanent damage, burnt clothes, and a tricycle buckled by the blast, gave me a feeling as if I experienced radiation-exposure. I can't fully experience the depth of intolerable pain burn victims had, and sorrow they felt when they lost their families and friends. I felt very angry that young children had to go through such sorrow and I was also frozen by fear. I thought I must never forget the terrible reality of the dropping of an atomic bomb. I thought about my feelings for Hiroshima and the victims there, and also thought about what meant.

War and Peace. I think these opposing words are words that all people in the world should think over seriously, and keep in their mind. Each of us think about peace in different ways. For me, I'm very happy to have such good days with my family and friends with a smile. I try to treat everyone kindly and have peaceful days because of the happy feeling. However, many people in Japan as well as around the world can't have such a luxury as me. As long as they have good will, even in terrible situations, I'm sure humans don't like trouble, and went to solve things though peaceful talks and actions. I want all the people around the world to commonly recognize that war is the worst and most violent action. Nobody wants the use of atomic bombs because it causes destruction and sadness.

The news tells us that conflicts and terror are terrible, and I want to close my eyes and wish citizens all over the world would have more awareness. If they have knowledge, conversations and have more compassion to understand one another before fighting, can't Japan as the only radiation-exposed country appeal Hiroshima more? August 6th comes around every year, so what I can do myself, however small those things can be? I would like to use my best efforts continue and living with a peaceful mind.

We Mustn't Repeat a War

Daiichi Junior High School, 3rd Grade Kurioka Kaho

I wasn't born during the days of war so I'm unfamiliar with living in one. I learned about Japan's many wars through films and pictures in class and stories.

Japan was at war until 1945. Japan accepted the Potsdam Declaration and surrendered on August 15th. Many people were killed until that time. America dropped an atomic-bomb in Hiroshima on August 6th and in Nagasaki on August 9th in 1945. Both cities were in flames and the citizens were deprived of their lives at once because of the atomic-bombs.

I read a book titled "Black Rain" in Japanese class. The main character got on the train to go to the factory in Furuichi. There were people with dead children covered in white cloth on their backs. People had burn-injuries on their faces on the train, and everybody was trying to escape from the epicenter of the atomic-bomb blast. In the story, one father ran away and left his child behind because fire was all around him. He tried to get his kid out who was crushed under the collapsed house.

I'm sure that he lived as hard as he could. It's terrible that people in those days couldn't afford to save others and had to survive by running away, leaving others behind.

While the war dragged on, Japan was forced to have a tough fight and many people were sent to the battlefield. There was hesitation to conscript college students before, but they were forced into the army and went to the battlefield.

Japan had continuous and tough situations such as heavier air-raids. Elementary school

students in the cities moved to rural parts in groups in order to avoid the bombings. Children younger than I lived apart from their parents. The war forced people to live apart from their own family.

Life's necessities weren't distributed. Japanese people endured a tougher life.

It is said that the number of the dead during the Second World War was more than 50 million all over the world. It is also said that the number of dead citizens were more than that of soldiers. The victims were innocent citizens. We must not sacrifice our lives for a war. Each of our lives are valuable.

If Japan still had a war, we wouldn't have a peaceful life like today and would live with a fear that we don't know when we will die. We might see people dying in front of us and lose our precious ones such as family or friends. We would wish war will end because we would be feeling sad.

I would like to ask people who are fighting now, "what can you get out of war?" I think we won't get anything, and only deep pain will remain in our minds. Even if Japan had won at that time, I couldn't feel happy because many people were killed.

We had the 74th Anniversary of the end of the war on August 15th this year. There were TV and newspaper featured programs or topics. When I saw them, I wanted to make a peaceful world without a fight. People who experienced a war really have become older. I haven't seen a person dying and I don't know real terror. I would like to tell a story about how terrible war is to younger generations in order not to repeat it again.

What We Can Do Though We Don't Experience War

Daini Junior High School, 1st Grade Yanagida Hina

When my grandmother's mother was born in the Taisho era, she experienced a war. She told me that she lived a poor life and couldn't have a rich heart.

It seemed that she didn't want to remember the real situation so much. Roaring air-raid sirens and the sounds of American bombers were very frightening. Many people died.

Today it is common for us to live a rich and peaceful life in Japan. When I listen to the story of my great grandmother at the age of 97, I reconsidered it is important to live with gratitude for peaceful days. I know somehow that war gives people great trouble and hurt, though I have never experienced it. We can't understand the real terror that people like my great grandmother experienced, unless we live through it ourselves. I have seen many scenes of war in books and pictures showing everything burnt down and many dead people. Even, the pictures told me misery, fear, terror and pain. When I knew that some people lay down on the street because they were too weak. I felt very sad. When I looked at the picture of a

mother holding her burnt baby, my body was shaking very much.

There were many people who got fire injuries, such as those walking with the skin of their hands or body turning outward. Many people lost water inside their bodies little by little while walking around to look for water, resulting in death. It turned out that more people experienced war than we expected, after finding people whose hearts haven't healed even today.

More than 70 years have passed since the war, and more people have not experienced it. That's why we are less conscious of war. Today, Japan is peaceful but some countries have a war or conflict even now. War's in Afghanistan have been on- going for more than 40 years, since 1978. The Syrian civil war resulted in conflicts for longer periods than expected and the dangerous situation has been continuing. The Congo civil war forced children to join battle and became victims. I felt pain knowing this fact. Children are given guns and they have to shoot each other to kill. I feel uneasy to think how deeply kids are hurt. Many adults with unforgettable memories remember tough labor and the sound of gunfire. I think peace means that we can live a non-discriminate and rich life without a war. War is caused out of human envy and malice, and causes many people pain and sadness. Some people don't get treatment and discrimination occurs. People are killed in war, though they don't wish for death. That's why we mustn't repeat a war again. I have a little chance to listen to information and stories. It is important to know about the realities of war. It is easy to drop a nuclear weapon, but it takes many years to restore people's lives.

We have a mission to tell the incidents that happened over 70 years ago. It is difficult to make peace but it is important for each of us to think about the sorrows of war, and wonders of peace.

Wish for Peace

Daisan Junior High School, 2nd Grade Murayama Kokona

When I visited Okinawa Memorial Park in March last year, I saw gravestones where victims' names are carved. I was very shocked at the many numbers of them.

When I heard the word "war" before, I couldn't believe that the peaceful country of Japan had one. I saw the picture of an atomic-bomb dome in Hiroshima and that of buildings blown away by the blast in Nagasaki. They looked as if they were from foreign countries and I felt strange.

In fall of 1944, at the end of The Pacific World War, Japan started "tokko" a suicide mission which attacked itself against the enemy. As many as 5,800 young men in their teens and twenties of the army and many were killed. My heart was very hurt when I heard the fact. I was very sad to think about that generation, supporting the future of Japan.

In those days, underground tunnels and bunkers were made, and inside ground was mud

and so life there looked tough. About 10 thousand people were supposed to work there. If I were there, I couldn't endure the inconveniences that of sitting on the muddy ground and sleeping there. People lived with frequent fear and might have exhausted themselves mentally and physically. In addition, they may have thought about how to decrease the number of dying people. Even in such terrible situations, the government kept saying that their country was ahead. I felt terrified to think most of the soldiers died without knowing the actual facts.

We can often learn history through learning about war ruins such as those underground, and labs of secret weapons. I was surprised to know our town, Numazu has war ruins.

I think "peace" means all of us live equally without wars or conflicts. As Japan has a strong wish for peace, it will keep making a peaceful world. I think from the bottom of my heart that I'm very fortunate to be born in Japan. We don't have a war using terrible weapons and so we are very happy to live a peace life every day.

Many countries has been fighting. Many people have tough lives and feel pain. They feel sad to lose their families due to fighting. If each of us try to think about peace, the world will be moving toward peace closer. We can live safe lives every day. It is normal for my family to welcome me home after school daily. I reconsidered how fortunate Japan is for being such a peaceful country.

What Is Peace?

Daisan Junior High School, 2nd Grade Yoneno Himari

I have breakfast and go to school every day as usual, but many people can't live such an ordinary life. While I'm laughing with my family and friends, somewhere a war causes many victims I feel really painful to think over them. I went to The Nagasaki Atomic-bomb Memorial Museum last summer. It had various exhibits and I was very shocked by them. I realized that a war is frightening and miserable. People lose lives and hurt their minds as well as bodies. I wonder why people fight, though wars don't bring any benefits. I wonder why people fight, not talk. I wonder if people are able to solve the problem by war. Wars lose not only human lives but also plants, animals and beautiful nature. It is natural that we have different opinions, as we have our own feelings and thought. We won't have a war if we respect others' opinions and think of others feelings. I can't understand why we have them.

After I came home from The Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, I couldn't fall asleep at all, because I couldn't forget the words, "Peace and War" and kept thinking what a war is. First of all, the word "peace" reminds me of a life without a war, living with a smile, a world without discrimination, and many other things. Everyone has Though ideas vary from person to person, I thought "peace" means that people all over the world can live a safe life without fear. I wonder if the current world is peaceful. I don't think it is peaceful today because we

have discrimination and victims of wars every day. We have lots of affairs to improve. We have to make a world where many people can live at ease as soon as possible.

I thought it is important for us to keep telling people living in the future about the past that was damaged by war. We must tell them that war is not good, and we mustn't forget this misery experienced in Japanese history. I also would like to keep telling people that it is a blessing that we can live an ordinary life.

We have much food waste in Japan every day. Many people have died from hunger, but Japan has thrown away a surplus of food. Such a situation isn't good.

It is one of many affairs to improve upon. We can get water and electricity without any trouble. Above all, we don't have war and so I feel very fortunate. Many people live unusual lives as victims. I would like to live without such a reality. I absolutely mustn't forget gratitude for my safe life and to think over others. I would like to move forward by thinking what to do so that people in the world can smile more.

The Same Blue Sky as on That Day

Daiyon Junior High School, 3rd Grade Takagi Sara

Suddenly

It got very quiet all over Japan

Even so little kids

Got quiet as if they realized something special happened

Looking up at adults

This is an absolutely essential and important time

To pray for the war dead

At the same time

Time to decide not to fight again

The person who was there at that time

Is somehow different from my existence here now,

I wonder

The person might possibly have been me

It is our mission to listen to their voices

Disappeared by the overwhelming power

And to tell many people that war isn't good

I come to hear it again

When I looked up

I saw the same blue sky as it was on that day

To Live in Reiwa Era

Daiyon Junior High School, 3rd Grade Takada Rui

What will you do if you are ordered to kill your pet within one week to avoid your pet from running away and giving your neighbor danger? I won't be willing to follow their orders. I might run away with my pet after long consideration.

On August of 1943, the zoo had an order that they must kill elephants and fierce animals. The reason was that it was dangerous for fierce animals to run away and attack humans. The zoo-keepers were deeply concerned that they had to kill those animals by themselves. Their idea to move them to zoos of rural areas wasn't allowed. They couldn't sleep well for a long time because those animals appeared in their dreams. They lost their weight by 8kg a month. They felt all the more sad because they raised them with love and had good relationships.

27 animals such as elephants, lions and bears were killed by poison, choked at the neck or starvation at Ueno Zoo.

Humans bring out war. We tend to make choices convenient for ourselves due to various reasons such as current situations, thoughts, education, and resources. Wars cause humans to think in the wrong way. Wars result in misfortunes for both humans and animals.

Today zoos are filled with cheers and laughter and animals seem to live comfortable lives. It is ordinary that we have zoos with animals. Being ordinary, it means there is peace. When I saw the elephants eating apples with their trunks, the lions looking at me in a stately fashion, and the white bears showing their paws diving through the glass, I realized that we should never be allowed to kill innocent animals.

Since I didn't experience misery, pain, and anger caused by war, I can only know war through school lessons, books, films, dramas and etc. I felt very painful for the people who ran away from the air-raid attacks and more for the boys in the same generation as me were proud of devoting their lives to Japan.

I mustn't forget the war during peaceful days. It is our mission and responsibility to make an effort to maintain peaceful days. While humans fight themselves, they can also maintain a peaceful world.

August When Everything Disappeared

Daiyon Junior High School, 3rd Grade Tsuchiya Aya

Today is August 6th, when the sky is blue, clear, and we hear the constant chorus of cicadas on Atomic-Bomb Day. On this day an atomic-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima by America, and more than ten thousand or more people lost their lives in the hot heat in a moment.

While all the Japanese prayed for the war dead silently closing their eyes, we were in a silent and serious atmosphere. Topics about the atomic-bomb was on every TV to tell the tragedy that happened 74 years ago. When I saw many scenes of the hardly recognized town, I thought over the atomic-bomb depriving Hiroshima of peace on that beautiful summer day and what we can do in the future.

I watched the program about “High School Student Peace Ambassadors.” Several high school students worked to appeal eliminating nuclear weapons and talked about the atomic-bomb in English with pictures in other countries. This June, 16-year old senior high school student attended the general audience to Pope Francisco at San Pietro Square in The Vatican for his thoughts to eliminate atomic-bomb weapons. I couldn’t help admiring the students who were only 1 year older than me, working hard to eliminate atomic weapons.

They had the picture of “The Boy Standing by the Crematory.” It showed the boy younger than me, standing in the deserted battlefield with his younger brother on his back. Joe O’Donnell, who took this picture wrote down the scene that the boy bit his lip strongly with blood from his lip in front of the fire burning his younger brother. I respected him for his strength and great responsibility. At the same time, I resented the war and how the atomic-bomb deprived many people as well as little kids of their lives. I realized the atomic-bomb was an inhumane, cruel, and terrifying weapon.

I think we mustn’t have a war again and use an atomic-bomb whatever reason we have. Like that senior high ambassador, we should tell the following generation the reality about the cruelties and horrors of war, and the use of atomic-bombs. We should let them know that we mustn’t do such a thing again. One senior high school ambassador said that we have to think seriously about the fact that we had the atomic-bomb and the war. Pope Francisco said that we mustn’t forget we had such a cruel incident. I think we should live handing down historical information to the following generation about the facts of atomic weapons.

Today is August 6th, Atomic-Bomb Day. The sky is blue and clear, I hear the constant chorus of cicadas. I really wish that the tragedy which occurred 74 years ago won’t be repeated and these simple peaceful days won’t ever be deprived.

When Will Peace Come True?

Daiyon Junior High School, 3rd Grade Yata Moka

Numazu city, my home town, issued the “Declaration of Peace and the Abolition of Nuclear weapons” on March 20th, 1987. 32 years have passed since that day but still some places in the world have been fighting.

The emperor told Japanese citizens that the war ended on the radio 74 years ago, at noon on August 15th, 1945. Since my grandfather on my mother’s side was born in 1934, he was

11 years old on the day war ended. He remembered listening to the imperial script with his family and neighbors and felt relieved when the war ended.

I thought his family had enough food to live because they lived on the hill of Ito. But their crops and chickens were often stolen. My grandfather's father got affected by tuberculosis, and also he didn't go to war. The first row of the village grave yard had 12 tombs for the war dead. I realized that Japan had been fighting desperately.

My great-grandmother on my father's side is 102 years old now. Her husband got injured during the war, and died when his daughter was 5 years old. It is ordinary to have a mother, father, and brothers and sisters now, but I felt sad to know some little kids lost their father at the time.

When this time comes around every year, the shocking films of Hiroshima and Okinawa are continuously on TV and I thought those were old stories. However, I felt familiar with war when I became a third grader in junior high school. This is because I learned about "Black Rain" by Masuji Ibuse in Japanese class, "Poor Elephant" in English class, and "Mokkin (xylophone)" in music class, which we performed at our school cultural festival. "Mokkin" described the feelings of a brother whose sister was killed by the war. It described his hatred, anger, and disappointment about the war which deprived him of his dear sister and her beloved mokkin. The music tells us the cruelty of war, depriving innocent people of their happy lives. I don't have a little sister, but I have a big brother and sister. If I had been born in those days and lost my brother or sister, I would have had the same feelings as him. The most dramatic part of the music depicts so much hatred, how it burns you, and your mokkin, agonizing description to tell listeners.

Everyone must have heard the word "peace," the word has different meanings from person to person. However, nobody has ever said that peace come true unless war ends. While many people wish for peace, wars are going on somewhere in the world. What we lost in the war is countless. We lost much more things than we got. I hope the world will be peaceful as soon as possible. When will peace come true?

What should we do today when 74 years have passed since the war ended? I think telling the following generation the terrors of war and not to repeat the same mistake again is very important.

I will continue to plead for the world to be as peaceful as possible even if peace had it doesn't come true for sure.

About Peace

Daigo Junior High School, 1st Grade Kikuchi Haruka

It has been 74 years since the end of the war.

When my grandfather was a 1st grader in elementary school, he experienced a war at that time.

Since neither I nor today's young people know about any wars, I asked my grandfather about the war.

He went to Daigo elementary school like I did. The students of his school acted in group, and the 6th grade students led the younger students. On the way to and from school, he ran into the air-raid shelter as soon as he heard the air-raid siren.

According to the internet, the American army made concentrated attacks on Numazu because Numazu had lots of army plants. According to the information of the Ministry of internal Affairs and Communications, Hiramachi, my hometown and Sannomae experienced air-raid attacks on May 17th, 1945 and May 28th and in "Numazu Daikushu (big air-raid) before dawn on July 17th over 9000 fire-bombs from over 70 battle planes and people running away to Sembonhama were killed by machine-gun fire. After all, 90% of the midtown was burnt down, which caused 274 dead, and 505 injured. His elementary school was also burnt down.

I was shocked to know for the first time that we had such a terrifying and sad incident before.

Though I thought the war was an incident from a long-time ago, only in the books or TV programs, I realized it was not a distant incident but my near to my affairs.

Today everybody can live a peaceful life, but people who lived before were the same humans as us, but lived a different life from ours only because it was a different time from ours. I felt sad.

I would like more people to know this sorrow in order to not have such a sad thing happen again. I want to know more stories about the war, tell it to my friends and talk together about a war.

I would like to start doing what I can do to maintain this peaceful life. I wish that this peace will continue.

Thoughts about a War and Peace

Daigo Junior High School, 1st Grade Fujisawa Misaki

I didn't realize it clearly when I heard the word "war" in my childhood. Even if I saw a war in class or in a special TV program, the war seemed a distant story and scary somehow.

I studied "A war history of my hometown, Numazu" as an independent research a year before last. I went to historic-war sites and listened to the war stories from various people. I could know in detail what a war was like. Numazu had air-raids as many as 8 times. The 7th air-raid called the Great Numazu Air-Raid burnt down 90% of the midtown.

Overnight, the town became burnt ruins. When I asked a curator why Numazu experienced an air-raid, she said that one of the reasons might be that Numazu was a city and another was that they dropped the bombs over Numazu because of its heaviness on the way back to the American base. I felt very angry to think about the many people who were killed and injured from that reasons.

I could see the person who experienced the air-raid and listened to her story. She was a 1st grader at that time. At night she ran away at the news of an air-raid as it was dangerous to stay at home. Many American battle planes, B29 dropped fire-bombs and then the sky became red, and the ground was in flames. As soon as the fire-bombs were dropped down, its pieces exploded toward the people escaping from them. The person talking about the story got her right leg pierced by the shrapnel and her leg was cut off. After her story, she showed us her artificial leg.

I felt distraught. To tell a war story is to remember a painful experience. But she told those of us who don't know about war what a war was like, how miserable it was and "to value our life" and "make our world peaceful." These words are very important.

Now we can live comfortably. We can sleep at ease, eat good food, take a bath every day and study at school, because Japan today is peaceful. In those days, people couldn't express their feelings at freely and had to sacrifice even their own lives. A war causes only sorrow, pain, and hatred. Japan declared "we won't have a war" in the constitution. I hope all countries will not fight and the world will be filled with happiness. I would like to offer silent prayer with these words "to value our life" and "make our world peaceful" on August 15th every year, the anniversary of the war's end.

To Connect

Daigo Junior High School, 2nd Grade Ishida Taichi

My great grandfather captured in cold, cold Siberia
How much time has passed?
He stopped moving his hands
When he looked up at the sky
He always remembered his wife and his little daughter
Running tears on his cheeks
Back to the tough work again
To forget thoughts about them
In the dark, dark sea

My great grandfather thrown out
How much time has it passed?
Looking around,
He saw the ship burning in the distance
His good friend
Came up in his mind
He was looking for him
Running tears on his cheeks
To forget thoughts about him
He was swimming desperately
In the dark sea

Old, old memories about my two great grandfathers
They have already passed away
When I looked at the far sea
When I looked at the sea
I can connect my thoughts to my two great grandfathers
Over time
In the hot, hot sunshine
Peace has continued

Looking up
I can see the blue and blue sky
In the distance
I can see the blue and blue sea

Everyone's thoughts wishing for peace

Everyone's future over the rainbow

I will connect

What Is Peace Like?

Katahama Junior High School, 1st Grade Nagakura Kenta

During the summer holidays, the TV news have frequently reported the conflicts between countries every day, such as missile launches by North Korea, trade conflicts between America and China, terror in the Middle East, and conflict between Japan and Korea. But I wasn't interested at all in such news because I can live a comfortable life.

But when I saw the news that Korea has frequently insisted that Japan is wrong and they stopped buying to Japanese products and traveling Japan, I wondered why both countries couldn't get along though they live in the country next to each other. I wondered if all the Koreans don't like Japanese. But I realized that was wrong because of a certain incident.

When I visited Sosenji temple in Asakusa with my family during a summer holiday, one Korean lady came up to me saying "I'm Korean. Would you mind hugging me?" with a plastic card that said "Free Hug Movement".

Though I have seen a film on the internet where a man was hugging freely, I was surprised by her who hugged freely. I thought she was very brave.

I didn't think Korea and Japan had a good relationship. Some ideas came up to my mind before I understood that situation, so I couldn't hug her because of shyness. When I saw her hugging one Japanese after another, I was very happy to know that Koreans and Japanese want to be friends with each other even if both countries don't have a good relationship. I was curious about her and so I checked about her.

Kanto area has some Korean towns and many Koreans live the same ordinary life with Japanese in Asakusa, Ueno, Mikawajima and more. Today, though both countries conflict with each other, both nations want to understand each other and make friends. I hope that both relationships will return back to normal.

Now I can study at school, and play a game or have meals at home. Does this mean "peace"? I often hear the word "peace", but I wonder what peace is like and looked up "peace" in the dictionary:

- 1) calm situation in the world without a war or a conflict
- 2) calm situation without worries or troubles

In Japan we have had calm days without a war since World War 2, but other countries have frequently had incidents such as wars or terrors, where many innocent people were

killed. When I see such articles, I wonder why people do such things. If more people gradually wanted to get along and thought of others, we would have less wars and terrors and we could keep our calm and peaceful days.

I hope Japan will solve the conflict with South and North Korea and have a good relationship with them as soon as possible. Then, a peaceful world without war will come true.

Look Please!

Katahama Junior High School, 3rd Grade Nakane Kousuke

When I walked past a street in Yokohama, I found an exhibition “Atomic-Bomb and Humans”. The pictures and photos of the bloodied clothes of the exposed persons and more were exhibited. It was a picture titled “Please Look” that I was most shocked by. The boy in the picture was burnt black. As I have never seen a dead body, I felt chilled to see it though it was summer. It was horror enough for anyone to close their eyes. But it expressed the wish for us to remember the reality of the cruel figure.

In 1945, at the end of World War 2, Japan was about to surrender in the war against America, England and others. America succeed in the atomic test and President Truman thought Japan would surrender before Russia approached Japan if America dropped an atomic- bomb in Hiroshima. So, America dropped an atomic-bomb on August 6 in Hiroshima and on August 9 in Nagasaki. It is said that America dropped an atomic-bomb in Japan so that America could show off their power to Russia. I wonder what the lives of the victims that numbered as many as 200,000 were valued. How did Americans feel when they looked at the boy burnt black? I felt angry at the thought.

The news of some program said that in an American popular drama “This Is Us”, the word “Nagasaki” was used as a synonym of “destruction” and “ruin.” In the interview of the program, an American lady said that the Japanese should protest it if they had disgust against it. I was very disappointed to know she didn’t seem to feel guilty that her country dropped an atomic-bomb. I didn’t experience the war, but I realized the war was terrible. How have the Americans learned the fact they dropped an atomic-bomb? I wonder if the Japanese tragedy is only a part of world history.

Less Japanese know the sorrow of a war because 74 years have passed since an atomic-bomb was dropped. Even the most terrible thing is easily forgotten with time. On the back of a Japanese pamphlet the information was written in English. Because they want people all over the world to know the terror of an atomic-bomb.

It is said there are 15,000 nuclear weapons and nuclear tests are conducted more than 2,000 times. Not only America, Russia, England, France and China but also Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea have nuclear weapons. North Korea often fires ballistic missiles and

relations between Japan and South Korea have been threatened. The countries which didn't experience the pain of a war might not be anxious about the reality of war; that dropping an atomic-bomb causes the deaths of many people and destroys the earth's environment. The earth's environment has been changing every year and we can't tell when and where abnormal weather, great earthquakes, tsunamis, and more will happen. If a great earthquake or big fire happens in a place equipped with nuclear weapons, what would we do? Wishing we can make a world without nuclear weapons, I signed a petition of international signatures for the exposed persons then I left the exhibition site.

On that day I thought over various things, such as the terror of a war modern people don't know, and the way to make a peaceful world. The day when people cooperate with each other to get rid of a war might come later, but I don't want waste what innocent dead people left behind. First of all, we should as a whole stop the idea of all we need is to live by oneself. Of course, it is very difficult for me alone to change the world. If more people wish for a peaceful world, the battle might decrease a little. I believe a peaceful world will come true someday.

My Feeling Changed by Floral Tribute

Kanaoka Junior High School, 1st Grade Saito Kouta

“Peace” This word was vague for me. My idea of it was a world without war or crime and the days where we can go to school and eat meals.

The event my grandfather asked me to participate in last summer gave me a chance to think about peace deeply. The event was a ceremony to commemorate the war dead and pray for peace at Numazu Civic Cultural Center on August 15. I was asked for a floral tribute as a representative of the bereaved families because His uncle was killed in the war. Honestly speaking, I felt strange because I didn't know him, didn't attend his funeral and didn't feel sad. I felt strange to be called a “bereaved family”.

After I entered the ceremony hall, I couldn't walk because I saw many people wearing black suits. Many participants were old people and I couldn't see any classmates. They didn't talk so much so I felt a solemn atmosphere. One old man came up to me holding flowers to give to me and said “Thank you for coming” and I felt relieved. I remembered my grandfather asked me to be a representative of the bereaved families and realized other people as well as the old man sitting around there were all bereaved families.

After the ceremony started, I heard them sobbing. So many people felt sad now even more than 70 years after the end of the war. They kept regretting the past war and were praying deeply for peace. I felt the wish for peace deeply and my hands with flowers started trembling. When the time of the floral tribute came, I heard an announcement that said “This

is Kota Saito, a 6th grader of Kanaoka Elementary School, whose grandfather was a nephew of late Kenichi Saito, who was killed in the war at the age of 23 on September 30, 1937 in China”.

Then I proceeded to pray for the victims and peace on behalf of my grandfather’s uncle and the beloved of people attending the ceremony. The pray at that time was different from the vague one before. The pray was to value our own lives, to end stop a wars, terrors and crimes which deprive people of their lives and to lesson people’s sorrow because of their beloved person’s death, to realize life is the most important thing.

I remember people smiling at me when I went back to my seat after the floral tribute. They might also attend the ceremony this year. I am sure they will attend it because the prayer for peace will last for a long time. I will attend with a prayer for peace in my mind.

Silent Prayer for One Essay Collection

Kanaoka Junior High School, 3rd Grade Yamada Sakumi

During summer holiday my mother gave me one essay collection and said to me that it’s a good chance to read this. Its cover looked old and smelled a little moldy. A word “hikibune” was written on the cover. On the 1st page I saw a black and white picture of a man named Sakuichiro Moriyama, 19 years old at the time of his death on February 6, 1946. The figure of the picture was very impressive with a great beard. On the next page, I saw several pictures. Under one of the pictures I saw the words “launching ceremony of the battleship designed by Sakuichiro Moriyama”, and the words “battleship Musashi at sally” and “Sakuichiro Moriyama and engineers” under the others. On a later page I saw his family picture and one of them had the name of my grandmother, so I realized Sakuichiro Moriyama was my great grandfather.

This simple collection said my great grandfather was an engineer of Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. in Nagasaki. “The woodworking factory” handled the interior and woodworking of battleships built there and had about 1 thousand officers and workers before the war and my great grandfather was a chief engineer. He was No.2 and seemed to be respected like a god. Around 1943, he was said to be treated as a higher civil servant at the lieutenant colonel level at Mitsubishi Nagasaki Shipbuilding Co. Ltd., an army plant. He was also in charge of 4 Kamikaze Tokko Maru Shitei. A small ship called “Maru Shitei” equipped with a plane engine was built for Tokko in my great grandfather’s factory. He was very strict with his oldest son, but my grandmother liked her father. The other day, when my big brother came home and said to his father that he learned the saying “jishin(earthquake), kaminari(thunder), kaji(fire), oyaji(father)”, his father hit him on the head with a fist. My mother and grandmother laughed at the sight. I wondered if my father has the same genes as his father.

My great grandfather shaved his beard off, his symbol, after the war, saying that people of the defeated country should not grow beards. My great grandfather must be sad and regretful to shave his beard off because he had taken great care of it since he was young. Later he was getting weaker little by little but couldn't get good medicine at that time, and after all he died of liver disease on February 6, in the year after the war's end. As they didn't have a cremation site, they burnt him in a place built up with big logs in a field. In the afterword, my grandmother said she couldn't help feeling so sad and was crying in the distance without looking at the sight because it was cruel to burn him on the logs. His words made me realize her sorrow. My great grandfather who was willing to devote himself to his nation, and my grandmother, a daughter who was anxious about her father became exposed persons because the plutonium-induced atomic-bomb was dropped in Nagasaki at 11:02 on August 9, 1945, 3days after the first world-wide atomic-bomb was dropped in Hiroshima. She was at a girls' high school at a distance from the center of the explosion and was injured whole body from head with pieces of glass broken by dropping the atomic-bomb. After she managed to go home by herself, her mother took the glass pieces out with tweezers. She said thanks to her mother, she could live. The time was before she and my late grandfather got married. He was a student of Nagasaki University. As he was in the laboratory, he didn't get exposed to the atomic-bomb. But Nagasaki medical college was in a place within 1km from the center of the explosion outside of the concrete building my grandfather remained safe while the inside was destroyed completely like those in the center of explosion. The fire caused many injuries to the people who went to the hill for safety by themselves or with others' help. The sight all around there was beyond description. We usually happen to hear "mokuto" (silent prayer) in the hot days. Unlike the usual hot summer, this summer gave me a chance to think about the sorrow of war-victims and our responsibility to peace. "Mokuto"

Himeyuri

Shizuura Elementary and Junior High School, 9th Grade Oota Riri

A visit to the place that broadened my point of view about war.

We had learned about the Okinawa War when we were 8th graders in order to go to Abuchira-gama on our School Trip to Okinawa. I knew that children the same age as me lived hard every day facing their fears in the gama (a cave). At that time, I remembered about the atomic-bomb dome in Hiroshima, my father's hometown, that I visited in my elementary school days. As I was only an elementary school student, I couldn't understand clearly. But I had a deep impression that war had a huge power destroying buildings much bigger than I and also my relative looking at the dome with sad eyes.

Studying beforehand enabled me to understand the feeling of my relative at that time and also the people during the war. I was surprised at the wartime inconvenience such as the smaller than expected entrance and an aisle difficult to walk, which is now equipped with a rail for visitors. I experienced the wartime reality by walking in the same place at that time. We all flicked off our flashlights and experienced staying in the complete dark. It was difficult to breathe, so I am scared to remember it. They lived here for a few months with a fear that they might be killed someday as well as with the darkness. I experienced the darkness only for a few seconds but wartime people didn't know when the darkness would end. At that time some people said it was better to live in the dark and they tried to escape from even the sun. I was scared to know that a war controls man's sense of value and self-esteem.

When we moved on to the back, where seriously injured persons had stayed, a guide told us about the Himeyuri gakutotai (student corps). I didn't have any words when I understood the reality of those 15-year-old girls. Before hearing their story, I only knew that girls the same age as me worked while risking their lives and so I was only impressed with their strong will and bravery. But they were often told at home as well as school that it was an honor to die for the emperor and at last, they killed themselves believing in that saying. After I learned about their suicide, I had a difficult time with my point of view about the Himeyuri Student Corps.

Their attitude to help people and endure the terrible situation with a strong will definitely supported the injured. Their pure and childlike character drove them into such an action, I think. They believed in purely what adults as well as school teachers said and endured their lives with a belief in Japanese victory. I learned that to kill themselves for the emperor they dove into the sea with their friends supporting each other as the Japanese army was losing their power.

They were not brave enough to save people any more, but only helpless and innocent girls. I can't accept that the war deprived them of their future and lives. The war they believed in was not bad. But the war which paralyzed adults' thinking and caused humans to kill each other was bad. We mustn't repeat such a war again.

After our school trip to Okinawa, I became interested in the war which killed the girls just like me. It enabled me to think like this like the people who experienced the war keep telling us about the terror of war up until now. From now on, we are responsible for telling it to the next generation. We have to keep talking about the terror of war and the feelings of wartime people and make a peaceful world without a war.

From Okinawa to the World

**Shizuura Elementary and Junior High School,
9th Grade Takeuchi Yuuma**

Okinawa. It is a southern island located in the south of Japan, a very cheerful paradise with a clear sky, greenery, the huge sea with coral and the tradition of Okinawan Culture. We will have such impressions when we hear the word “Okinawa”. But now I think about the Okinawan War which deprived many people of their lives and feelings when I hear Okinawa.

Our school trip was a visit to Okinawa. We had studied coral and the sea in Shizuura since we were elementary school students. So, I thought the trip was good for us. The word “war” didn’t come to mind in those days. We learned about Okinawan War for the first time in our history class. I realized we were going there for learning about peace. Time passed and at last the day came when we visited Okinawa. I thought I was very aware of the misery of the Okinawan War. I remember well the experience and thoughts even now.

When I looked outside from a bus in Okinawa, I saw a clear sky and sea, and greenery. I wondered if a war happened in such a place. When I visited Abuchira-gama at first, I felt very frightened. We couldn’t see anything without a light. I had a feeling like I was losing my energy to live. In those days people lived with a fear of enemy’s attack and had tough battles. I happened to feel stiff inside. I heard only the sound of scary wind and dropping water. It sounded as if they were weeping.

Next, we visited the Himeyuri-no-to (Himeyuri Tower). There some of the things they used at that time were exhibited. I was very scared to see tattered clothes and tools. The pictures of each Himeyuri Student Corps were exhibited. They seemed to be as old as us. It was very painful to know that such young girls were responsible for a very tough job. We listened to the person who experienced the war. Poison gas thrown into the gama (the cave) killed most people around her. The story filled me with horror. If all of the people around here died suddenly, what on earth? On the way back, I saw the big cave we visited first, which poison gas was thrown into.

The last place we visited was the Peace Memorial in Mabuni-no-oka. That place was the last severe battlefield. It has greenery and the sea sparkling in the sunshine it was heaven. I couldn’t imagine that the place had many victims. The victims’ names were written all over the gravestones in the park. I felt fear and intimidation towards the Okinawan War. I wondered why foreigners’ name were there and I recognized it Japanese kindness. It seems to give us a message that says even the enemy is a human and so the life of any person is important. Going forwards, we saw the Cornerstone for Peace. The map there showed water from the point indicating Okinawa was running out, which expresses their will to spread peace to all the world. I saw the huge sea, over the cornerstone. Looking at the sea I wondered what

the people killed by the enemy and the people who dived into the sea by themselves were thinking.

Since Okinawa is beautiful and rich in nature, and more over people are kind and cheerful, I didn't realize that they had a war. We absolutely have to accept the fact because people in Okinawa accepted the past. So those who are kind and vivid have made a positive effort to spread peace. We should learn about the war of Japan and take truth the fact of Okinawa seriously and accept them, and then spread peace to the world with Okinawa. Okinawa will serve as a center for the worldwide peace movement.

Inochi - du - Takara

Shizuura Elementary and Junior High School, 9th Grade Maeda Ai

Their dreams were to become a teacher in the future. Even if they hadn't had a war, they would have lived happily.

The Himeyuri Student Corps took care of the injured soldiers in the dark and the among poor-footing. They sometimes helped operations and cleaned up the dead bodies. The Himeyuri Student Corps at same age as me kept working for their country in the blast and among the soldiers' constant screams.

Okinawa was chosen as a battle field to decrease the damage of the war. Okinawa Battle lasted for 90 days in the ground, a battle involving the citizens. 65,000 Japanese soldiers, 28,000 Okinawan soldiers, 12,000 American soldiers, and 94,000 citizens were victims. The population in Okinawa was about 500,000 people, so one of four died. Many people killed themselves. They seemed to think strongly that they mustn't be captured by American soldiers. I couldn't endure such a situation. The war separated people from their family and friends, and involved many generations, which I definitely can't admit. I went to Okinawa on a school trip for four days over three nights. The sea, the sky, and hibiscus were very beautiful. About 80 years ago, I didn't realize that the war had caused the black sky and sea and burnt plants, and no smile among them.

We visited Abuchira-gama in Itoman, and the inside made me feel painful for the war, and the footing was too poor to walk without a light and with voices booming. They heard screams of the injured and blasts in the gama every day. I saw living ware such as shoes and bottles, etc. I felt frightened to know they lived in such conditions. The gama is 270m long and it had a kitchen range, a well, bathrooms, a hospital ward, and a shelter. So many people stayed there for safety. In total about 600 injured soldiers were carried and kept there, and so the Himeyuri Student Corps, Army doctors, and nurses worked hard without any rest. It was very painful for them to take care of the people, who lost their arms, had their legs shot by

guns and were groggy, I entered the gama with difficulty I couldn't calmly listen to the story by the guide. The injured soldiers that might have suffered and the citizens who were staying there calmly not to be found, wishing for Japan's victory. Such a thought made me feel like I want to see my family. When I went out of the gama, the sunshine made me feel at ease somehow. I felt it would be painful to live in the gama for a long time.

Next, we visited mabuni-noka, the last and the bloodiest battlefield, where American soldiers from the north of Okinawa landed and sent more and more Japanese soldiers over the edge. Now we hear only the sound of the waves and wind, but the Japanese soldiers kept fighting to protect Japan until the end there. There are many monuments to the victims. Tens of thousands of people were killed in the war. I thought the war was painful time when people were killed, and killed themselves. I learned about the pain of the war and the importance of life. I'm very happy I can go to school, to have good meals, and live a joyful life with my family and friends.

At the same time, I would like to preserve such an institution as Gama telling the real situation in the war. A war makes us think peace.

“Inochi - du - Takara (Life is the very treasure.)”

Life is the best treasure. We should convey these words.

People in Okinawa Overcame the War

**Shizuura Elementary and Junior High School,
9th Grade Matsubara Airi**

Do you know the Saying, “Inochi - du - Takara?”

We went to Okinawa on a school trip. I know about the misery of the war and at the same time I felt their kind and fun character, and the characteristic atmosphere in Okinawa. They said they live a happy life, although they have still the problems of the American base. But I wonder if they can definitely say they are happy today when 74 years have passed since the end of the war. They have the saying, “Inochi - du - Takara.” It means “Life is the very treasure,” and, “Life is the most important.” The Japanese were told, “It's better to die than to be captured by American soldiers.” during the war. So, this saying enabled the Japanese to take a step to peace after the war. Most of the people think the meaning of this saying is commonplace. I also thought so in my daily life and when studying beforehand. But I felt the meaning was strange when I visited Okinawa.

I felt the most strange at Abuchira-gama. It is a 270 m long cave. It was used not only as a shelter but also a war-hospital. The seriously injured soldiers were carried there and the Himeyuri Student Corps, who were the girls of the same age as us, took care of them. The guide told the story in a sad voice. I thought I knew well the Himeyuri Student Corps, who

were the girls of the same age as us, took care of the seriously injured soldiers, and had operations through studying beforehand. But I couldn't understand the real reason of her sad voice. At the entrance of the Gama, I felt the air was quiet and cool. The place around the stairs at the entrance was narrow and gloomy in order not to be found by the American soldiers. Suddenly, it became a different atmosphere from just before. The inside was only darkness with cold air and the sound of water dropping from the ceiling. I wondered if they lived there for many days because the inside was too dark to have a "lived-in" feeling. When we moved on, we saw a well, and a light stream looking up. According to the guide, this light stream enabled them to manage to live hard hoping they will live a cheerful life out of there. Moving further, we saw a room for the injured in the brain. I was very terrified by the darkness when we all turned off the flashlight. It is said no people in that room were alive. But many people could save their lives in the Abuchira-gama. Because a well and the light stream in the morning, etc. gave them the will to live. I realized that I didn't know much about the Okinawa War at all only through studying beforehand.

People in Okinawa overcoming such tough days decided to work hard while cherishing this saying "Inochi - du - Takara." It is amazing that these words gave people in Okinawa the courage to live. I wonder if the Okinawan people are cheerful and merry because they cherish these words. I realized the saying has deep meaning and at the same time, I thought that we mustn't have a war again.

Things Gone and Things People Lost

Ashitaka Junior High School, 3rd Grade Ootake Kenta

Today we live a peaceful life, but in the world some people live a frightening life due to the civil war.

When we study about war in class, our teacher always told us "we absolutely mustn't fight." And I think so. I feel sad that some people are fighting somewhere now and are injured or dead.

I visited Hiroshima atomic-Bomb Dome as an activity in Boy Scout in December, 2017.

First in Hiroshima, we went there to dedicate one thousand paper-cranes. Many foreigners as well as Japanese visited there to commemorate people and animals that were killed by the atomic-bomb. When we dedicated them, I saw thousands of paper-cranes and some message cards wishing for peace. Those message cards made me think again that we mustn't fight for any reason.

Then we visited Atomic-Bomb Memorial Museum. The clothes of the irradiated people exposed and coal-black lunch-boxes, etc. were exhibited and I realized the terror of war. The power of a war and the damage by an atomic-bomb were beyond description. Such a menace

in the war is commonplace.

Today Japan doesn't have any nuclear weapons. Some countries have them for the reason that they must protect their own countries. I wonder why some countries keep having nuclear weapons and producing them, though people all over the world have made efforts to eliminate war.

When I stayed with my classmates at the guest-house near the Atomic-bomb Memorial Museum, a person of the guest-house told us the reason Hiroshima has lots of "Okonomiyaki-ya", cooking "Okonomiyaki for us. Many people in Hiroshima lost their families, their houses and friends, etc. and what is worse, many conscript men were killed in the war. In this situation, some people happened to cook several dishes using the flour distributed by America and some women sold "okonomiyaki using flour". When I listened to the story, I knew that war keeps giving people pain after as well as at war. I thought it was terrible that war caused people to live a tough life with fear that they might die and have unsatisfactory meal, but I realized it's wrong. After war, all over Japan there were lots of burnt fields and many people were killed by atomic-bombs. The survivors lost their legs and arms and some people without injures on themselves but lost precious people and houses. People had to survive in such hopeless situations, without food and houses. War keeps giving people pain at the same level even after the war has finished. Visiting Hiroshima made me realize that.

People in the amusement park such as Tokyo Disney Land and Universal Studio Japan and the tourist destination such as Kiyomizu-dera and Asakusa are always smiling merrily. They are having a peaceful and happy time with their families and friends, having plenty of meals and playing all day long. I wonder if we have lived a life that is too peaceful to be aware of war. We are not aware of the fact that only a few areas are peaceful and a war might occur easily and result in losing commonplace. At the same time, I was afraid that someone might misunderstand the world has become peaceful. It is wonderful to be at peace but in fact, only some countries are peaceful, in which they have several issues. Some countries still have nuclear weapons. And we must be aware that some people involved by the silly fight need help today and that many people suffered from war even if peace came true in the world. I would like to learn more about war and want people who forgot or don't know about war to learn and think about war through classes at school or boy scouts.

To Tell

Ashitaka Junior High School, 3rd Grade Fukase Ryouta

This year we have the 74th anniversary of commemorating the end of the war.

Numazu city got bombed by the American bomb plane "B29" about 1month before the end of the war. They had a small air-raid and machine-gun fire before that time. It is said that

they had 274 victims and 90% of the city site was destroyed in the great air-raid in June.

My father's grandparents told me the painful story of the war. It was very light like day-time and bright red even at midnight because of a flare bomb from the sky over Mt. Kanuki. Lots of fire bombs were dropped from the sky, they ran away desperately toward the Kano River and what was worse my great grandmother had to run away with her 3-month baby on her back. As my great grandfather went to battle, she had more of a tough experience than she expected.

My great grandfather was fighting in Pyongyang at that time. In April, 3 months before Numazu's great Air-raid as my great grandmother heard that the train of his regiment would pass by Numazu station, she went there and showed him their 1-month-old baby.

My great grandfather came back to Numazu safely and was very shocked to see the sea of Sembon Beach from the station, and the burnt ruins without any buildings.

I appreciate that we can live a peaceful life every day now after listening to these stories from my grandparents.

I understand that a lot of sacrifice such as the death of people and my great grandparents being at war brought peace to Japan.

Today some countries are still fighting and I feel sad that many lives are lost. My parents and grandparents as well as myself haven't experienced a war. But I would like to keep in my mind that there are many victims by war somewhere in the world without depending on such a peaceful life in Japan.

I can't endure what my great grandparents experienced at all. I can't imagine running away from air-raids and going to battle, etc. I respect them very much for overcoming a war age.

I will never have the same experience with people who have survived a war, but I can listen to their stories. I would like to tell these stories to the next generation.

In Japan, Heisei finished without a war and a new era "Reiwa" has started. I would like to face the painful experience of the war and try to make a peaceful Japan with the young generation as leaders so that a peaceful age may last even in the future. We should tell the stories of the sad experiences and the sacrifice of life at war. We should also spread peace to the world.

Because I Live a Peaceful Life Now

Nagaisaki Junior High School, 2nd Grade SegawaYukimi

Do you know what war is like? Many people think they don't have a clear idea about war, but a vague one like me. Though I knew only that a terrible war occurred before, I didn't know the real reason why a war started, what's wrong with the war and what's brought by

the war. I wondered if it's OK to remain unaware of the war, so I wanted to research.

Though I had thought that other countries were more wrong than Japan before, after research, I knew Japan also was wrong and wondered what benefit Japan got after all. The war brought lots of damage, loss of many things and death of many people. I only knew superficial things through my research, I know they had complicated matters. But it's better that such a war shouldn't occur.

Today is peaceful, we don't have a big battle, at least in Japan. I know some people don't live a happy life, but I live a peaceful one. Of course, I'm not always happy, joyful and comfortable, but I have lots of joyful experience. I can talk and play with friends though we do fight sometimes. I would like to say that my life is peaceful.

I don't think their life at war was peaceful because of dropped bombs. I can't imagine what a life at war not peaceful was like but I guess it was painful. Compared with those days, our life is peaceful, improving and developing. But we still have damage from the war and many people still feel pained. I'm afraid many people don't know about war, me neither.

I live a peaceful life every day without great knowledge about war. I thought I should learn about the past war because I can live such a peaceful life, and wanted to know about the war. I wondered if it's OK to live a peaceful and comfort life without knowing the past war.

I think more people should know about war. The number of the people who experienced the war is decreasing and I'm afraid we won't have any people who had experienced the war. We should keep telling the miseries of the war. Most people don't know about war in detail. Today people can live a peaceful life so we should know about the war. I can also live a peaceful life, so I would like to know about the past well. I don't have enough knowledge about the war so I keep learning about it. And I would like to live a more peaceful and happier life through the affairs at hand.

My Commonplace

Hara Junior High School, 2nd Grade Shouji Haruna

While I am writing this essay, people in some countries are fighting. I didn't think about the fight in the world deeply and I don't know the difference among the meaning of war, a civil war, and a conflict etc. Learning the influence on children by the conflicts interested me in the conflict.

Many children as well as me go to school to learn. Some children might not like school very much. About 27 million children can't go to school. I realize children who want to go to school can't go and wanted to change that situation that they can't have such a commonplace as I can even though they are the same age as me.

I have three meals a day and I like some food and don't others. As I have had many kinds

of food, I know my likes and dislikes. But lots of people are suffering with hunger. About one hundred fifty-five million children are suffering with hunger in the world plus one hundred twenty-two million children among them live in the countries with conflict. I'm very surprised at the great number. Because the number is bigger than the population in Japan. At this moment, some children might be dying from hunger. I thought we have to think about what to do seriously in order to save as many children as possible. So, it is necessary to let as many people know about this problem.

There are many hospitals, we go the hospital to get cured when we have a fever and a headache and get sometimes medicines. But in the conflicted areas, some people can't go to see the doctor because of the lack of hospitals, it's too dangerous and an economic problem. What is worse, the medical facilities are targeted, which isn't allowed. Because an international law says that no doctor and patient must be attacked. But in reality, medical facilities are attacked and as a result, patients can't be cured. I think is necessary to increase the number of hospitals and doctors. The organization "Kokkyo naki ishi-dan" (Doctors Without Borders) have saved many lives in the conflicted countries all over the world. I'm afraid many people there can't go to hospital to see the doctor now. All what can people without a medical-license like me, can do is to support the organization wishing for their survival. What can we do?

I thought what I can do in order to save the children from the conflict first, I thought about the children who can't go to school. The best way to enable the children to go to school is to build a school without tuition in a safe place. But I don't afford to do such a thing. Also, I don't know where is a safe place. After all, I can't do anything by myself. Next, I thought about the way to save the people who were suffering from hunger. I would like to deal with decreasing the food-waste. The amount of food waste is about 1 billion and three hundred million a year. I will try to eat all the dishes served to decrease food waste. I would like to carry out my ideas so that more people can survive longer. Even if it is difficult to do it, I wish more people would think about this as it will make a world without conflict thousands of years from now.

A Past War and Future Peace

Hara Junior High School, 2nd Grade Hoshina Niya

“An enemy plane is coming!” I entered the air-raid shelter when I heard the voice again. The loud noises filled me with fear and anxiety”. This is the story of my grandmother's experience in her childhood during a pacific war. As American battle planes are flying, dropping bombs and many houses were burning down at that time, she wondered if her house was safe. Fortunately, her house didn't burn down, but the sound of the battle plane became a trauma for her, and she felt frightened at airplanes, even now.

I think people who experienced the war have a clear memory about the war I didn't experience. People who were little must have been frightened very much. The adults supported their families desperately. They might remember these experiences even now. I think war is miserable because war has caused many people to have trauma and they want to forget the painful experience but they can't. When the Emperor said at the end of a long war "we were defeated in the war.", Japanese citizens cried, some people felt relieved as the painful war had ended and other people felt sad as Japan was defeated. People who were waiting for their family to come back from war couldn't start the same life as before.

After the war-ended, they didn't have satisfactory clothes so they had to put on old clothes and shoes such as "monpe" and "zori" etc. A big family didn't have enough food for them and so some children brought boiled sweet potatoes and corns for school lunch. As they couldn't get enough ration food, some families who weren't farmers went to Sendai to get cheap rice. But poor families couldn't go there had great trouble in having enough food. When rich families kept aside the precious rice at home, the police took it away on behalf of a country. They had to make it a priority to the national affairs more than the citizen life.

I don't know war. I can't understand their painful feeling. But I thought we have something to do for them. It is important for me to listen and tell people their experience and terror about war and the misery after the end-war so that we may not have a war.

I strongly hope that the following new age will have peaceful days without a war.

An Incident of a War

Ukishima Junior High School, 3rd Grade Sugiyama Aoi

August 15th. This day isn't special to me being born in Heisei Era. But it is special for some people. 74 years have passed since this war-end while the era name changed from Heisei to Reiwa. I know about war through school classes and TV. War is very terrifying. Though I haven't seen and heard it really, I think war is terrifying. People who experienced the war, lost their families and are suffering from permanent damage, felt terrified by the war and many people felt pain and sadness. So, I decided to investigate the damage by the war.

Japanese army attacked on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 8th, 1941. This attack on Pearl harbor caused the Pacific War. Japan was defeated by America in the Battle of Midway Island from June 5th, 1942 to June 7th. And then Japan had continuous defeat by America. An atomic-bomb "Little Boy" was dropped in Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945. More than 100,000 people were killed by it. And 3 days later, an atomic-bomb "Fat Man" was dropped in Nagasaki, and more than 70,000 people were killed. The Showa Emperor decided to surrender to the countries such as America and told the citizens our surrender on August 15th, 1945. The Pacific War lasted for 3years and 8months and resulted in our defeat. I

thought the citizen felt relieved to hear the surrender on the radio.

I thought Japan should have surrendered earlier to escape from a great damage and the victims because America had ten times more national and army powers than Japan and Japan couldn't win. It is amazing for Japanese soldiers to fight in such a condition. Do you know how many victims they had? The total of the war-dead soldiers in the Pacific War is about 2 million 3 hundred thousand. The majority died from not battle but hunger because of little food-supply.

I was surprised at this fact. And I felt sorry that most soldiers died from hunger not battle.

Some soldiers still have a psychological disorder and have been in hospital for over 70 years. Most of them were military and have PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Do you know "black rain?" It is a lot of sticky rain with mud, dust and sand, etc. falling after dropping an atomic-bomb. It was likely to fall in the northwest district of Hiroshima and in the district within 1,500 meters radius from the blast center in Nagasaki. One of the permanent damages is cancer and more than a few people are suffering from it. Many people died from the effect by black rain.

I think we mustn't have war and must live to think about the feelings of the victims.

We need to know that August 15th is for the victims as well as people suffering still. Wars are still continuing in some areas where I don't know about. It is important not to decide the matters only by battle but to understand each other and cooperate. I wish more countries will be peaceful without a war.

What We Learn Through the Past

Ukishima Junior High School, 3rd Grade Takahashi Manaka

On August 15th, 2019, 74 years have passed since the end of the war. It has been 24years since dropping an atomic-bomb influencing the end of the war. When many people must see the news and articles about the look of an atomic dome and thoughts of the radiation-exposed, they always hear the message that "we shouldn't forget or repeat the war." How do we live thinking about it?

As I mentioned before, though it has been 74 years since that incident, many people know about dropping an atomic-bomb which was a miserable and historical incident. Nobody has forgotten the damage by an atomic-bomb, but what about the cause of it? Some people might know about it through the news. People pay less attention to the cause than the damage. We have to pay attention to the cause and do some things in order not to bring out such a terrifying incident.

Today we pay attention to the relationship between Japan and South Korea. In Korea they don't buy products made in Japan and ignore Japan because Japan has restricted export to

South Korea and eliminated Korea from White Country.

More Japanese think it makes sense for Japan to restrict export after knowing the reason. But the past affairs have influenced this growing problem. Japan united Korea before and they still have complains against Japan. Some people wonder why Korean keeps complaining, though Japan apologized to Korea again and again. I realized that the defense side can't allow the offense side easily. The past mistake caused such a problem. And the present judgment might cause a great influence. We should learn that like the incident of an atomic-bomb, we can't tell what trouble it will bring out.

This is also true for things in our daily lives. Recently we had news that there was a fight concerning a textbook causing a junior high school student to kill his classmate.

General speaking, the incident seems strange but we can't know the real reason why the tragedy happened.

I said in this essay what causes the incident. It is knowledge by the past incident that a simple argument and fooling might lose someone's life and injure people. It is one step closer to peace if we act by thinking of what to do not to cause a problem so wish that we won't repeat the past tragedies.

A Baton of Peace

Imazawa Junior High School, 2nd Grade Ito Yukiha

It was August 15th, Anniversary commemorating the end of the war. While I was watching the news about the memorial services in the towns that were canceled because typhoon 10 was approaching. I saw an old woman "I hate war" with tears. I felt pained to know that people are still grieving about the war.

I don't know war. I learnt that Japan repeated battles with other countries in history class. But it is very hard for me to imagine a war which looks like an old-time incident. I thought that we should learn about war more as we don't know war by just recalling an old woman's words.

I studied about Numazu at war promptly. Numazu had a Big Air-raid Attack in July, 1945. More than 9,000 fire-bombs were dropped in 2 hours and about 10,000 houses were burnt down, as many as 274 people were killed and the 89.58% of the city was destroyed.

I heard that Onari Bridge has a scar attacked by B-29 3 months before the Big Air-raid Attack, and decided to visit there. I have often passed by there in my parents' car. I was always looking at the scenery under the bridge, thinking that the river is running gently and that some people are taking a rest but I was surprised to find so many scratches on the pillars at that time. I felt a little scared to touch the dents.

When I was looking at the dent, I felt very pained and sad about the past scenery as fol-

lows; people were frightened by fire-bombs dropping in the sky and were running away in a hurry. The houses were burning. Some people died from the fire-bombs, other people got injured. Some people felt pain and sad at the death of their families. Some people were living in fear.

A war didn't make anybody happy. Even after 74 years, the old woman's tears in the news showed that fact. What we can do is to know about war because we don't know what it was like.

The more I know about war, the more sad and pained. I feel, but I would like to know the facts correctly, by reading books and visiting the traces of the war.

Today Japan doesn't have a war. I would like to keep it in my mind that peace isn't commonplace and the will of people's wish for peace made peace last a long time. The "Heisei generation" will receive a Baton of Peace, we work on peace seriously and pass it to the following generation.

Visiting Atomic-Bomb City

Imazawa Junior High School, 2nd Grade Yamada Yoshino

An atomic-bomb was dropped in Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., August 6, 1945 3 days later, an atomic-bomb was dropped in Nagasaki at 11:03 a.m., August 9. Japan is merely a country where an atomic-bomb was dropped in the world.

Last August, I went to Hiroshima. The reason for that is because I was anxious about heavy rain in Hiroshima 6 months earlier and I saw special TV programs about the war and atomic-bombs and they gave me an interest; especially about the atomic-bomb.

First, I visited the atomic-bomb dome. Its exterior was only charred bar frame. The real dome told me how big and terrible the damage was. There is a river called the river of death near there. Right after radiation-exposure, the radiation-exposed dove into the river to get water and they died there right after drinking water. It is the reason the river was called the river of death because the dead bodies were floating in the river. The calm river didn't make me imagine the real situation.

Next, I visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. I saw many pictures such as burnt people and other things. Each picture was painful and I was terrified to think about if I had burned like that. Many belongings of the radiation-exposed were exhibited; charred and beat-up clothes, a melted and bent tricycle. The most impressive picture was a watch which stopped at 8:15 and told us that once peaceful life ended and many people were killed. I felt sad about the watch.

I kept feeling sad after leaving the museum I realized how peaceful and happy my ordinary days were. I am very sad that many innocent people were killed by an atomic-bomb. I've

heard that some Americans justify the dropping of the atomic-bomb because the war ended thanks to the atomic-bomb. I wouldn't want them to drop an atomic-bomb even if it was right. I deeply regret someone thinking like that.

Some countries have still been fighting. We might not be able to do so many things that we eliminate war. I don't think it is impossible to make a happy world someday if we imagine the people wearing charred clothes, the child riding on a coal-black tricycle and their families.

From a Movie

Imazawa Junior High School, 3rd Grade Kameoka Ami

"I'm sad." I honestly thought.

We studied the war through a film in history class in the 3rd grade of junior high school. This film was the saddest one of all the films I've watched in class. It was a film featuring "tokko-tai (suicide attack units)." I watched the movie with my mother without really thinking about it. But the impact of the content was so strong that I remember it clearly.

The main character was a skillful pilot of Zero Fighter Plane and kept saying that he wouldn't die before seeing his daughter, though he was deemed as a coward. He promised to come back but he couldn't. I felt so sad, I wondered how terrified he felt about attacking an aircraft carrier and so I felt unhappy.

The war brought the present age. The war caused huge damage. This movie told me that death toll of the tokko-tai was more than 8,000. Some people made an effort to make a peaceful world in this severe situation. So, I think we mustn't bring out war. No one would be happy if they started a war causing lots of damage. If a war occurred, everyone would have the pain that the war had deprived them of their precious things and would not want it. We shouldn't have such a war again.

What is peace? I think it enables us to live normal life. The answer is different from person to person. Today we have conflict areas and some people involved in the conflict are asking for help. I'm very interested in NGO and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers working for those people.

Much more people don't know war now. People who experienced a war might think we should appreciate it for the present life, I think so. For example, North Korea has continued the test of the nuclear weapons used at war. The 3rd World War might break out in the future. We have to absolutely prevent it. It is necessary that we should understand war deeply and tell the facts of war and the foolishness of humans to the following generation. We are responsible for it.

A Tomb without Remains

Kadoike Junior High School, 1st Grade Katsumata Koutaro

When I visited the grave of my mother's family, I prayed at two tombs as usual. I have not thought about the reason they have two tombs. 5 years have passed since my grandmother died of a disease and I saw the names carved on the tomb.

I noticed many people's names including my grandmother's father on one tomb but only one person's name on another, which was Tsunekichi at the age of 24.

I asked my grandfather for the reason. Tsunekichi is my grandfather's uncle who was killed in the war. The tomb didn't have his remains and has only his picture. I wondered where his remains were. My grandfather said that Tsunekichi entered a naval gunnery school at the age of 20 and then was assigned to battleship Yamashiro. As the battleship was an old-style ship, it was kept at home even after the outbreak of war. But it was used for defense because the war situation was getting worse. It had a torpedo attack at Surigao Strait at night, receiving heavy fire from an enemy battleship and it sunk into the sea. They received the miserable result that the number of survivors was very little. I thought a war was very terrifying because it caused many people to be killed in a moment.

He continued his story. A few days later after his death, they got a letter from the Japanese government saying that Tsunekichi died and they asked them to send his picture. A few days later, they got his urn with his picture sent in by his family, not his remains. That's why this picture and urn have been kept in his tomb.

I was filled with sorrow and anger to hear his story. I'm sure that he left home with pride after he got a call-up notice. Nevertheless, his family waiting for him couldn't even get his remains. I had a heart-breaking sadness thinking about his family's sorrow and regret. I wondered about what they could get angry at and I think they couldn't. I became very anxious about the days when such unreasonable matters were ordinary.

I looked up "war" in the dictionary. It said that an army fights against another army with weapons, especially a full-scale battle among nations. As I couldn't understand it, I checked another one. It said the opposite of war was peace. We can say that a country having a battle is not peaceful. I looked up peace and knew that it meant a calm situation free from war and conflict. World history tells us that the time spent war is much longer than times of peace.

The world still has constant conflicts and has a new kind of fight, terror. Before the Tokyo Olympic Games and Paralympic Games starts, I feel terrified by terror as a matter close to us. I wondered which is more common, the times of war, or those free from war. I wonder if the world as well as Japan is really peaceful.

There are conflicts everywhere. When we often have our different opinions, we usually choose the way to solve them by using armies, violence or other ways. A war occurs between

nations and might force them to decide something but they can't solve their problem. When I have conflicts, I would like to manage to solve them by thinking calmly and discussing them, without deciding matters in a hurry. I think that must be a sure step to peace.

For Peace

Kadoike Junior High School, 2nd Grade Mitsuki Masato

I think dropping an atomic-bomb is an unforgettable tragedy for humans.

On August 6 and 9, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed in a moment. Many people who were supposed to live died and many other people suffered from terrible conditions by the radiation from the atomic- bomb for a long time and were hurt mentally.

I have a great grandmother at the age of 96 who experienced the war. She told me the following story. A flare bomb often brightened the night sky during the war. They didn't turn on the lights lest their houses should be found easily because enemy planes might attack them, but the location and the condition of the buildings were disclosed by a flare bomb. As soon as she heard the air-raid alarm, she ran inside the air-raid shelter. She usually ate sweet potatoes and pumpkins. Life in Shizuoka was very tough, so life in Hiroshima and Nagasaki must have been much more tough.

I've been to Nagasaki Peace Park and I saw a stone monument in front of Spring of Peace on which a girl's note was carved. The contents are as follow;

I was too thirsty.
Something like oil was floating on the water
I really want water,
I drank the water with oil on it after all.

The radiation-exposed burnt dead howled "Water, please". Many dead bodies were floating on the river because they dived into the river wanting water. Though they knew the water wasn't good for their health as the water was very dirty with pieces of the exploded bomb and its oil, they were too thirsty to stop drinking the water. The stone monument made me think they were in pain beyond description. Today it is so fortunate that we can get water and lots of food.

Why do humans kill each other though they have only one life? It is very strange that they dedicate their precious life to their country, such as Tokkotai which attacked the enemy and died in the process.

Definitely everyone has a precious person. It is the same for a Japanese or the enemy. Their families were waiting for them to come back from the battlefield. Fighting between them causes their families to lose their precious persons. It makes no sense for all people in the world to lose precious persons and to be deprived of happiness by a war.

People are still fighting all over the world. People in the same country have battles. If the wars continue, lots of nature and old ruins will be destroyed and innocent people with great hope and dreams will be killed.

I think it is necessary for all people in the world to cooperate. Instead of denying immediately, it is important that we recognize each culture and support some parts. Each community has their own culture and religion. They can't sometimes understand each other. It is important to try to understand each other. Constant efforts to understand each other will lead to peace.

For Japanese, atomic-bombs seem to be a symbol of the war and the tragedy of Hiroshima Nagasaki. We mustn't ignore it. I would like to focus on it and live thinking what to do in order not repeat the same mistake.

Towards the Future

Kadoike Junior High School, 2nd Grade Watanabe So

It is August 15th. We have the 74th anniversary of the end of the war. Around this time every year, we have a special TV program about the war. Today the number of people who experienced the war have been decreasing gradually every year; more people haven't experienced the fear of war.

I watched a TV drama of the war. The drama was a film dealing with Hiroshima during the Pacific War. I was most impressed with the scene where a girl at the age of 5 died from the explosion of a bomb while she was walking. The main character kept blaming herself for not holding her left hand. I got angry that an innocent little girl was killed. I don't think they were wrong. They lived a tough life in those severe days. I think it was wrong to have a war without thinking highly of people's lives.

I can't allow such a situation from those days to happen. Then, the drama addressed "August 6th," the day an atomic-bomb was dropped. I can't forget the scene such as the very bright light, the frightening sound, and charred people. As the main character got married in Kure city, she was safe. But she lost her family and friends in Hiroshima. I wondered how in pain she was. If precious families and friends disappeared suddenly from this world, what on earth? If I couldn't see my family and friends without notice, I would be dazed with running tears and I would lose my hope to live. Then the main character recovered from the shock and lived strongly in her ways to protect her married family. I was amazed with her strength.

I was shocked by the terror of the war through this drama. A war causes people not only to lose their lives but also to get separated from precious people. A war is terrifying enough to kill a human's mind as well as a human's body.

Why has the world continued fighting? Because any country will always think about their

own benefit. Humans make their own countries. If they all do anything as they like while thinking only about themselves, of course they will fight and argue. But if we think from other people's perspectives, we will have good relationships with others. If we care about others, we can escape from fighting and make friends with them. I think it is the fastest way to peace that people all over the world care about others.

Even if people win a war, the war will leave only hatred and sorrow. After war, the defeated country will hate the country of the enemy and that hatred might cause a new war. So, war absolutely can't bring about peace. Of course, a war for peace is impossible.

When I am asked what a country is, I answer that a country is a citizen. I can't accept the actions which deprives a citizen of happiness. I'm not glad that only Japan has this benefit. It is much more important for people all over the world to live a happy life smiling with their precious people, which is beneficial for all people in the world.

We definitely mustn't repeat such a war so that all people in the world can live a happy life every day. The young generation like us will lead the future world. It is our mission that we encourage all people in the world to think seriously about the fear of war and the importance of life so that we may not repeat the same mistakes again.

I Won't Forget That Day

Kadoike Junior High School, 3rd Grade Ooba Chihiro

“Silent Prayers”

At 8:15, on August 6th, all people on TV closed their eyes at the same time. I also closed my eyes for one minute to pray for the war dead.

When I opened my eyes after one minute, I found most people, including foreigners, in Hiroshima on TV still closing their eyes. The representatives of each country visit Hiroshima though it has been more than 70 years since the wars end.

An atomic-bomb has greatly influenced the world. I knew a war is very terrifying at 6th grade and I wanted to know about the details of the atomic-bomb and its influence on Hiroshima. I went to the library, to the web and to several other ways to check. I have more chances to learn about war at history and Japanese class in junior high school. Gradually I wanted to know more about the details of the war and started studying the details again.

An atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m. on August 15th, 1945. Most of the wooden houses within 2 km were totally destroyed and most people were killed by the blast of the atomic-bomb. Strong radioactivity and heat caused the stone stairs of a bank 260m away from the center of explosion to become whitish but the part someone was sitting on to become black. The town of Hiroshima became burnt ruins in a flash. The fire in the center of the explosion spread out all over the town and burned all houses down. A mush-

room cloud was rising into the sky. It rained “black rain” including radioactivity. Black rain was sticky and left prints on the clothes and the white walls. Many dead fish were floating in the rivers and ponds. The influence of the atomic-bomb caused about one hundred thousand people to die and the survivors developed various diseases gradually. Not a few people still suffer from the permanent damages.

The number of people who experienced the war have been decreasing year by year. About one out of 7 young people don’t know about the day the war ended though they learned it in class. I was very surprised at that fact and felt a sense of urgency.

In such a situation it is necessary that we should get as much advice as possible from old people who experienced the war. It is important to learn what a war was like and how a war deprived people of their daily lives and their minds through the old people’s experiences, records, and documents from the war. We would like to tell the following generation how we listened, learned and thought.

Japan hasn’t had a battle since the war ended but some countries have battles and conflicts constantly. What Japan can do is to keep telling the silent thoughts of the dead and the terror of an atomic-bomb as we are the only radiation-exposed nation. After we get advice from old people, we are responsible for passing them to the following generation. It is necessary that we pay attention to the information from the news and newspapers and know what is happening. We must be positive to think about the matters, not passively because we have a right to elections. I want to gather information, to have interest in these things, to not insist on my own idea but to respect other people’s opinions and to understand the value of variety. I would like to make the base for the peaceful future through not just thinking but also taking action.

Realization of Dream for Peace

Kadoike Junior High School, 3rd Grade Sudo Kyouhei

“What’s this?” asked a young boy before entering an elementary school, standing in front of a picture covered in blood. His mother answered that an atomic-bomb destroyed everything. He was too young to understand the incident and had only to remain standing there.

The first time I visited Hiroshima was as a baby, and so I don’t remember that visit.

This year I visited again. I got to go to the atomic-bomb memorial Museum through the Peace Road; I saw the Atomic-bomb Dome, lots of paper cranes, and the Children’s Peace Monument. I was filled with interest for it. Such feeling disappeared as soon as I saw the inside; many pictures covered in blood, broken walls and iron frames, charred lunch boxes, boys and girls without smiles, a bicycle riding kid, the shade of a person left by the heat-ray, painful messages told by burnt clothes, red spots like a signal of death, the worst eternal

keloid, and the exhibits-explanation summed up by the word “died”. All of them are memories which remain after 8:15 am.

As I have visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki several times, I am familiar with the atomic-bomb. I read a book “Barefoot Gen” at home many times. So, I stand in front of the radio on August 6th every year.

I can’t imagine the scenery of August 6th; a strong, beyond dazzling light, strong heat-rays burning everything down instantly, and the pain of the burnt peoples. People who didn’t live then can’t realize that. I had the same thought this time even though I saw real things.

I saw the scenery of August 6th at the last corner. I could watch “Exposure evidence” where people on the video were telling the feelings of the incident they experienced. The people running away here and there, cloud and grass, shouts and prayers of the radiation-exposed people. We can’t describe these by a picture or a photo at all. The radiation-exposed people tell their own honest feeling with their words. I’m sure that it serves as the driving force to make a peaceful future. That’s the reason we must keep telling the great miserable history.

It is Reiwa Era now. A Chinese character of “wa” is the same with that of Showa which experienced an atomic-bomb. But we pray for peace through this word. I want to connect the reflection in Showa Era to Heisei and Reiwa. Today it is difficult to listen to the stories of people who experienced a war because the number of them are decreasing. What is worse, people can’t abandon weapons though they wish for peace. I would like to stop this contradictory situation of the world.

I decided to tell the soulful words I got in Hiroshima to my peers next to me in my own words. My words will be connected to people all over the country and throughout time. I express “peace” by my own words and not by pictures and photos. I can play a stronger role as a proponent appealing for peace more than weapons. It is sure that we won’t have any people who experienced the war before too long. I wonder if the world will still remain peaceful. We absolutely have to leave the world peaceful. This is our mission. I want live a cheerful life with a smile for the future. I would like to accept history and the thoughts of our ancestors seriously to tell them to the following generation in my own words. I will connect the world by my words.

I wonder what the dream of the boy standing in front of the picture covered in blood is. I want him to realize his dream. I don’t want to deprive him of freedom. I would like to see the world he can live in without fear but hope.

Toward the Realization of World Peace

**Secondary School of Numazu-Ichiritsu Numazu High School,
1st Grade Kumagai Shun**

I haven't thought about peace seriously.

It is said that "peace" is the situation when there are no conflicts and troubles. The small society around me might be peaceful, but the world still has battles and terrors. In Japan, we have dangerous incidents. Though many people hope for world peace, I wonder why they can't realize the powerful effects of it and how they can get rid of war.

I don't know about war well. Though we had special programs and dramas about war on TV, I hadn't watched them and knew little about it because it happened in the scary past.

My trip to Nagasaki during the summer holidays drove me to think about peace. I visited The Peace Memorial Park and Atomic-Bomb Memorial Museum. The park was so beautiful and calm that I couldn't imagine an atomic-bomb was dropped there. In the museum pictures of the town immediately after dropping the atomic-bomb, the injured, the belonging of the dead, and cola-bottles melted down by the bomb were exhibited. When I saw a stopped watch at the time of the dropping of the atomic-bomb, I felt very painful. Some exhibits were too cruel-looking to look at. I thought I shouldn't ignore the facts, because I realized it was rude to the victims and people suffering from the permanent disease.

I was born in a country free from war and I don't have any trouble with accommodation, food, and clothes. I am supported by my family, can study at school, and have a good time with my friends, so I believe that such a life will continue in the future. I have lived an ordinary life as usual. The Atomic-bomb Memorial Museum made me realize how happy and ordinary my life was. We must never have a war which deprives us of ordinary days and our precious families. It might not be easy to get rid of war from the world, but we can do something about it. If we don't give priority to ourselves, we should respect others by acting and act thinking about them. We can stop small fights around us. The small power will be big enough to affect the world if all of us cooperate to act even towards such a small thing.

Though it might take a long time to make a peaceful world, I think we will realize how special it is with a smile. We can try to carry out what we can do without despair.

Though it might take a long time to make a peaceful world, I think we will realize a peaceful world with a smile If we try to carry out what we can do without despair.

To Make World Peace

**Secondary School of Numazu-Ichiritsu Numazu High School,
2nd Grade Akiyama Towa**

I hope we will not have war again in the world. Though, I haven't experienced it at all, I understand the sorrows caused by war.

Do you know the movies, "Grave of the Fireflies", and "In This Corner of the World"? The story of "Grave of the Fireflies" is about; Seita, a big brother at the age of 14 and Setsuko, his little sister at the age of 4 who lost their parents and managed to survive during the tough period before and after the war, resulting in tragic death. Every time I watched this movie, I was moved. This movie made me realize the pain of losing parents, the difficulty of a life without them, not having enough food, and not having a house to live in.

The other story of "In This Corner of the World" is about girl, Suzu who managed to survive in the situation of losing familiar people and things. This movie made me learn a lot as I did in. "Grave of the Fireflies", The movie made me think about war and peace more seriously.

Frankly speaking, I think peace is the situation that there is no war and people help each other.

I wondered why war broke out. The reason was that countries others of their land and materials. They had different cultures, religions, and ways of thinking.

I thought about how we could prevent one another from deprivation. In my own opinion, I thought it is important to cooperate with each other so that everyone can get benefit. For example, they will not deprive others of things if they have a beneficial deal with each other concerning resources and food.

Next, when I thought about the different ways of thinking about cultures and religions, I happened to pay attention to our daily matters. When my opinion is different from others', it is important to insist on my opinion. However, we will start to fight if both of us keep insisting. Fights caused by such small conflicts look like war. It is possible that big troubles among countries might cause a war. I think it is important to learn to compromise thinking about others' as well as insisting on one's opinion.

There are some more things to do in order to make a peaceful world besides what I said in this paper having the Volunteer spirit, positive recycling, and sending donations will lead to a peaceful and fair world. I deeply hope that all people over the world will act towards peace.

Nothing Special, Commonplace

Secondary School of Gyoshu Junior and Senior High School,
3rd Grade Ono Hana

It has been 74 years since the end of the war this year. On August 15, the end of the war, there were various articles about the war in the newspaper. I found one of them by a woman, one of the war-dead people's wives, and the woman attended the memorial service for the war dead at Nippon Budokan (Japan martial arts gym) on August 15. Her husband was shot in the breast at war and he was able to save his life. But he had a permanent disease in the lung which resulted in his death. She found a paper under the mattress with notes saying, "I want to live an ordinary life."

The war deprived him of his wish, which was nothing special. It deprived him of family-get-togethers. We will not be able to imagine such a thing because we live an ordinary life. I was moved by the war-story in Japanese class but I can't sometimes share the feeling of terror.

I sometimes fight with friends and get bad marks on the test. But generally speaking, it doesn't often happen that one of our family disappears suddenly.

One of my family members might sometimes die of disease, but we won't lose our family due to the irrational reason of going to war.

My grandfather was in his early teens during the war, and he was made to gather the dead bodies killed by air-raids with bamboo rakes and pile them up like a mountain. At air-raids he dived into the river desperately and he found his company floating dead in the river.

He had such a horrific experience at the same age as me. As we live a peaceful life free from a war, we haven't seen a shocking scene, such as heavy traffic accidents with a pixelated image. Though we are protected, people were not protected at war like my grandfather. I guess they didn't have much of a hand in protecting. People like my grandfather had to do such a job because they had less men due to the war.

I have only my grandfather around me as a person who experienced the war. The story of only one person told me the misery war. He hated the war which depriving him of many people around him. The articles of newspapers and the story of my grandfather made me hope that we won't go to war again.

I want to chat with my friends and have a happy dinner-time with my family as usual. It is the same wish as the woman's husband in the newspaper. The wish of people of any age is the same as the wish to live an ordinary life. A war will deprive us of the peace almost all the people wish for, and cause a huge compensation though they start a war for their benefit. I think our happiness means commonplace. Today some countries have had severe civil war. I wonder what we should do to save people with the fear that they might die someday. We

have not had a good solution yet, but I'm sure that we will find it.

Things We Should Not Bring Out Again

**Secondary School of Gyoshu Junior and Senior High School,
3rd Grade Miura Rio**

My great grandmother always wanted to go back to Japan as soon as possible during her stay in Manchuria during war. My great grandfather was ordered to fight in Manchuria during the Pacific War.

It seemed he had more terrible days like hell after war than during it. Men between the ages of 18 to 60 were sent to the Russian army and had to do very severe work. Russian soldiers came to Japanese houses where only women and children were left every day and took away their things. If they didn't hand out the things to the soldier, they were supposed to be shot by them. They had to choose but to give them their belongings to the soldiers. My great grandmother changed her appearance to look like a male by cutting her hair short and painted her face black lest she look weak like a female.

I was surprised to know that they had a similar life to during and after, the war when I listened to her cruel and terrible story. We live a comfortable life, buying and eating food at leisure and doing as we like because our lives are peaceful.

I thought seriously about what I could do should a war happen again.

First, I would like to tell the cruelty and terrors of a war. My great grandmother will be 97 years old this year. 74 years have passed since the war ended and we have had less and less people who experienced war. Most of us don't know about the details of the war since we only have vague knowledge that it is terrifying through learning it. It is important to listen to real stories during the war. I was so lucky to listen to the real story during and after war told by my great grandmother that I want to tell the cruelty of it to many people.

Secondarily, I don't think selfishly. Some countries are fighting now. The news tell us that they have many conflicts because of racial and religious differences. We should not think we have no relation with it because it is an incident out of Japan. Japan and Korea have conflicting opinions concerning their trade and it is becoming a serious social problem now. Both countries are concerned only themselves and don't think about the other. It is important to think in the other country's perspective and understand each other by sharing good points in order to get rid of conflicts and make a peaceful world.

Thirdly, I would like to think about my precious life. 3 hundred 50 thousand people lost their precious lives at a moment's notice by an atomic-bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. What is worse, more people died if the radiation-exposed are included. The book let me know that they had more grief and pain than we expected. Nothing is more precious than life. It is

important for each of us to realize the importance of the life our parents gave us and to make a world which won't break out.

My great grandmother had been saying that she didn't remember the incidents of the war and after. But she told me with painful thoughts and I thought that we must not repeat the tragedy of the war 74 years before again when I saw her talking about the war with sorrow. My great grandmother also told me that the radiation-exposed are still disabled and have been terrified by the risk that their children might have a baby with a birth defect. We must not forget that some people can't escape from their pain even 74 years after the war-end.

Though what we can do might be a little thing, it is our mission leading to the future that we think about the importance of life and about what we can do.