

# What I Think About War

**Daini Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Saki Mikami**

Do you know about the war between Russia and Ukraine? Russia invaded Ukraine because it wanted Ukrainian land. However, many Ukrainians died because of this. So I thought about a lot of things about war.

First, let's look back at Japan's war. Japan was at war with America. After the war dragged on for a long time, America dropped the atomic bomb on Japan. The death toll was a shocking 214,000. After that day, Japan began to desire peace.

War is a painful thing. Life is important, of course, but it becomes painful when you lose a place to return to or a place to belong. It would be extremely sad if you were a victim and your family died while serving in the military.

In order for everyone to be happy, we must maintain peace. What should I do to achieve this? I've been thinking about a few things. First of all, everyone wants peace. It's difficult to get what everyone wants from the beginning, so I think if we all take action we can achieve some peace, but I think it's pointless if everyone doesn't want peace first. Through these efforts, we appeal to the world about the joy of peace. I think Japan can emphasize this message because of its experience with the atomic bomb.

Now let's talk about "what if". What if Japan was conquered? If it were me, I would try to cooperate with everyone and persuade them. If that is not possible, I would like to attack but, in a way to minimize deaths and hope for reconciliation. If it were me forced to become involved in the fight, I would protect the people closest to me. I want to do what I can. Finally, if you get caught up in a war, if the choice was fight or flight, I'd fight. Because I want to save as many lives as possible. But then I might not be able to make myself shoot someone, so I might run away.

Returning to the story of the war between Russia and Ukraine, I believe that President Putin, who plotted the war, was to blame for this war. Everyone says Russia is to blame, but I think it's President Putin and some people who support war. Firstly, the Russian population was not involved in the war. So I think that the Russian population is not at fault.

Finally, I believe that in any world, there are people like President Putin who start wars. If that happens, what we can do will be limited. However, I would like to reduce wars as much as possible. I don't know what I can do about it yet. I would like to think about this in my future life.

# Wishing For Peace

**Daisan Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Zhao Yi**

Seventy eight years ago, the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945. Three days later, on August 9th, at 11:02 a.m., the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. In addition to World War II, there was also World War I, the war between South Korea and North Korea, the Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War, the Pacific War, and the current war between Russia and Ukraine. Many senseless things have been done that took away people's lives. There is currently a war going on between Russia and Ukraine.

I don't understand why humans are taking the lives of people and living things like this. There is no one who doesn't feel sad when their family, lover, or loved one is taken away from them by missiles or war. Tens or even hundreds of thousands of innocent people are being killed one after another by the orders of the state. This kind of thing must never happen again. In addition to waging war, I think it is also possible to have discussions and hold dozens of meetings with just the top leaders of the country.

If one country goes to war without permission, various top leaders in the world can stop that country's top leaders.

If things like this happen, there will be no more wars in the world in the future, and we will avoid losing loved ones or family members due to wars.

Of course, in addition to war, there are many people who die due to murder, careless accidents, and natural disasters.

From now on, there will be no more wars, fewer incidents, and accidents, and if everyone is equal, we can create the peaceful world that we all wish for. People who are currently living in a world where everyone is happy, I think it would be great if people who will be born in the future think about this.

I hope that the world will be peaceful in the future.

# What is Peace?

**Daisan Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Kaede Nakamura**

What is peace?

There is no peace because we fight.

There is no peace because we think differently.

There is no peace because I hate you.

Even if it's a small fight at first

it's going to be a bigger fight  
there will be a bigger war  
In the end we will sever relationships  
In the end we will use nuclear weapons

We will have a lot of regrets  
there will be many sacrifices  
We will hate each other  
We will regret each other  
Fighting leaves only regret

How to avoid conflicts

What is a conflict?  
Discussion is not a fight  
Fighting is about hurting the other person.  
It's a fight when we both feel sad

How to end disputes by discussion  
What to do to end a small fight

How to be at peace?

## War and Peace

### Daisan Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Riko Masuda

I hate war. The reason is that war is fighting. It's not just a quarrel where people say things to each other. War is about killing each other using weapons.

Japan ended the war on August 15, 1945, this year marking the 78th anniversary. I watched a video of someone who experienced war. That person said, "We should never go to war again."

In addition, "I never want to see that scene anymore."  
I understood how difficult the war was.

However, there was something more difficult in Japan.  
On August 6th, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9th, it was also dropped on Nagasaki. Nuclear weapons made by the United States were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, resulting in many deaths and injuries. And, as expected from its

power, even America realized it was a bad thing.

Six days later, on August 15th, the long war ended and Japan lost to the United States. Even after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the Industrial Promotion Hall remained as the Atomic Bomb Dome. Nearby is the Peace Memorial Park, where there is also a cenotaph. And there is a message written for those who were killed by the atomic bomb.

“Rest in peace. For us not to repeat our mistakes.” Such is left on the cenotaph. There is also a Peace Memorial Park in Nagasaki, where there is also a cenotaph. There are many flowers and other flowers at the cenotaph, and you can clearly see that many people have come. Nowadays, it has become a tourist destination and many people from overseas visit.

War must never be fought again. We must not take the absence of war for granted. Maybe the time will come when a war will start tomorrow. You never know when a war will break out. Japan is very peaceful now. This peace cannot be taken for granted. I want to change the world to a place where peace never disappears and where there is no war.

## **Traveling to Okunoshima, Hiroshima Prefecture**

### **Daiyon Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ginsei Nishigaya**

My grandfather retired in June of this year. My mother had planned a family trip to commemorate the occasion.

I asked, “Where are we going for the trip?”

My mother immediately answered, “I want to go to an island called Okunoshima where there are a lot of rabbits. I heard there are 1000 rabbits.”

At first, I didn’t even know what prefecture it was in, but since I love rabbits, I decided to go on the trip and do my best to finish my summer vacation homework as early as possible.

To get to Okunoshima, we took the Shinkansen to Okayama Prefecture, then took a rental car to Takehara City in Hiroshima. It’s a small island with a lot of nature, and the area around the hotel felt like Hawaii. By the time we arrived at the hotel, I saw some rabbits, so I was excited.

When we arrived at the hotel, my mother said, “Actually, poison gas was produced on this island in the past, and there is a poison gas museum, so why not go there?” hearing this, I didn’t really understand it, but as she mentioned poisonous gas, I got scared.

At the Poison Gas Museum, you can see how Okunoshima was producing poison gas, and there are photographs of protective clothing, poison gas production equipment, and people who were making poison gas getting sick and injuring their skin. There were so many that I was shocked. A poison gas factory was set up on Okunoshima in 1929 and continued to produce poison gas for the next 16 years, but it was kept a secret from the people and the island was “erased from the map.” The poison gas produced was being used in wars, and many

people died. It seems that many people who were making poisonous gas died from blindness, pneumonia, bronchitis, and burns caused by the poisonous gas that entered through gaps in their protective clothing. On Okunoshima, there was a memorial monument erected for those people, and next to it was a shrine and a thousand paper cranes, so we put our hands together and said, "I wish there will be no more wars." I wished with my heart.

When I returned from my trip, I saw on the news that a peace memorial ceremony was being held in Hiroshima Prefecture on August 6th. At that moment, I realized that my mother didn't just want to go see the rabbit, she also wanted us to feel the sadness of war, the preciousness of peace, and the weight of life. I felt sad when I saw the war between Russia and Ukraine on the news, but I thought that since it was happening in a far away country, Japan would be okay. I definitely don't want another war in Japan, and I want other countries to stop losing so many people in war. I would like to thank my mother for making me think about the war on this trip.

## **We Will Preserve Peace**

**Daigo Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Taiga Mori**

I hate watching the news. Because every day we see news about the war between Russia and Ukraine. Large buildings were destroyed with large holes in them, burned to the point that they were no longer habitable, and some were on fire. A child is crying nearby.

Japan is very peaceful now. I can go to school, watch TV, play games, and go to swimming school, which I love. You can eat rice and sweets with your family.

However, it seems that Japan was also at war 78 years ago. My great-grandmother is the only living person around me who has experienced war.

My great-grandmother lived in Fuji City at that time. When she was a 13-year-old girl at school, she put gunpowder in tubes and made bombs to help the war effort. At that time, she was working without a mask, and gunpowder powder got into her nose, causing her to collapse. Because of that, she says her bronchial tubes are weak. As the war became more intense, it seems that she had no time to study.

In August 1945, Japan was the first country in the world to have atomic bombs dropped on it, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of lives were wiped out in an instant. It is said that the temperature in the area where the atomic bomb was dropped was 3000 degrees.

It must have been hot.

There must have been a lot of things the people wanted to do.

I felt sad.

After the war ended, there were many people without homes or food. My great-

grandmother's house was a farm. She said that she was asked by people from far away to exchange rice and vegetables for what they had brought by train or on foot. However, they couldn't trade with everyone because they needed their own portion as well. I think it was tough.

I think war is something we should never do. Even if great people say, "It's for the country," I think it's just killing each other when people get hurt or die.

I'm really glad to have been born in peaceful Japan. That's why I feel so sad when I think that children of my age are going through such sad and painful experiences in some countries.

I wonder if there's anything I can do as an elementary school student.

If this is the case, I will value everyone's lives as well as my own. Because I think that is what preserves world peace.

## **Nuclear and Small Wars**

### **Daigo Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honoka Furuya**

Seventy-eight years ago, during World War II, American soldiers dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. Approximately 210,000 people died in the affected Hiroshima and Nagasaki prefectures.

Nuclear is scary. With just two drops, the population of about 72 million people at the time was reduced to about 71.79 million people.

Numazu was also a burnt-out area due to air raids. When I saw that photo, I was stunned. Nowadays, Numazu is a clean, peaceful town with blue skies and no accidents, but once upon a time, Numazu was in the exact opposite situation.

Japan is the only country in the world upon whom a nuclear bomb has been dropped. In other words, people in other countries do not know the fear of nuclear weapons. That's why Japan, the only country that knows how scary it is, has to tell people how scary it is and how many people will die. I think this is a responsibility of being born Japanese. And that too, by children who have a bright future.

What I think is that all wars started as small skirmishes and escalated. Therefore, if you have a fight in your daily life, you should understand that it is a very small war. It's up to you to decide whether to resolve this small war through discussion or to hurt the other party with an air attack called verbal abuse. If you use abusive language, it could develop further and go to the extent where a nuclear weapon may be dropped. In that case, of course it would be better to settle the matter through discussion.

What I think is necessary for humans to prevent wars is broadmindedness. I think it's important to put aside your pride, incorporate your own ideas, and have a "forgiving heart." People started a war because they couldn't do that.

I believe that if we want to make the world peaceful, we must first maintain peace in our own hearts.

I value the spirit of forgiveness in order to prevent wars, and I believe that maintaining one's own peace of mind leads to peace. Also, as the only country that knows the horror of nuclear weapons, I think what we need to do is to convey that fear and spread the idea of not using nuclear weapons for the sake of peace to the world.

I would be happy if someone read this, and it led to thinking about war and nuclear weapons again.

## **The Horror of War is Passed Down from Generation to Generation**

**Katahama Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Akito Matsui**

“Grandma Shobara experienced the war in Hiroshima.”

Grandma Shobara, my mom told me, was my grandma, and she passed away when I was a baby. That's why I have no memories of Grandma Shobara. So I spoke to my grandfather, Grandma Shobara's son.

Apparently, she worked as a nurse at a hospital in Hiroshima until the end of May 1945. Her father said “The war is very bad. Come back to Shobara.”

So she returned to Shobara. There, she took a break from nursing and worked in the fields. At around 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, Grandma Shobara was working in the fields when a bright atomic bomb was dropped behind her. It was seen in Shobara, 100 kilometers away. That's how powerful it was. The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. A-bomb survivors who were exposed to radiation from the atomic bomb were transported by train one after another in search of hospitals. Victims also came to Shobara City, where Grandma Shobara lived. She took care of them.

I thought it was amazing that Grandma Shobara cared for those injured in the war. If it were me, I think I would have run away. Also, if Grandma hadn't come back, she might have died in Hiroshima due to the atomic bomb. I'm so glad she survived.

I wanted to hear more from Grandma Shobara. But she's gone. It has been 78 years since the end of the war. I heard from my grandfather that the number of people who experienced war is decreasing rapidly as they age. By listening to this story, I gained a little understanding that war is scary. A lot of people who had nothing to do with the war would die, so I thought that we shouldn't let it happen, and that we shouldn't use the atomic bomb either. If I have a chance, I would like to learn more by asking people who have experienced war.

# What is Peace?

Ooka Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ko Sato

Have you ever thought about peace? I think peace means no war and everyone being able to live happily ever after. What should I do to achieve this?

About 80 years ago, Japan started a war with America, Britain, and other countries. It was triggered by the conflict between Japan, which moved its military into China and Southeast Asia, and the United States, Britain, and other countries that opposed this. In Japan, men were sent off to the battlefield one after another, and the remaining women were also trained to protect Japan. During this time, all the people of Japan cooperated in the war effort, including children working in the manufacturing of weapons. The American military carried out air raids on mainland Japan. In order to protect the children from the air raids, evacuations were carried out to move them to safer regions.

I think it's lonely and painful to live far away from your parents and not have enough food.

Then, atomic bombs were dropped one after another on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing tens of thousands of people in an instant. The Pacific War lasted for about four years and many people died.

After the war, Japan was occupied by the Allied Forces led by the United States and began its journey as a democratic nation. The Japanese Constitution stipulates that the people have sovereignty, that all people are to respect their rights as human beings, and that there will be no war again. Seventy years ago, at the San Francisco Peace Conference, Japan concluded peace treaties with 48 countries.

From the Showa era to the Heisei era, Japan has progressed as one of the developed countries. How will Japan deal with such world problems as conflicts arising from ethnic and religious differences, terrorism that indiscriminately takes people's lives, and environmental destruction that is progressing worldwide?

I have no experience of war, and I don't know the true horror of war, so I can't really empathize with it. However, when you look at actual images of war and the scenes of war, you can clearly see the cruelty of the war. It is too scary for me to imagine that a single bomb could have caused so many casualties. War takes away people's peaceful daily lives in an instant. It's very scary. I once again thought about the importance of life.

Even now, news of wars and conflicts around the world continues to flow. Every time I see the news, I feel sad and scared. I don't know when, where, or why someone will die, so I want to cherish each day and cherish my family and friends on a daily basis.

# 78 Years Since the Nagasaki Bombing

**Ashitaka Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fuka Kajikuri**

August 9<sup>th</sup> - Do you know this day? I didn't know about this day at first, but I learnt that it

“marks 78 years since the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.”

Then I saw a video, showing the scene of

“Bombs are falling, and there is a sea of fire...”

In this way, somebody was talking in the video.

When I thought about it, and imagined that I had been there, I got scared.

It is said that 73,884 people died in the atomic bombing. An additional 74,909 people were injured.

More than 38,000 children were victims of the atomic bomb, and many felt guilty that they had survived. I think I would have felt guilty if I had actually seen the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

I was taken aback. The atomic bomb took away people's smiles and happiness, and what was taken away can never be regained. That's what I thought. That's why I didn't really understand the feeling of making the most of every minute of every day, but I feel like I finally understand. One thing I learned is that I'm happy to be living the way I am now. So let's cherish the life we've been given.

Next, there was a video of the Nagasaki atomic bomb that I saw on YouTube. After the atomic bomb was dropped, Nagasaki Prefecture became invisible in an instant. I was so surprised that I couldn't speak.

Furthermore, the atomic bomb was also dropped on Hiroshima Prefecture, which must have been very painful.

That's why I want as many people as possible to do something about wars and atomic bombs and stop them. The reason is that war doesn't bring us any good, and only brings us painful feelings.

I also want them to take care of their families, friends, and themselves.

## A Peaceful World

**Hara Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Riko Tsuchiya**

There were many stone monuments lined up in a plaza overlooking the beautiful ocean of Okinawa. When I saw them, I thought it was very beautiful. But when I looked closely, I saw that there were many people's names engraved on them. They were the names of the approx-

imately 200,000 people who died in the Okinawa war 78 years ago. What I thought was beautiful turned into feelings of surprise and sadness.

I know that there was a war in Japan in the past, but I had never heard about it in detail. Seeing the names of many people who died, I wanted to learn about wars in the past, so I entered the museum at Peace Memorial Park.

The things I saw there were things that would be unimaginable in Japan today. I saw pictures of children younger than me who died in the war, and adults covering their mouths so that the American soldiers wouldn't notice the sounds of babies crying. While fleeing, some became so thirsty that they drank muddy water and covered their noses to survive. It all made me sad to see. One thing that particularly stuck with me was hearing a story about someone whose friend died in front of his eyes as a result of the war. Even now, he wonders if he is the only one left alive. Many other people also shared their experiences. Talking about war brings back painful memories for these people. Even so, I don't think the people who talk to me want to go to war again.

200,000 people died in this war in Okinawa. I hope that the story of the war that took place in Japan in the past will be passed down into the future. It would be nice if I could also talk about what I saw this time. At the end of the museum are the words, "It is human beings who cause wars, but even more so, it is human beings who can make efforts to prevent wars from happening." Although my efforts are small, I want to continue to hope for a peaceful world where wars will never occur again.

## **War Cannot Be Reset**

**Ukishima Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Gakui Ochiai**

I always go to the grave during Obon.  
There is another grave next to the grave of our family.  
"My father's brother died in the war" Grandpa said.  
When I read the writing on his grave, it said he was an army medic.  
The meaning of medic is a person who performs a mission to help people.  
I learned that they used to walk at the back to help those who were injured in the war.  
It is said that he was respected and called "Guardian" by many of the injured people.  
When I thought that my grandfather's father's older brother was respected, I felt a little proud of him.  
But grandpa's father's brother never came home.  
I don't know where or how he died in the war.

However, I thought that if the person caring for the victim had died, the injured people would have been in great trouble. I think even people who thought they were safe even if

they were injured would no longer feel safe without the medics. Since his position was a non-fighting one, he did not have any weapons.

Think about how it feels to go to war and not have a weapon. When you play a game, the first thing you do when you land at the enemy's camp is pick up a weapon. You know your life will be targeted. The reason why people's lives are targeted is because it determines who wins or loses.

It's probably the same with wars, because the winners and losers are determined. If I went to war, I don't think people would know that he was my grandpa's father's old brother. You may end up fighting without knowing who you are against, and you may no longer understand why you are fighting. But you can't reset it like in a game.

I hate war because it takes lives.

## **What You Can Do Now to End War**

**Kadoike Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Shiori Ito**

In this year's book review, I read a book called "The Life of Maya." I thought a lot about the war. The story is about a family whose dog Maya, who was a member of the family, had to be killed in the war. War changes the common sense of the world and the character of people. Tears filled my eyes as I read it.

Last summer, an event was held at the Meiji Museum to learn about the Great Numazu Air Raid and listen to stories from people who had experienced it. Keiko Iwashita, who spoke to me, was 6 years old at the time and attending Daini Elementary School. When she was fleeing to Senbonhama due to an air raid, she saw planes dropping incendiary bombs one after another. The surrounding area was red with fire. Everyone tried to get into the river because it was less dangerous. At that time, a fragment of a bomb pierced the little toe of one of her feet. As a result of this injury, one of her legs had to be amputated below the knee.

Ms. Iwashita said, "I hate war. It should never happen."

That's what she said. Even after 77 years, she still looked very sad.

When I heard the story, I thought of the blazing red fire and the people suffering. As I listened, my heart pounded with fear. I wondered why there is war in this world.

I went to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony during spring break. I was really scared when I saw the panel showing images of before and after the round shaped atomic bomb was dropped. My heart trembled.

War is about using force to make people in other countries do what you say. After reading the books and listening to the stories, I became more strongly convinced that war should never be fought. Killing someone is something you should never do. However, in war, people are praised for killing people and become heroes. I think there were many people fighting

who didn't really want to kill people. But they can't say it because if they don't comply, they'd be criticized or attacked. War robs people of their freedom, individuality, ability to think, rights, and names.

I think that in order to eliminate wars, people all over the world should agree that wars should not be fought. To that end, what I can do now is to learn about wars, research them, read books, visit historical sites, etc. I want to continue studying many things. In the future, I want to do activities that tell people what I have learned.

And instead of just accepting what people around me are saying, I want to think about it carefully. If I disagree with people, I'd like to muster up the courage to say so.

In the scene in "Maya's Life" where Maya dies, I thought about Maya's feelings and the feelings of her family. Then I couldn't stop crying and my stomach hurt. It was very painful. I think it's even more painful for people who have actually experienced it. I'm happy that Japan is now peaceful. But there are many places in the world that are not so, like Ukraine and Russia. I hope there will be peace as soon as possible.

## **The Bitterness of War**

**Kadoike Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Kotoka Maeda**

I felt sad when I watched TV and heard the story of a person who experienced the atomic bomb. He was 15 years old. The story is a very sad one..

Resting in front of his hut on a very hot day, the atomic bomb was dropped and a strong blast blew, causing him to faint. After a few minutes, he regained consciousness. Looking around, he saw a pitch-black field and a sea of fire. He narrowly escaped death because he was 1.5 kilometers away from the atomic bomb blast. He walked across the charred field to school and waited for friends. And every day a friend passed away, and he cried. Being the only survivor, he felt guilty as his deceased friend's parents looked at him coldly. And then he developed radiation sickness. When I heard that story, I wondered if I myself could have bore the situation, and if I would take someone's life?

Then the strongest thought that came across me was, "Why would you take away someone's happiness?"

If I were in the same situation, I would be very scared, sad and in pain.

My great-grandpa was a soldier and went to China. Then, he was shot in the ring finger of his right hand and his thigh, the bullet passing right through. Great-grandpa was admitted to a hospital in Japan. The war ended while he was in the hospital. When I heard that story I thought, "My family also went to war."

I'm very sad because if my father went to war, he might not come back alive. I understand that war is very scary because it means killing each other. The atomic bomb was

only dropped on Japan, I sincerely hope that it will never be dropped again.

War is really scary, so I want countries to get along and help each other to prevent wars from happening in the future. I also thought about other people's feelings and tried to never take away their happiness.

I want to rid the world of war and atomic bombs and live happy and peaceful days every day

## About War and Peace

### Imazawa Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Haruka Kokaze

I heard stories from a person who experienced the atomic bomb. The day the atomic bomb was dropped was August 6, 1945. At that time, he was 10 years old and living in Waki-cho, Yamaguchi Prefecture, within 30 kilometers of Hiroshima. When the morning assembly began at 8:15 that day, the atomic bomb lit up the sky brightly. As he was running away alone, he was blown away by the blast. He looked out the window and saw a mushroom cloud. His cousin, a female student, died in Hiroshima.

It is estimated that over 200,000 people died in Hiroshima due to the atomic bomb. The damage caused by the atomic bomb was caused by heat rays, blast waves, and radiation. The temperature of the heat rays is approximately 3,000 to 4,000 degrees at the ground surface around the hypocenter. The blast wave 100 meters from the epicenter is thought to move at a velocity of 280 meters. Most of the people who were directly exposed to the heat rays within 1.2 kilometers of the hypocenter had their skin burnt off, their internal organs damaged, and died. The blast also blew people away, killing them instantly, injuring them, and destroying buildings, leaving many dead. In addition, some people became ill and died from radiation injuries.

When the atomic bomb was dropped, there were very few people in normal condition. Their faces became swollen and lips turned black. Some people were waving Japanese flags and shouting "Hurray!" like they had lost their senses, thinking they were about to die. There were many corpses with blackened faces, and there were corpses lying all over the riverbank.

After listening to stories and reading books, I realized that the atomic bomb was a very scary thing. Ukraine and Russia are now at war. If Russia were to drop an atomic bomb, Ukraine would be in the same dire situation as Hiroshima 78 years ago. If an atomic bomb were dropped or a war broke out, there would be no food or shelter, and many people would die, so I thought that atomic bombs and wars were scary and disgusting. I think it's important to first learn what war and peace are like by watching TV, researching them in bookstores and on the internet, and talking to people who have experienced them and then start thinking about the topic of war and peace. I hope that everyone can live in peace every day in a world

without war.

## Inherited Life and Peace

**Sawada Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Haruto Kurita**

I visited my grandfather's grave, and as I asked him to watch over me, I glanced to the side. I had been curious about it for a while, but this was the first time I looked at it seriously. It was a cenotaph for the war dead. There were two names on it, the names of my great-grandfather's two older brothers.

Army Sergeant Major 7th Class Merit 6th Class. In the Pacific War, killed by torpedo wounds all over his body.

Army Sergeant Major 7th Class Merit 6th Class. In the Pacific War, killed in action during the second attack on an airfield on the southern island of Papua New Guinea.

I couldn't say anything. I felt a chill in the air. I once heard from my mother that when she went to the Himeyuri Tower in Okinawa, she had said that she was surrounded by an indescribable atmosphere and felt sick. I'm also interested in the stories of the Cold War and the kamikaze corps, perhaps filled with the regrets of people who were hurt and scattered while thinking about the happiness of their country and their families. I watched and read a lot of movies and books.

My backpack has a special security whistle that I received as a souvenir instead of a security buzzer. What is written on this cenotaph is not a fictional story, but rather something that actually happened here in Japan, and these two people are connected to me. Human torpedo. In the past, controlling remotely was not possible; a person would get on board the torpedo, and become part of it. The person inside the weapon will be the victim, as well as the attacker. The other one says, "Killed in action during the attack in the airfield area." It is believed that he flew a special attack squadron plane and was killed in an attack. Both of them were reduced to powder in an instant. Countless people experienced this in the war.

They put the future of their country above themselves and went to war believing that the country would become better. Those were the times. The members of the special attack squad must go to war even though they knew they would definitely die. If I were to die, I would never want to face it, and I would be too scared to do it.

Looking towards the cenotaph, I asked, "Were you scared? Did you want to see your family?"

Of course, I knew that I would get no answer.

There were people who protected Japan with pride for their country. I live with my family, go to school, and play with friends. In front of the cenotaph in such a peaceful country, I paid my deepest respect to my great-grandfather's brothers.

I don't have the strength to preserve peace yet, but I can pray for peace and remember the tragedy that happened about 80 years ago.

And I will live in a peaceful Japan without war.

## War and the Atomic Bomb

**Harahigashi Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Moa Maeda**

War is when people kill and hurt each other. I think it's a terrible thing, where you could die or lose loved ones.

Atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th and Nagasaki on August 9th. Approximately 501,787 people were affected by the atomic bomb. It is said that the temperature on the ground immediately after the explosion was approximately 300,000 degrees. It is said that the center of the explosion 1 million degrees. It seems that the cause of death was the blast, heat rays, and radiation. Even if you were lucky enough to survive, the bomb was so powerful that it would leave you with severe burns and permanent injuries. All buildings could only be charred like the Atomic Bomb Dome.

When my father was a student, he went to the Hiroshima Peace Museum on a school trip. They looked at wartime documents and wax dolls, and were reminded of the horrors of war and the atomic bomb. After hearing this story, I thought, "War is not just someone else's problem."

So, what can we do to prevent this from happening again?

What we can do now is to pass on stories about this bomb and war, and to convey the horror of war and the terrible damage caused by atomic bombs. I think the best thing to do is for everyone to reaffirm that war is a terrible thing, where people hurt and kill each other, and to create a peaceful world where there will be no more wars in the future.

But there's a problem. The number of people who can talk about what happened about the atomic bomb is decreasing rapidly. Given that the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan approximately 78 years ago, it is natural that fewer people can talk about what happened then. That's why I think it's important to take the initiative to learn more about what happened at that time, and to take action to pass it on to others while there is someone who can tell you the details of that time.

# Why Wars Happen

**Nagaisaki Elementary and Junior High School,  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Raian Hiyoshi**

Now that the invasion of Ukraine is occurring, it can be said that a serious problem has arisen. Such wars need to be resolved quickly; we need to reach reconciliation.

Why do humans go to war?

This is because the problem has developed into a problem that cannot be solved with words.

Ukraine originally wanted to join NATO, but Russia could not stand it and prevented President Zelenskyy to do so, using force.

Russia, ranked as the second strongest military power, means that Ukraine, ranked 16<sup>th</sup> is no match for her. Moreover, Russia possesses nuclear arms, making it even stronger. However, there are reports that the Ukrainian side will step up its counterattack. I don't think fighting back is a good option either.

“Can't war be eradicated?”

I'm sure some people will say this, but as long as humans have the emotion of anger, war cannot be eradicated.

People absolutely turn any new inventions that they can into weapons. One example is hydrogen. Hydrogen was discovered by Henry Cavendish in 1766 and Tsar Bomba was created in 1960.

There were others, too. I can't write them all down.

The inventors of the world today will regret it greatly when they see inventions used for weapons. I don't think humanity needs anything more.

If humans seek more than what we have, they will end up creating stronger weapons. It is possible to temporarily stop war. However, war may break out somewhere again. However, if the day comes when all countries and people achieve true peace, I keep waiting for the day when we can all sing together.

# Connected Lives

**Daiichi Junior High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Honoka Hando**

I often go to my grandfather's house. Once a month, I have lunch with my family and grandparents. I sometimes play with my younger sister, such as drawing pictures. I was playing with my sister in the room where the Buddhist altar was. Then, for some reason, my eyes met two photos hanging on the wall. One photo is of a woman and the other is a man. When