

Bookfolio for Valley of the Broken Cherry Trees

Author: [Lensey Namioka](#)

First Publication Date: 1980

Publisher: Delacorte

ISBN: 0385291078

Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Historical Fiction](#)

MultiCulture: Asian American

Story Summary: Zenta and Matsuzo are unemployed samurai in sixteenth-century Japan. They arrive at a country inn, hoping to enjoy the magnificent cherry blossoms and the hospitality of the innkeeper and his family whom Zenta had saved from warring soldiers two years earlier. When they learn that someone has been mutilating the revered cherry trees, the samurai become determined to uncover the culprit. Very soon, however, Zenta and Matsuzo find themselves embroiled in the violence and treachery between Lord Ohmori and his feudal overlord, Lord Kawai. After a series of adventures, they are finally able to save Lord Kawai from assassination and reconcile the overlord with his troubled son, Torazo.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 3 (pages 28-41)

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

Valley of the Broken Cherry Trees - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Historian and Storyteller (Examining facts in historical fiction)	R , W
2. Words in Cherry Blossom (Identifying words unique to setting)	D , R , S
3. Zenta Shares His Past (Creating a dialogue between two characters)	S , W
4. Japanese Theater Traditions (Dramatizing a story event)	R , W
5. The Samurai Method (Researching a topic)	R , S , W
6. Japan (Making a map)	D , R
Valley of the Broken Cherry Trees - Group Activities	Skills
1. A Good Storyteller (Discussing story elements)	L , S
2. An Exciting Table of Contents (Writing chapter titles)	S , W
3. Two Years Later (Writing a new chapter)	D , S , W
4. A View of the Valley (Making a diorama)	D
5. Products of Japan (Making a collage)	D , R
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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