

Bookfolio for **A Jar of Dreams**

Author: [Yoshiko Uchida](#)

First Publication Date: 1981

Publisher: Atheneum

ISBN: 0689502109

Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Realistic Fiction](#)

MultiCulture: Asian American

Story Summary: Life is difficult for the Tsujimura family living in California during the Great Depression. Because they are Japanese, they are discriminated against, ridiculed, and their family business is threatened. When her older brother, Cal, thinks about abandoning his dream because he doubts that anyone would hire a Japanese engineer, eleven-year-old Rinko begins to feel a sense of hopelessness about her future. Aunt Waka, visiting from Japan, inspires each family member to find the strength and hope to go on. Papa recaptures his pride and realizes his life-long dream of running his own business. By understanding what makes Waka so special, Rinko learns to like herself, thereby gaining the confidence to pursue her own dreams.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 4

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

A Jar of Dreams - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Dear Brothers! (Writing a letter)	W
2. The Red Balloon (Drawing a picture)	D
3. Photographs and Memories (Conducting an interview)	L , S
4. Life During the Great Depression (Writing a report)	R , S , W
5. A Taste of Japan (Making a menu)	D , R , W
6. The Melting Pot (Making a chart)	R , W
A Jar of Dreams - Group Activities	Skills
1. Notes from the Heart (Writing a note)	W
2. Rinko's Kimono (Presenting a Readers Theatre)	L , S
3. A New Way (Writing an advertisement)	D , W
4. Sayonara (Writing a poem)	D , S , W
5. The Dream Comes True (Planning a trip)	R , S , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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