

Scene 3: Yuki and Fred Korematsu

Setting: 2 Desks...facing the audience – one with Yuki seated, one with Fred Korematsu, they read letters from one another.

Costume Notes: Yuki should dress like an older woman – consider white powder in her hair and a shawl. Fred Korematsu is elderly at this date. A vest, powder in the hair, a cane?

Character: This short scene brings a conclusion to the story – and needs good acting as they read the letters with expression and *in character!*

Sign is “walked across”

Years have passed....1982

Fred Korematsu: I wonder who this is from? (He looks at an envelope and letter)

January 3, 1982

Dear Mr. Korematsu, My name is Yuki Sakane, I was in the Topaz Internment Camp nearly forty years ago, at the same time as you and your family. I knew about your bravery and how you stood up for what you believed in. When our family returned to Oakland after four years in Topaz, we began studying the Bill of Rights in school. My father took me to the library when I didn't understand the meaning of “due process”, as it was written in the Fifth Amendment. I read that you had a case against the government at that time. Our class had our own “mock trial”, before you had lost your case in the Supreme Court. I'm proud to report that our class Supreme Court Justices were very bright! They found that the government was wrong to put the Japanese in internment camps...that due process rights had been violated!

I hope you get this letter Mr. Korematsu; I have always wanted to tell you how much I have admired your courage for standing up for what you believed in, even though it was not easy.

Sincerely yours,

Yuki Sakane

Fred Korematsu: Another letter! (He looks at an envelope and letter)

March 10, 1983

Dear Mr. Korematsu, I don't know if you received my last letter, but I could not resist writing to you again! I'm so pleased to hear that your case has been reopened! I'm thinking of you and sending positive thoughts your way.

Sincerely yours,

Yuki Sakane

Yuki: (She looks at an envelope and letter)

November 15, 1983

Dear Ms. Sakane, Thank you for your kind notes, I have appreciated your words, even though I have not wanted to talk much about my past over the years. I have good news! The court has ruled in my favor! The internment orders were declared unconstitutional. The judge said that this case should stand as a caution that even in times of war, we must be very careful about protecting our Constitutional guarantees. You have probably already heard this on the news Ms. Sakane, but I wanted to write you personally, and thank you for the notes you have written to me.

Sincerely,

Fred Korematsu

Yuki: Wow! A letter from Fred Korematsu!

Fred Korematsu: (Hel looks at an envelope and letter)

November 17, 1983

Dear Mr. Korematsu, I am thrilled to have received a letter from you and will treasure it forever! I just wish the judge could have been around to rule on the mock trial in my fifth grade class ~ we had it right all along! Just like the judge said, all three branches of our government, the legislative, executive and judicial, must protect all citizens from fears and prejudices. Congratulations to you, Mr. Korematsu!

Sincerely yours,

Yuki Sakane

Fred Korematsu: She was a smart girl!

Fred Korematsu: (Hel looks at an envelope and letter)

October 1, 1993

Dear Mr. Korematsu, It has been ten years since I have written to you! I just heard on the news that President Clinton awarded you the nation's highest civilian award, The Presidential Medal of Freedom! Congratulations, and thank you for representing over 120,000 Japanese Americans who were denied their rights so many years ago! I personally will put a frame around my own copy of the Title I – Recognition of Injustice and Apology on Behalf of the Nation!

Sincerely yours,

Yuki Sakane

Yuki: (She looks at an envelope and letter)

Dear Ms. Sakane, Thank you, for your congratulations! I am pleased to have received the apology and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I love my country, as I am sure you do. I hope you will teach your children, and they will teach their children this important message: We must all **stand up for what is right!**

Sincerely,

Fred Korematsu

THE END