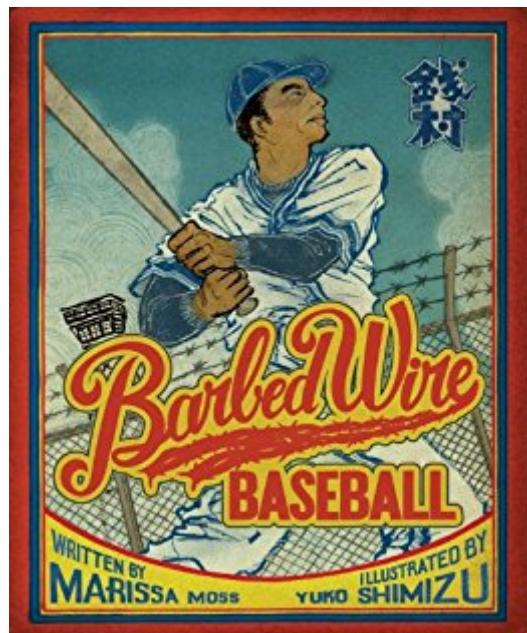


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# Barbed Wire Baseball



## **Synopsis**

As a boy, Kenichi Zeni Zenimura dreams of playing professional baseball, but everyone tells him he is too small. Yet he grows up to be a successful player, playing with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig! When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in 1941, Zeni and his family are sent to one of ten internment camps where more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry are imprisoned without trials. Zeni brings the game of baseball to the camp, along with a sense of hope. This true story, set in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, introduces children to a little-discussed part of American history through Marissa Moss's rich text and Yuko Shimizu's beautiful illustrations. The book includes author and illustrator notes, archival photographs, and a bibliography.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 17608 KB

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## **Customer Reviews**

Colorful illustrations and photographs adorn this story of one of baseball's greats ( who is still relatively unknown today). Sentences to years in an internment camp in the desert simply for being Japanese, this US citizen creates a baseball diamond and organizes a league. Inspiring.

It meant a lot for my family since our roots go back to the Fresno area, as well as I still have family there. They know the descendants of the family. In its picture/ storyl form, it is an excellent way to

expose the yonsei and gosei families of their Japanese-American heritage.

Fabulous story about a time in American history that is just not taught in schools.

Excellent book for kids. Just enough info about war time without giving them too much info. My son enjoyed it very much

I like how he built an baseball field out of nothing! also like the baseball part as well. Amazing!!!

My nephew enjoyed the bookÃ¢Â" being a baseball fan.

This is a book based on a true story. Kenichi Zenimura was a player in the Nisei league and then Pearl Harbor happened. He like many others of Japanese descent was sent to internment camps. He worked hard at creating an excellent baseball diamond in the camp where he could still play his beloved game. The illustrations are well done colour drawings and there are facts in the back and a few photos of the real Zeni. There is also a bibliography page that would give you ideas for more reading on this subject. This is a book designed for ages 6 to 10, but younger would appreciate it being read to them and older would gain too from the facts and spirit presented in its pages.

This is a beautiful book about an important time in American history. As much as I love my country, the United States has done plenty of awful things over the years. This book takes a look at one of those things, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. But I really liked the positive way that Zeni chose to face this serious injustice. Zeni, a young Japanese American fell in love with baseball the first time he saw it played. And despite his small size and his parents discouragement, he chose to keep playing. He even had the opportunity to play ball with Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth (one of my favorite parts is seeing the photograph of the five-foot Zeni dwarfed by Gehrig and Ruth in a photo in the end notes). But his skill and popularity did not save him when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. But he refused to let the unfairness of his imprisonment to stop him from playing baseball. With the help of his sons, and other prisoners, Zeni built a baseball stadium. It's admirable that they found a source of hope in the midst of the challenges they faced. With this type of book, I always appreciate notes by the author and/or illustrator explaining why they did things they way they did and what they did to fill in some of the blanks.

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