Task

Write a section (to fit at the bottom of p.194) from Hatsue’s point of view as she arrives at Manzanar and reflects on her recent experiences. Include her thoughts and feelings about the war, her relationship with Ishmael, the FBI raid and the internment. You should create Hatsue’s voice, capturing Guterson’s use of form, structure and language and building on the novelist’s presentation of character.

The main aims of the task are:

- to use an appropriate style of writing and a narrative viewpoint to show your understanding of character and of the writer’s ways of shaping meaning and influencing the reader
- to create a voice for Hatsue consistent with Guterson’s
- to show your understanding of the structure of the novel by throwing new light on characters and events
- to reshape specific events to demonstrate your understanding of theme and point of view
- to show your understanding of the historical context in which Guterson places his characters and his reasons for choosing this subject and period for his novel.

Establishing Hatsue’s voice

- Guterson gives us Hatsue’s voice directly in dialogue. Some examples are on pp.153-4, 175-7, 181-2, 185 and 201-3.
- Hatsue’s voice from this period of her life is revealed in her letter to Ishmael, the text of which is on pp.310-11.
- Hatsue’s point of view is used at times, for example on p.172, 177-180 and 186-9. On these pages her feelings are reported in ways which can help you find a tone.

Understanding Hatsue’s feelings

- Her attitude to Ishmael - pp.84-5, 97-8, 162-4 and 180-2.
- Her last sight of Ishmael - p.189.
- What else can Hatsue reasonably know about Ishmael and his family that might colour her judgement of him?
- Her attitude to Mrs. Shigemura - pp.72-4, 153.
- Her attitude to her mother - p.174-8, 201-4.
- How does she feel about the FBI raid?
- How does she feel about the journey to Manzanar and about the camp itself? What can Hatsue reasonably know about these events? What does Guterson imply about her feelings and attitude through use of contrast?

Guterson’s technique

Which of Guterson’s symbols from the novel can you reuse to show understanding?

Finding the voice

Look at pp.178-180. What techniques does Guterson use in this passage to create Hatsue’s point of view?