



1-26-1943

## Evelyn Shimizu Autobiography, January 26, 1943

Evelyn Shimizu

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Evelyn Shimizu  
English 10 B Period I  
January 26, 1943

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### My Autobiography

I made my appearance into this world on the night of December 7, 1926 in Florin, a little town in the Sacramento County, in California. I received the name of Fumiko Shimizu but later added my English name, Evelyn. I am one of the nine children brought into the world by my mother of which there are now eight left.

My early years were spent in Florin, where my father was farming. I must have been spoiled because I usually had everything my way. Mama and daddy speak only the Japanese language and are believers of Buddha. My dad is now an invalid. I played with the kids in the neighborhood. One year when fall came along I had to quit playing and go to school. I hated to go to school and when my sisters left me with the teacher, I cried. I must have been dumb because I had to repeat the first grade twice, although it had not done much good. When I was about eight years old I stayed out of school for five weeks with scarlet fever. I went along successfully without any mishap for the next four years.

I had the most fun during the sixth grade. Since there were only three girls in the sixth grade we went around together. We acted as if we were the best people in the school and had many secrets. The family moved to Lodi and I went to Needham School. I was the only Japanese American in my homeroom class. After several months in Lodi we moved to Acampo where I attended Houston School. It was at Houston School that I completed my elementary schooling at the age of fourteen. I must have studied too hard because my eyes got bad and I had to start wearing glasses or could it be that I looked at the boys too much. I like sports but since I have a weak ankle I have not been very active in sports.

Of the many ways of amusement, I like listening to the radio best. I enjoy listening to such programs as Truth or Consequence, Quiz kids, Hit Parade, and Henry Aldrich. I go to see moving pictures about once a month. To me, reading is the best way to occupy my leisure time.

I spent most of the summer vacations at home, doing all the house cleaning and around-the-house chores. It was my job to cook the meals and do the family washings, because the older ones went out working. I have never traveled much if not at all.

Pearl Harbor came on my fifteenth birthday. Evacuation orders came and the Japanese Americans had to move with the parents. I had hoped to go to the center in Sacramento but



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I landed in the Stockton center. During my stay in Stockton I have never ridden a car nor have I been outside the center. We got the orders to relocate, sometime during the month of September. I left for the Rohwer Relocation Center on October 5. The train trip was my first train ride and I enjoyed it. We went through Nevada, Colorado, Utah, Kansas, Oklahoma, and entered Arkansas. I thought that Colorado was the prettiest state we crossed. We came into Rohwer about four o'clock on the fifth day. In the Relocation Center which is my home for the duration I am facing a new kind of life and I think that I would enjoy it very much.