



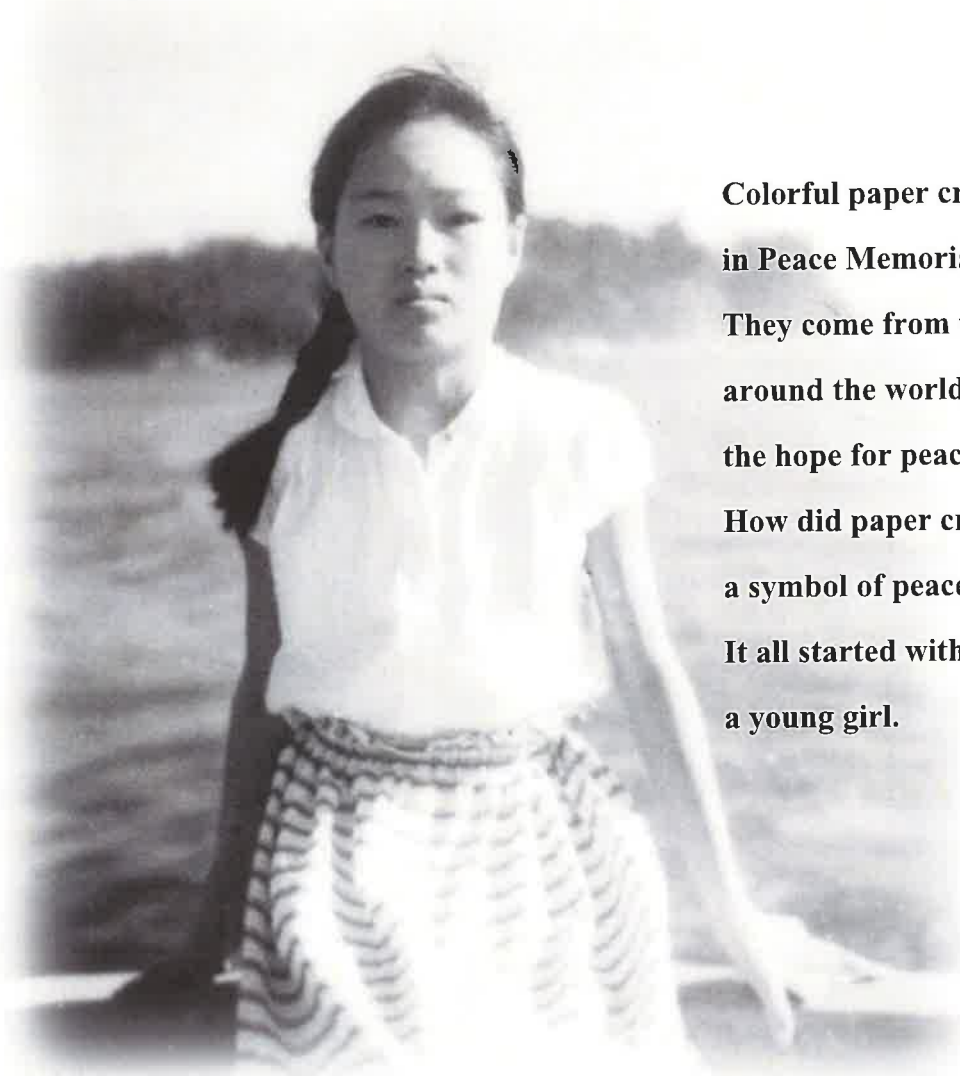
# Sadako and Paper Cranes

Hope riding on the wings of cranes

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum



# A young girl of Hiroshima



Colorful paper cranes hang  
in Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.  
They come from various countries  
around the world, each carrying  
the hope for peace of the person who folded it.  
How did paper cranes become  
a symbol of peace?  
It all started with the death of  
a young girl.

Date of photo unknown / Courtesy of Kiyo Okura

In January 1943, a little girl named Sadako was born into the Sasaki family, owners of the Sasaki Barber Shop in Hiroshima. Her parents hoped she would grow up a healthy child. Soon after her birth, her father joined the army. The war intruded relentlessly into people's lives.



**Sadako's family**  
(In the center, baby Sadako is held by her mother.)  
1943 / Kusunoki-cho

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

# The Atomic Bombing

At 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945,  
an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

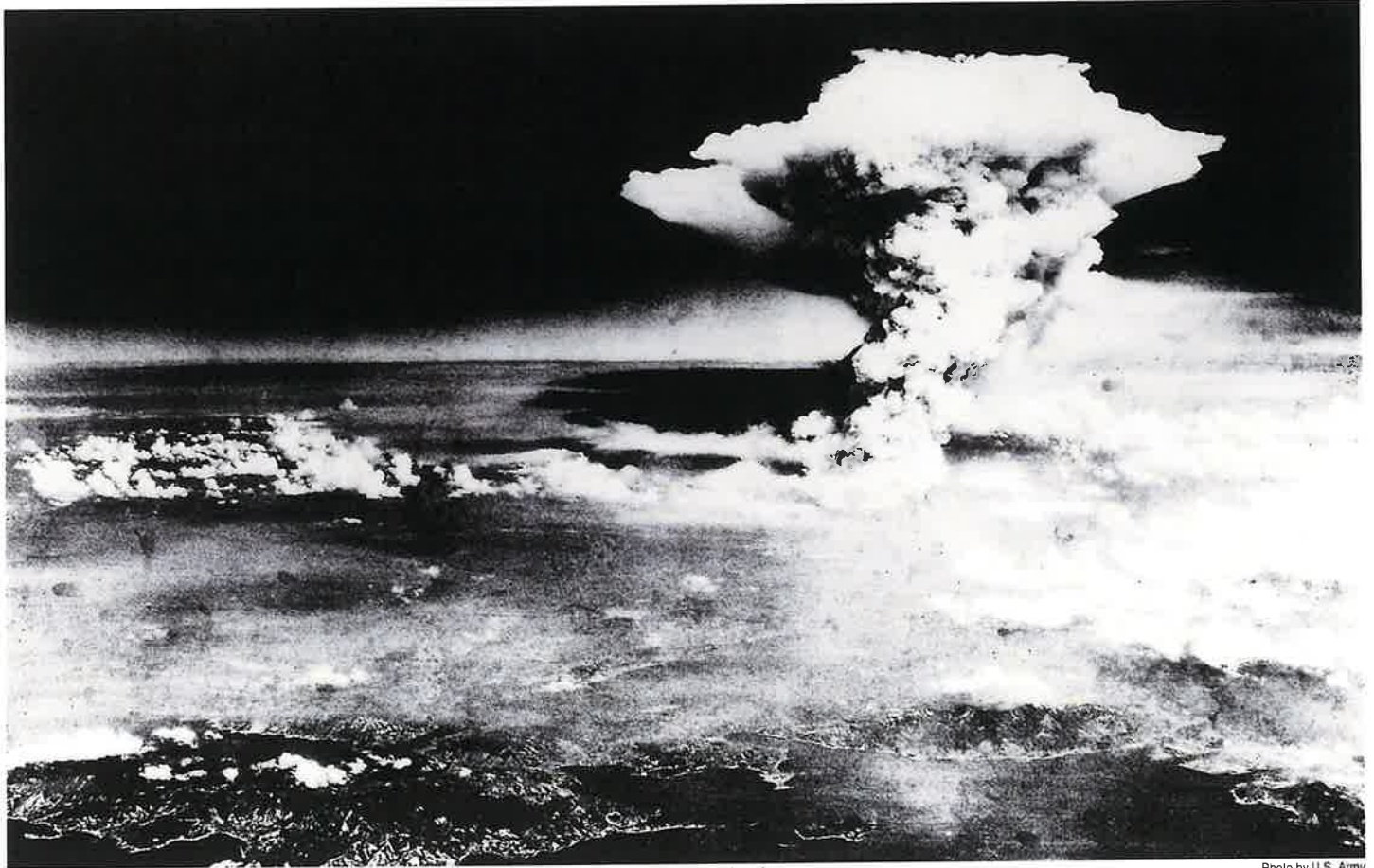


Photo by U.S. Army

**Mushroom cloud**  
August 6, 1945

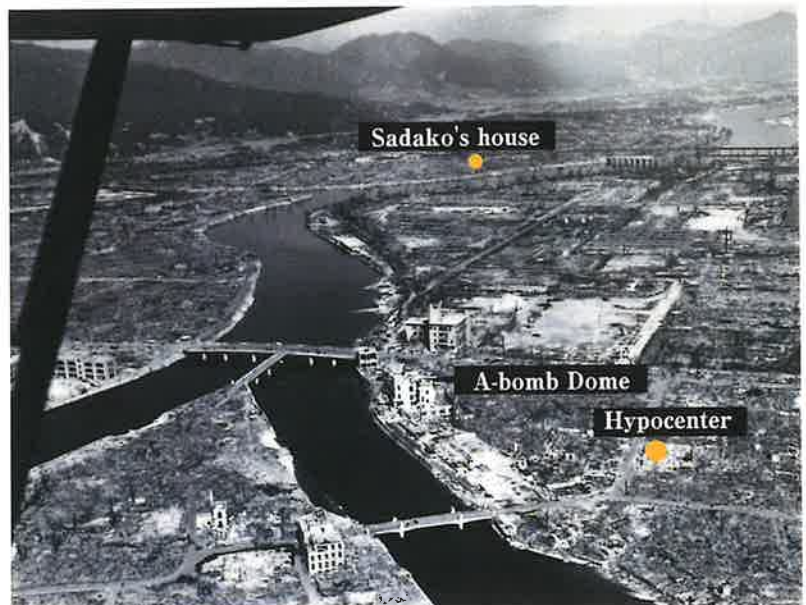
An estimated 350,000 people were in the city when it was destroyed by a single atomic bomb. By the end of December that year, roughly 140,000 people had died from that bombing. Sadako was two years old.



**An area near Sadako's house engulfed in flames**  
(A-bomb Drawing by a Survivor)

August 6, 1945 / Kusunoki-cho / Drawn by Toshiaki Matsumoto

The blast blew Sadako out of the house, but she was neither burned nor injured. Flames rose quickly in the area. Mrs. Sasaki hoisted her daughter on her back, grabbed her son by the hand, and fled. On the way they encountered black rain filled with soot and dust, which left black spots on Sadako's shirt. No one knew that the rain was radioactive.



**Hiroshima reduced to a burnt plain**

Early October 1945 / Sadako's house was 1.7 km (1.1 miles) from the hypocenter

Courtesy of Brad M. Austin

The atomic bomb is a weapon that utilizes a nuclear chain reaction to release an enormous amount of energy instantaneously. The explosion generated a fierce heat ray, massive radiation, and a tremendous blast. The complex interaction of these effects magnified the damage.

## Heat ray

The heat ray came from a giant fireball that formed in the air at the moment of explosion, inflicting terrible damage on everything in the area—people, buildings, plants, and animals. Lumber and trees within roughly 3 km (1.9 miles) of the hypocenter were burnt black. Anyone within roughly 1.2 km (0.75 miles) of the hypocenter who was exposed directly to the heat ray suffered deep burns, and most died. Wooden buildings burst into flame starting a fire that left an area with a radius of 2 km (1.2 miles) a scorched plain.



**Shadow of a handle on a gas tank**  
 Photo by U.S. Army  
 March or April 1946 / 2 km (1.2 miles) from the hypocenter / Hiroshima Gas Co. Hiroshima factory  
 The heat ray burned the coal tar in the paint applied to the surface of the gas tank. The unburned part shielded by the handle retains the original black color.

## Radiation

Massive radiation penetrated deep into human bodies and destroyed cells, which caused various kinds of disorders. No previous bombing had emitted radiation. Even if they escaped other injury, most people within 1 km (0.62 miles) of the hypocenter died. Years later, radiation caused increases in leukemia and other cancers.



**Soldier with "spots of death"**  
 Photo by Gonichi Kimura / Courtesy of Association of Hiroshima A-Bomb Photographers  
 September 3, 1945 /  
 Ujina Branch of Hiroshima First Army Hospital

This 21-year-old soldier was exposed within 1 km (0.62 miles) of the hypocenter. His hair fell out, his gums bled, and purple spots of subcutaneous bleeding appeared. He developed a fever and had difficulty swallowing liquids. He died at 9:30 p.m. the day this photo was taken.

## Blast

At the moment of explosion, the heat from the fireball greatly expanded the air around it, generating a tremendous blast. Even 500 m (546 yards) from the hypocenter, blast pressure was 19t (21 tons) per square meter (10.76 square feet), strong enough to blow people through the air and crush buildings. Many people were trapped under collapsed buildings and burned alive.



**The Aioi Bridge sidewalk lifted**  
 Photo by Toshie Kawamoto / Courtesy of Association of Hiroshima A-Bomb Photographers  
 October 1945 / 300 m (328 yards) from the hypocenter

The Aioi Bridge was the target of the atomic bomb. The blast rebounded off the water surface and lifted the 30-centimeter (12-inch) thick concrete sidewalk.



## How destructive was the atomic bombing?

The destructive power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was equivalent to 16,000 metric tons (17,637 tons) of high-performance weapons-grade TNT.

The B-29 is a large bomber capable of multiple ordnance carriage used by the U.S. for air strikes during World War II. The single atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was roughly equivalent to the destructive power of 4,000 B-29's each dropping 4 t (4.4 tons) of high-performance TNT at the same time.



# Days of Peace

The war ended. In Hiroshima, rumor had it that "Nothing will grow for 75 years," yet shacks and other buildings began cropping up as people returned. Sadako's family reopened their barber shop.

Sadako was a vigorous, healthy child when she entered Nobori-cho Elementary School in April 1949.



**Sadako when she entered elementary school**  
April 1949

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

Japan's compulsory education system — In Japan every boy and girl reaching the age of six must receive nine years of compulsory education, six years of elementary school (*shogakko*) and three additional years of middle or junior high school (*chugakko*).



**Members of Sadako's class relay team**  
(Sadako is in the middle of the front row.)  
October 1954 / Nobori-cho Elementary School

Photo by Tsuyoshi Nomura /  
Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

In the sixth grade, Sadako was 135 cm (4 feet 4 inches) tall and weighed 27 kg (59.5 pounds). She was on the lean side but healthy and energetic. An outstandingly fast runner, she was chosen to anchor the Bamboo Class relay team for the intramural competition on the school's field day. That fall, she began to look a little pale, but Sadako didn't worry about her health.



## Field days at Japanese elementary schools

Japanese elementary schools hold field days in which students participate in various athletic competitions and games. They are a kind of school-wide Olympics with a strong recreational focus. Families show up to cheer the children on in obstacle races, tugs-of-war, and dances performed by entire grades. Fathers and mothers can participate in certain events. A perennial favorite is the relay race, which usually tops off the day.



# Never entered junior high school

At the end of November during her sixth grade year, Sadako developed lumps on her neck and behind her ear. Her face swelled as if she had the mumps. The family thought it was a light cold, but the swelling refused to recede. She went to a couple of clinics for thorough testing and was diagnosed as leukemia. The doctor informed her father, "She has a year at the most. She must be admitted to hospital right away."

In February 1955, Sadako entered Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital.



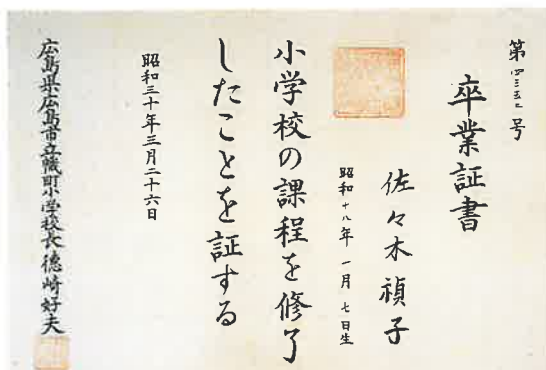
Fall 1954

Courtesy of Kiyo Okura



Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital  
1939 (at time of completion)

Courtesy of Hiroshima Red Cross - A-bomb Hospital



Elementary school graduation certificate

Donated by Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

[Certification that Sadako completed elementary school]



Sadako at the hospital with visiting classmates  
1955 / Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital

Photo by Tsuyoshi Nomura

When her classmates learned that Sadako was in the hospital, they took turns visiting her. After the sixth grade graduation ceremony, Sadako was promoted to junior high along with the others, but was never to attend school again.

# Paper cranes folded with hope



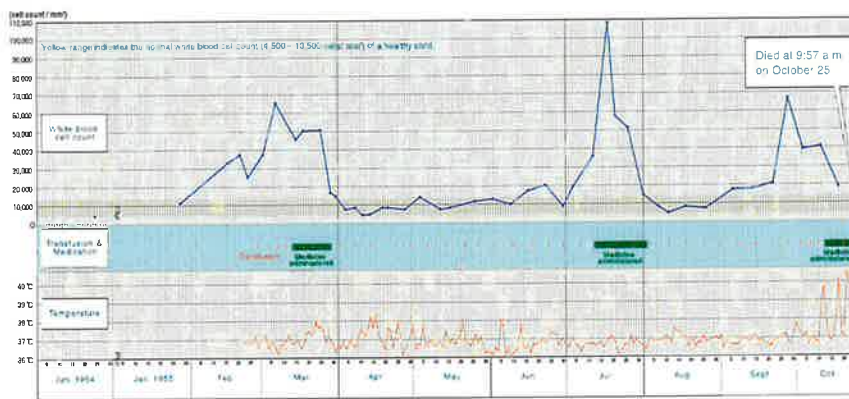
Donated by Hiromi Sorada and Masako Hataba

Paper cranes folded by Sadako

As the disease progressed, Sadako developed purple spots on both legs. In August, multi-colored paper cranes sent by high-school students in Nagoya arrived at the hospital as get-well gifts to the patients. This inspired Sadako to begin folding them herself, so that, "I can get well soon."

She folded over 1,000 paper cranes.

Nevertheless, her condition worsened until she could no longer walk on her own. On the morning of October 25, 1955, surrounded by her family, Sadako died. She was 12 years old.



Four thousand paper cranes delivered to patients — paper cranes folded with whole-hearted sympathy by members of the youth Red Cross to console and encourage patients suffering from A-bomb-related disorders arrived at Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital.

Paper cranes delivered to the hospital

August 3, 1955 / Chugoku Shimbun morning edition



Newspaper articles reporting Sadako's death

October 25, 1955 / Chugoku Shimbun evening edition (right)  
Sadako — 14th casualty of A-bomb disease

Symptoms appeared last fall  
October 26, 1955 / Yomiuri Shimbun morning edition (left)  
Girl dies of A-bomb disease



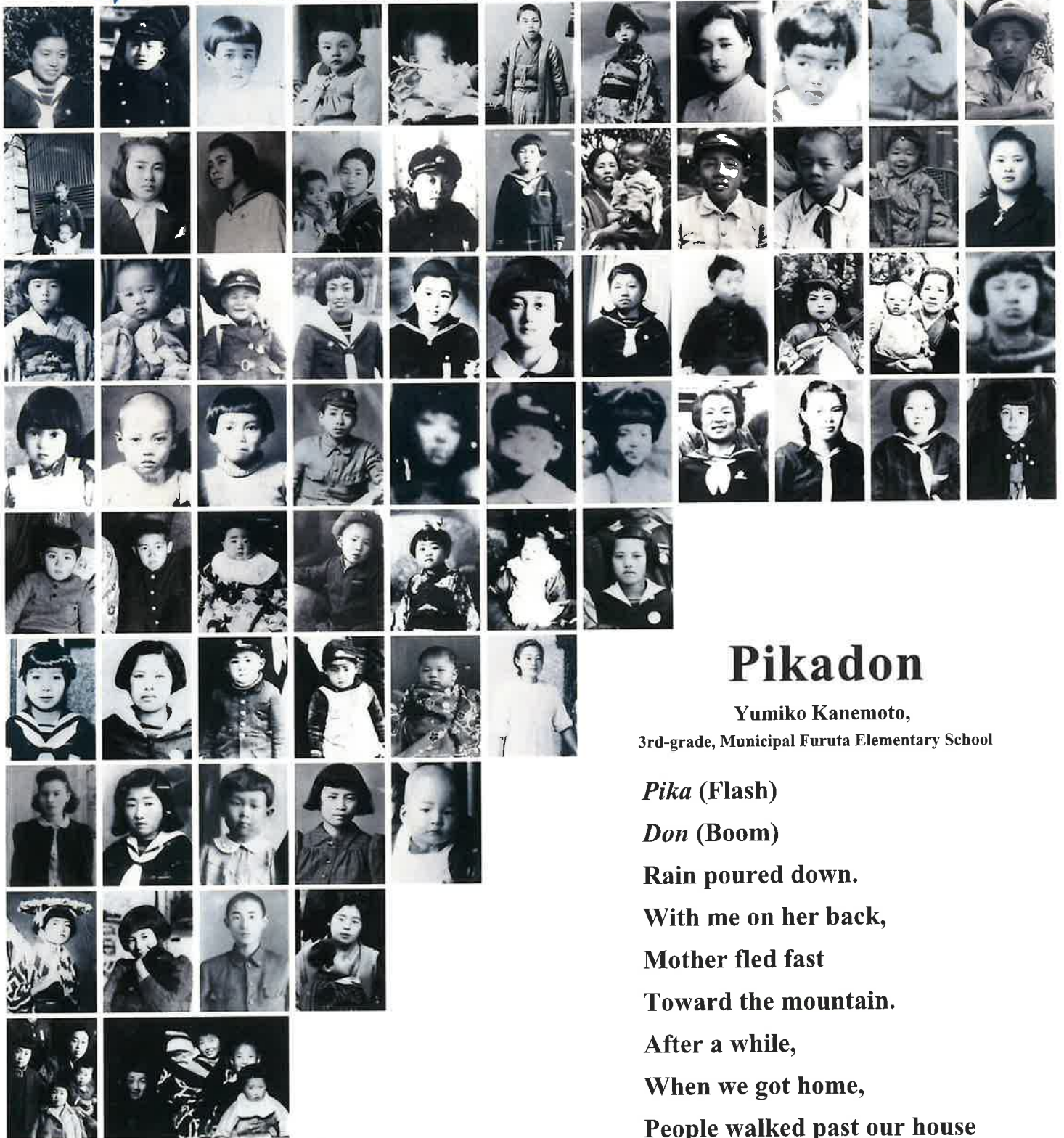
## Sadako's white-blood-cell count, temperature, and treatment methods

Sadako received repeated transfusions of healthy blood. To prevent endless proliferation of her white blood cells, she was given a newly developed oral medicine. For a number of days prior to her death, she ran a fever of 40°C (104°F).

**Sadako was not the only child who perished due to effects from the atomic bombing...**



# Children under the mushroom cloud



Photos of some of the many children who died because of the atomic bombing  
Loaned by Kanji Yamasaki

## Pikadon

Yumiko Kanemoto,

3rd-grade, Municipal Furuta Elementary School

*Pika* (Flash)

*Don* (Boom)

Rain poured down.

With me on her back,

Mother fled fast

Toward the mountain.

After a while,

When we got home,

People walked past our house

Looking like ghosts and ghouls.

"Water! Water!" they said.

Mother gave them all water.

From the poem collection *Genbakugumo no Shita yori* (Under the Mushroom Cloud) (Aoki Shoten)



On the morning of August 6th, children, as usual, were doing their best for their country at war. Many of them died under the mushroom cloud.



**Students working at the Hiroshima Army Depot**  
1943

Courtesy of Hiroshima City

Near the war's end in 1945, deprived of summer vacation, students in junior high school and above were sent out to work on building demolition or serve as workers in munitions plants.



**Raising pigs in the schoolyard**  
1945 / Nobori-cho Elementary School

Courtesy of Hiroko Yamanoue

To compensate for food shortages, even schoolyards were turned into vegetable gardens and pens for pigs and other domestic animals. Children tended the gardens and the animals.



**Students helping with building demolition**  
(A-bomb Drawing by a Survivor)  
1945 / Takeya-cho / Drawn by Yoshio Hamada

To prevent the spread of fire from air attack in the densely packed city center, buildings were torn down and cleared away to make firebreaks. Students in junior high and above were mobilized to assist these projects. Their assignments placed them outside that day and exposed them directly to the bombing. Of approximately 8,400 children working on building demolition that day, about 6,300 died.



**Children leaving the city in a mass evacuation**  
April 1945 / Hakushima Elementary School

To spare them from air-raids, children from the third to sixth grades in elementary school departed in school units to stay at temples and inns in outlying farm villages. Many of those children were orphaned by the atomic bombing. Estimates of the number of A-bomb orphans range widely from 2,000 to 6,500.



**Lunch box**  
600 m (656 yards) from the hypocenter /  
Nakajima-shin-machi (now, Nakajima-cho)

Donated by Shigeo Orimen

Shigeru Orimen (then, 13), a first-year student at Second Hiroshima Prefectural Junior High School was exposed while demolishing buildings. His mother searched for him throughout the destroyed city. Finally, on the morning of August 9, she found his corpse crouched on top of the lunch box he still clutched. That morning, Shigeru had left home happily with a lunch of rice mixed with the first soybeans from the garden he himself had tilled. The lunch he never ate was burnt completely black.



**Shigeru Orimen**  
Provided by Akio Orimen  
through the cooperation  
of Chugoku Shimbum



**Tricycle**  
1.5 km (0.93 miles) from the hypocenter / Higashi-hakushima-cho

Donated by Nobuo Tetsutani

Shinichi Tetsutani (then, 3 years and 11 months) was exposed while riding his tricycle in front of his house. Burnt over his entire body, he groaned, "Water! Water!" and died that evening. Loathe to cremate Shinichi's already burned body, his father buried the little boy together with his tricycle in the backyard. Forty years later, he unearthed the boy's remains and the tricycle, placing the former in the family grave and donating the latter to the Peace Memorial Museum. Michiko, his seven-year-old sister who holds Shinichi's hand in the photo, also died in the bombing.



**Shinichi and Michiko Tetsutani**  
New Year's Day 1944  
Courtesy of  
Nobuo Tetsutani



**Summer uniform**  
800 m (875 yards) from the hypocenter / Dohashi area

Donated by Sadao Oshita

Nobuko Oshita (then, 13), a first-year student at First Hiroshima Prefectural Girls High School, was exposed while demolishing buildings. A rescue squad carried her back to her home. Struggling to breathe, she told her parents what had happened and asked for water. She died late that night. Nobuko sewed this summer uniform herself.



**Nobuko Oshita**  
March 1945  
Courtesy of  
Sadao Oshita



Badge of First  
Hiroshima Prefectural  
Girls High School

Long after the atomic explosion, children were still being hurt by it. Radiation kept eating at their bodies from the inside.



Photo by Shunkichi Kikuchi /  
Courtesy of Harumi Tago

**Brother and sister who lost their hair**  
October 6, 1945 / Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital

This girl (then, 11) and her brother (then, 9) were exposed at Funairi-cho, which was 1 km (0.62 miles) from the hypocenter. About two months later, their hair began falling out. Though neither had suffered burns nor injuries from the bombing, they developed various symptoms, including fever, diarrhea, vomiting blood, epilation, and subcutaneous bleeding. Many children died this way.



Courtesy of Chugoku Shimibun

**Microcephalic child and her mother**  
1965

Some pregnant mothers who were exposed to the bombing gave birth to stillborn infants. Others gave birth to children with microcephaly, a condition characterized by an abnormally small head. Because of cognitive impairment, people with microcephaly often require help with daily life tasks.

Around five or six years after the atomic bombing, leukemia incidence began to rise. Leukemia is called "cancer of the blood" because the white blood cells transmute into cancer cells that proliferate endlessly in the blood. Symptoms include swollen lymph glands, fever, anemia, and bruises from subcutaneous hemorrhaging. Leukemia usually results in death. Leukemia incidence was positively correlated with proximity to the hypocenter and the youth of the victim. Sadako, too, was a victim of leukemia.

**恵美子ちゃん昇天**  
二次放射能 幼い命も狙う



**Newspaper articles reporting deaths of children**

- October 6, 1954 / Chugoku Shimibun morning edition (middle)  
*Takao's sudden death in the midst of field day fun*
- Before operation, 11th victim this year of A-bomb disease without even seeing his father  
October 26, 1955 / Chugoku Shimibun morning edition (upper right)  
*A-bomb damage penetrated to bones*
- 13th ill-fated victim  
Yoshie-chan exposed at 8 months old  
October 25, 1956 / Chugoku Shimibun evening edition (lower right)
- Child dies longing for his father  
Hirota-kun dead of A-bomb-induced leukemia  
August 10, 1956 / Chugoku Shimibun morning edition (left)  
*Cause: Black rain?*
- Emiko-chan goes to heaven  
Secondary radiation steals young life



# Enjoying herself at school

She was a fast runner who didn't like having her picture taken. You may know a girl like that yourself. How did the people who knew Sadako see her?



**Cultivating unity through relay racing**  
(Sadako, on her mark, is third from the front.)  
1954 / Nobori-cho Elementary School

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

**Mr. Nomura, our teacher, taught us the importance of perseverance and unity. Looking back, no class I was ever in later got along as well as the Bamboos. That was the best class I was ever in.** (Nobuhiko Jigo)

All the practicing bore fruit when the Bamboos won the fall field day relay.

For their fall excursion that year, the Bamboo Class went to Miyajima Island and climbed Mt. Misen. Fleet-footed Sadako raced her classmates and reached the top at the head of the girls' pack. She happily and loudly announced, "That was fun, but now I'm hungry," which made them double up with laughter.



**Fall school excursion**  
(Sadako is on the right end of the second row.)  
Fall 1954 / Miyajima Island

Courtesy of Tomiko Kawano

# Receiving her first dress-up kimono as she enters the hospital

When we gave her that first dress-up kimono, she cried, "Mother, you shouldn't have done this."

I told her, "Here, put it on," and Sadako happily complied, wiping her tears. (from her mother's contribution to *Kokeshi*, a collection of memories of Sadako)



Sadako wearing a special kimono  
March 1955 / Nobori-cho Elementary School

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

When Sadako's parents knew that leukemia would soon steal their daughter away, her mother bought kimono fabric with a cherry-blossom pattern and made her a dress-up kimono she had never worn before. They wanted to do something to make her happy.



Donated by Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

Sadako's zori (dress-up sandals) and drawstring purse

Sadako's family bought these items when they bought the kimono fabric.



## Traditional Japanese kimono

The kimono is a traditional Japanese garment with wide sleeves and a skirt that reaches to the ankles. These days, people rarely wear them in daily life, but they are often worn on special occasions such as weddings and coming-of-age ceremonies. They are typically made of silk or cotton. Some are made of dyed fabric; some have a design painted on white cloth. Particularly fine kimonos are embellished by fancy stitching. Gaily colored dress-up kimonos are quite expensive, and every girl wants her own.

You can imagine how Sadako felt as she slipped her arm through the sleeve.



Sadako's Bamboo Classmates

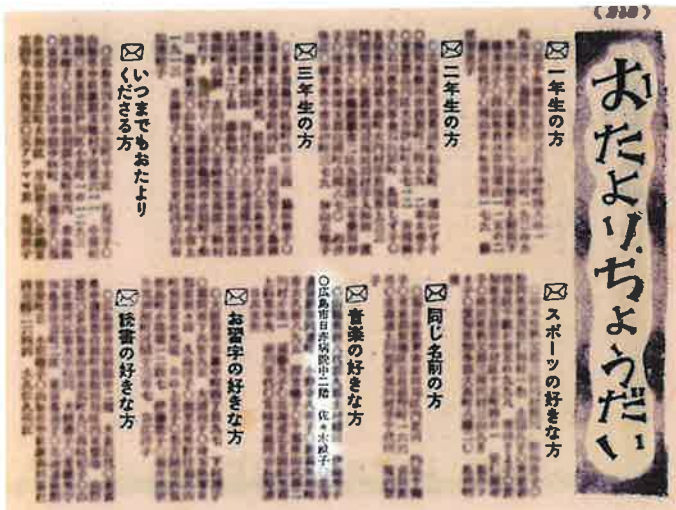
1954 / in front of the nearly completed Peace Memorial Museum (from the graduation album of the Bamboo Class)

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

I was distraught. "Why Sadako?" I was so upset I went to visit her many times. The one month period between the day Sadako was hospitalized and the day of our graduation felt like an eternity. (Tomiko Kawano, classmate)

When Mr. Nomura told the class that Sadako had "A-bomb disease," some began to cry. "Let's all go visit Sadako!" To keep her from losing heart, they all promised not to talk about her disease.

# Send me a letter Sadako Sasaki



Sadako's posting ; *Jogakusei no Tomo (Girls' Companion)* / Published by Shogakukan  
1955

Under the subcategory "Music Lovers" in the *Send me a letter* section, Sadako had sent in her contact information as follows: Sadako Sasaki, Red Cross Hospital, Second Floor, Hiroshima City.



Cover page ; *Jogakusei no Tomo (Girls' Companion)* / Published by Shogakukan

In May, about three months after she was hospitalized, Sadako was moved to a double room. Her new roommate, Kiyo Okura, was two years older. Under Kiyo's influence, Sadako read novels, solicited penpals in girls' magazines, and began corresponding with various people. Her interest in the wider world was growing.



Didn't like having her picture taken?  
Summer 1955 / Moto-machi

Courtesy of Kiyo Okura

Photos taken of Sadako during her twelfth year all show the same expression. When it faced a camera, the usually smiling face turned rigid. This photo is of Sadako and her brother.



## What kinds of magazines did young people read?

After World War II, paper shortages made publishing a magazine quite difficult. Even so, various magazines for boys and girls quickly hit the stores. Some offered exciting adventure stories, others presented bittersweet serialized novels for girls.

This period also saw a conspicuous rise in popularity of *Manga* (comic books). In the comic books, young heroines who had been well-behaved by that time started to depart on solo adventures.



- ① Shojo Kurabu ; Girls' Club
- ② Yonen Kurabu ; Kids' Club
- ③ Shonen ; Boys
- ④ Manga O ; Comic King

# Facing Death



**Sadako and her roommate Kiyo**  
Summer 1955 / Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital

Courtesy of Kiyo Okura

**When I hugged Sadako, I was surprised by how bony her shoulders were. That's when I thought, "She must know what kind of illness she has."** (Kiyo Okura, roommate)

In July, a five-year-old girl at the hospital named Yuki died of leukemia. On her face were spots like the ones Sadako had on her legs. At the sight, Sadako whispered to Kiyo, "Am I going to die like that?"

It hurt so badly when they pumped blood into my arm. The doctor said if you don't hurt a little when you're sick you won't get well. I don't mind the pain if it means I can get well quick because I might get to go to your house during spring break. But if the doctor tells me to stay a little longer, I might not get to go.

(letter by Sadako thought to have been written to a penpal—from *Kakeshi*, a collection of memories of Sadako)

**By October, her left leg was so swollen, the pain must have been unbearable. She refused injections to stop the pain believing that they would retard her healing. She was absolutely determined to get well.** (Yoshie Yamaguchi, nurse)

Sadako bore up under painful injections. Up till her death, she rarely complained of pain. But when Yuki-chan died, she tearfully whispered to the nurse, "It's my turn next, isn't it?"



**Nurses in charge of Sadako**

Date of photo unknown / Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital

Courtesy of Yoshie Yamaguchi

# Hopes entrusted to paper cranes



Paper cranes hanging in the hospital room  
1957 / Hiroshima A-bomb Hospital

Photo by Yuichiro Sasaki /  
Courtesy of Yugo Sasaki

With plenty of time on her hands, Sadako folded dozens of paper cranes each day. Paper was precious in those days. To get it, Sadako went around to other patients' rooms and asked for the paper from their get-well presents. She cut it to the right size and made them into paper cranes. (Kiyo Okura)



Donated by Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

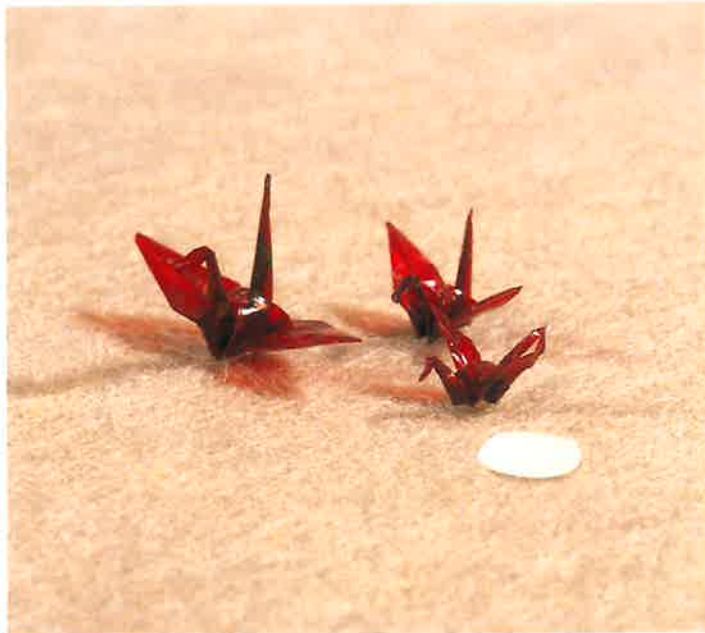
### Empty candy box containing paper cranes

Sadako kept her finished paper cranes in an empty candy box.

Sadako threw herself so avidly into the task that we had to warn her, "If you push yourself too hard it could hurt your health."

She continued right on, saying, "Don't worry, I have a plan." Her zeal for the task showed how much she wanted to live, which was painful to see. (Sadako's father)

Around the time she completed 1,000 cranes, they got much smaller. Now she was using a needle to form the folds, making one crane after another with a fervent demeanor much like a prayer. No longer was she concerned about the number. She was simply folding to stay alive.



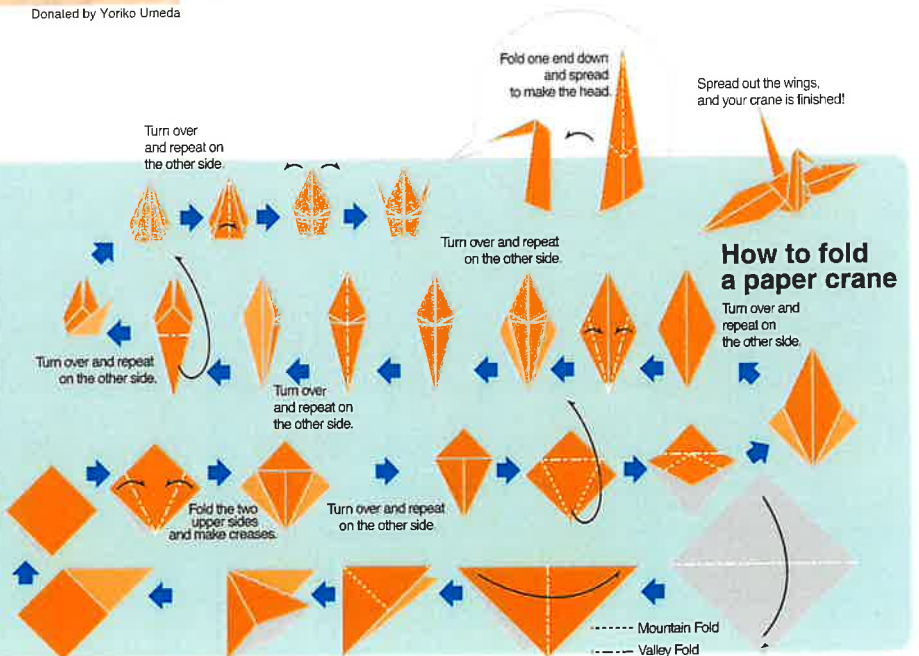
Tiny paper cranes (lying in front is a grain of rice)

Donated by Yoriko Umeda



## Thousand Cranes Legend

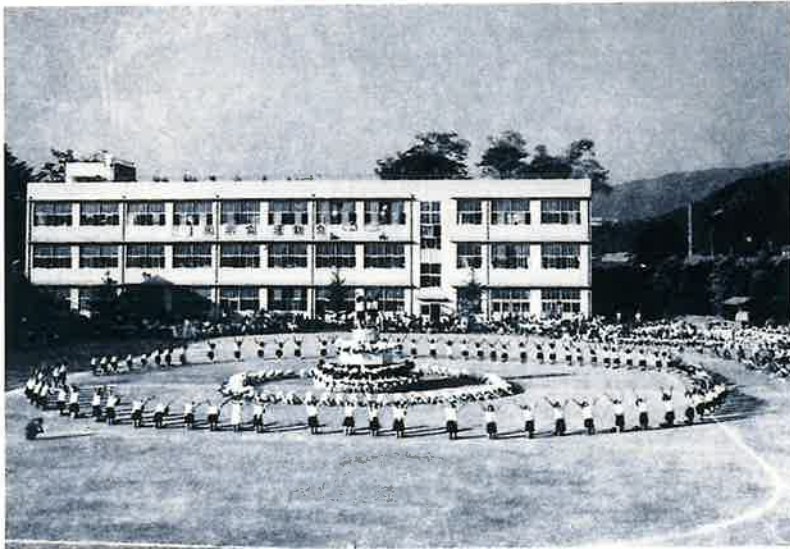
*Senbazuru* (1,000 paper cranes) refers to strands of folded cranes made from *origami* paper. For centuries the Japanese have considered cranes a holy bird that brings good luck because they were believed to live 1,000 years. The custom was to fold paper cranes while making a certain wish. The origins of this oral tradition are unclear, but the connection between paper cranes and the number "1,000" was explained in a book written during the *Edo* period (1603-1867). It is thought that the *senbazuru* concept originated at about that time, so the idea is quite old.



Unfold the triangle and fold it into a small square.  
Turn over and repeat on the other side.



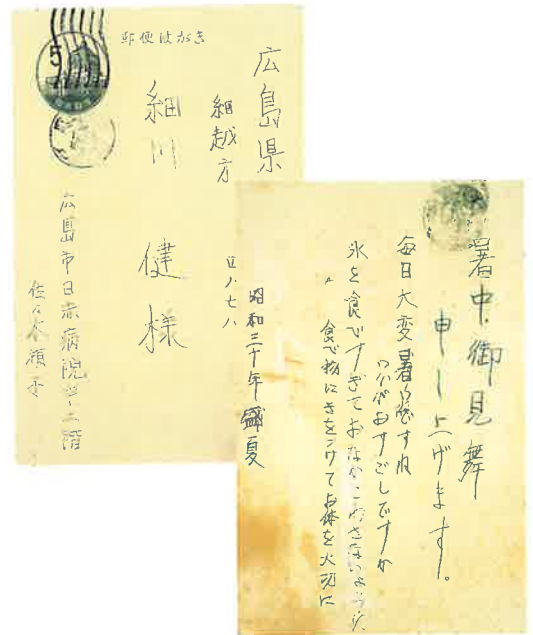
# Anything to make her happy



**Field day at junior high school**  
1957 / Nobori-cho Junior High School (from Nobori-cho Junior High School graduation album)

Courtesy of Nobuhiko Jigo

Even as a child I believed that we must never talk to Sadako about fun things that happened at the school that she would never attend. We weren't supposed to speak of her illness either. At a loss for what to talk about with a dying person, all we could do was climb up on the hospital roof and watch the sunset with her. (Shizuko Mizuno, classmate)



Donated by Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

## Summer greeting card sent by Sadako to a friend

It's hot every day, isn't it? How are you doing? Don't give yourself a stomachache by eating too much shaved ice. Please be careful what you eat and guard your health.



**Sadako and her mother**  
1955

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

Wanting to make her as happy as possible, whenever she was allowed out of the hospital, Sadako's parents did their best to take her on pleasurable outings to the sea, the Children's Cultural Center, etc.

**"I'm a bad daughter. I'm using up so much money being sick." When I remember Sadako saying those words, I feel my heart will break. Back when she was sick, if we had had a juicer—which was impossible because it was too expensive—we could have given her better nutrition even after she lost her appetite. It is unbearably sad.** (Sadako's father)

By fall, her deteriorating condition was obvious. One evening at the hospital, Sadako told her mother, "You'd better hurry back home." But Mrs. Sasaki could see the tears glistening in her daughter's eyes and collapsed in tears herself. "Sadako-chan, how can I leave while you're crying?"

# Her last words, "Thank you"



**Sadako sleeping in her coffin**  
October 26, 1955 / Shinko-ji Temple

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masahiro Sasaki

Her left leg turned reddish-purple and swelled so terribly that the pain kept Sadako from sleeping. The morning of October 25, the family was told to gather in her room. When Mr. Sasaki urged Sadako to eat something, she said, "I want to eat *ochazuke*." Someone rushed out to a nearby restaurant and brought back a bowl of boiled rice. Sadako took a spoonful and said, "It's good." She took another bite and said, "Thank you." Then, as if going to sleep, she breathed her last.

She had been in the hospital for eight months.

※A light Japanese dish made by simply pouring hot green tea or hot water over a bowl of boiled rice.

# The sadness and regret of those left behind

28日 白 37400 赤 30000 血 10000	29日 白 16100 赤 31200 血 10000	28日 白 7800 赤 30000 血 6000	9日 白 9800 赤 39300 血 7800
27日 白 21200 赤 10000 血 10000	4月7日 白 7500 赤 31500 血 6500	5月4日 白 14000 赤 42000 血 7200	16日 白 17200 赤 34100 血 6500
26日 白 37000 赤 30200 血 7000	8日 白 24000 赤 10000 血 4000	9日 白 7200 赤 32000 血 13000	23日 白 20200 赤 42000 血 5700
25日 白 30200 赤 20000 血 8000	11日 白 4000 赤 10000 血 10000	14日 白 20000 赤 40000 血 10000	30日 白 8000 赤 30000 血 10000
24日 白 5000 赤 30000 血 10000	14日 白 4800 赤 32000 血 12000	21日 白 11000 赤 40000 血 7000	7月4日 白 1900 赤 3000 血 3000
23日 白 4000 赤 30000 血 10000	18日 白 4000 赤 30000 血 10000	11日 白 10000 赤 40000 血 7000	
22日 白 4000 赤 30000 血 10000	21日 白 2000 赤 30000 血 10000	20日 白 2000 赤 40000 血 7000	
21日 白 4000 赤 30000 血 10000	18日 白 4000 赤 30000 血 10000	18日 白 7800 赤 30000 血 10000	

Sadako's sickbed record, discovered later

Donated by Shigeo Sasaki

When Sadako's bed was cleaned up after her death, a piece of paper recording blood test results was found. Though Sadako had never heard the name of her disease from hospital staff, family, or friends, she evidently understood that she had a disease of the blood.

When we went to visit, our purpose was to cheer her up, enliven her spirits. Later, when we learned that they had found notes recording her blood tests, I was stunned. If Sasaki knew she was going to die all along, what was our cover-up for? (Nobuhiko Jigo)

From February 21 (when she was admitted) to July 4, Sadako penciled the results of her blood tests (white blood cells, red blood cells, and hemoglobin) on paper.

What sorrow for parents to be preceded in death by their child. What anguish to be too poor to do everything possible for her. Why did she have to die ten years after the war? The Sasaki's hearts were assailed by impotent grief.



Sadako's family offering paper cranes to the monument  
August 6, 1956 / Peace Memorial Park

Courtesy of Chugoku Shimbun

# Something we can do



"We should have visited her more often. We should have done more for her." Stung by remorse, Sadako's elementary-school classmates began gathering almost daily after her funeral. "Isn't there something we can do? Like make her a grave or a monument?"

**Classmates gathered at the Sasaki home**

Date of photo unknown

Courtesy of Shigeo and Masanori Sasaki



**Distributing leaflets in front of the conference auditorium**

November 12, 1955 / Hiroshima City Auditorium

Courtesy of Tomiko Kawano

Someone suggested that Sadako's classmates build a monument to mourn their friend and all the other children who died because of the atomic bombing. Just at that time, the National Junior High School Principals Conference was having their annual meeting, so the group stood in front of the auditorium and distributed to the principals leaflets calling for a movement to build a monument.

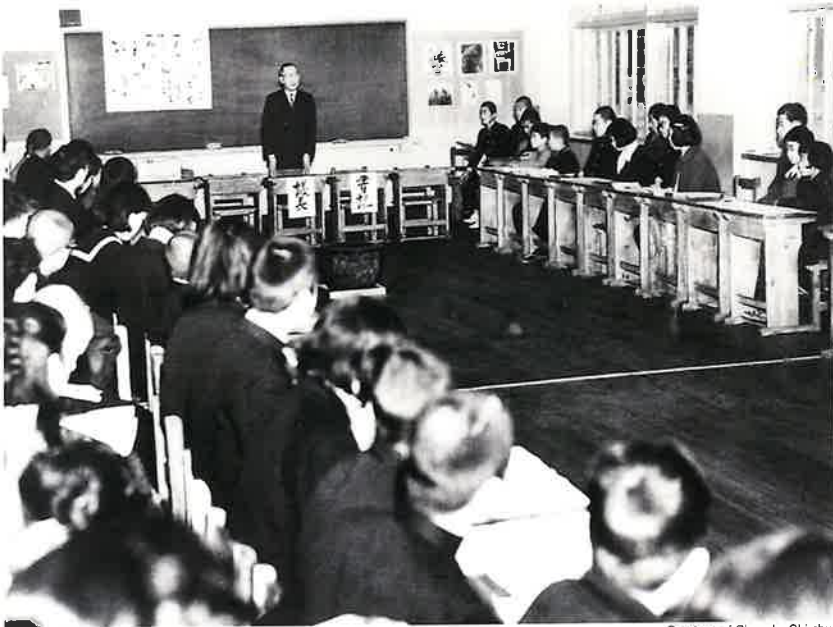


## Leaflet calling for a monument

Donated by Kiyoshi Yamamoto

We feel terribly sad for Sadako, who died cursing the A-bomb . . . at least we wish to console the spirits of all the children who have died in the same way by building a statue for the children of the A-bomb. Please help us convey our appeal to friends at junior high schools all over the country and win their support. We want you, the principals to tell this message to junior high students. We came here especially to request this.

# Let's build a children's peace monument!



Children who started the movement

January 18, 1956 / Nobori-cho Junior High School

Courtesy of Chugoku Shimbum

Donations from all over Japan began pouring into Nobori-cho Junior High School. Amazed at the huge response, the school invited elementary, junior high, and high schools in Hiroshima City to use the construction of the monument as an opportunity to think about the atomic bombing and peace. This call led to the establishment of a student organization comprised of representatives from these schools.



Street-corner fund-raising

April 8, 1956 / in front of Fukuya Department Store

Courtesy of Chugoku Shimbum

The fund-raising campaign went into full gear when a letter asking for donations was sent to every school in Japan. The campaign progressed smoothly, with group members helping to promote it by appearing in newspaper and radio interviews.

Written on the flier was: Let us build with our own hands a children's peace monument to mourn the pupils and students who perished because of the atomic bombing.

# Completion of the Children's Peace Monument



Unveiling ceremony of the Children's Peace Monument  
May 5, 1958 / Peace Memorial Park

Courtesy of Chugoku Shimbun

Roughly two and a half years after the start of the movement to build the statue, the Children's Peace Monument was completed.

**This Is Our Cry**

**This Is Our Prayer**

**For Building Peace in This World.**

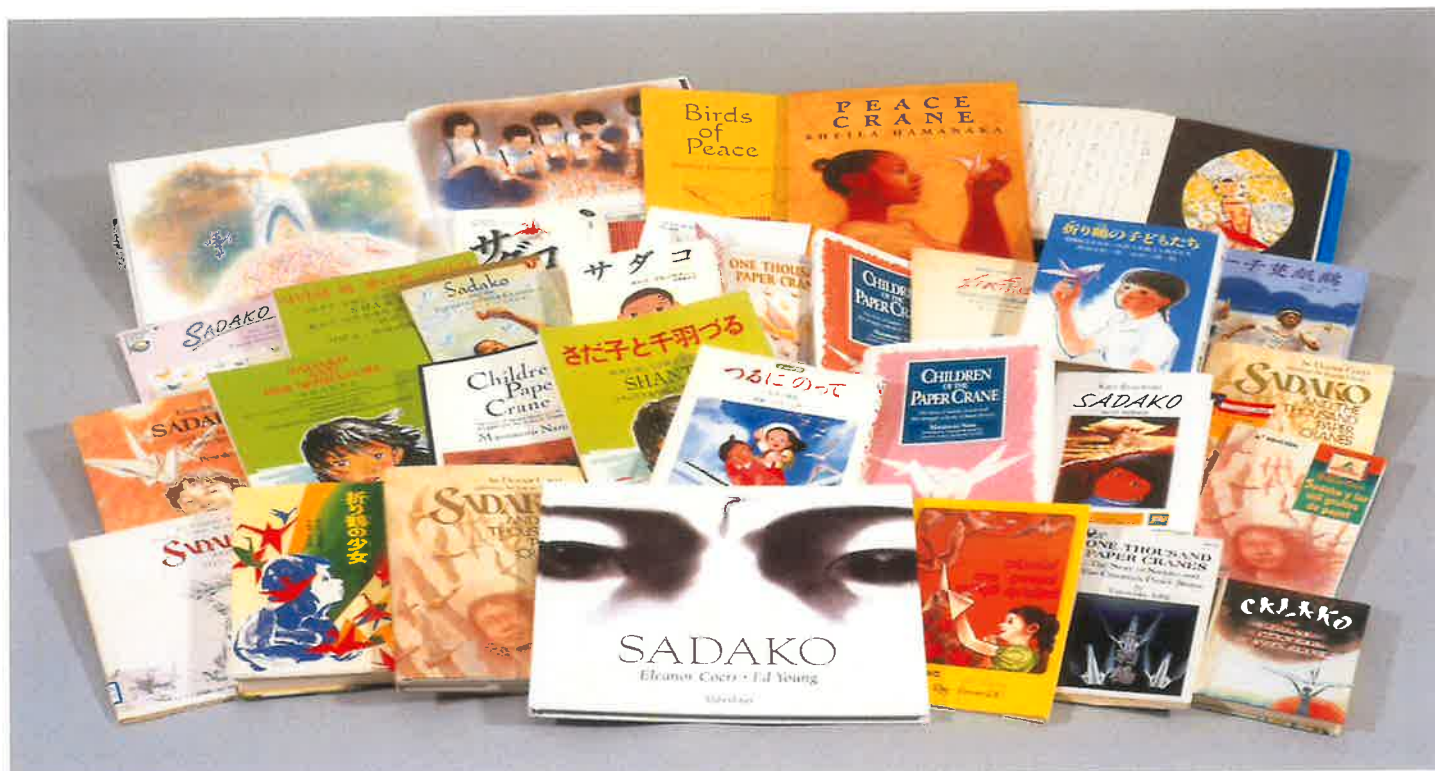
(from the inscription on the Children's Peace Monument)

**Countless paper cranes folded in hopes of peace are still sent from all around the world.**



# Sadako's story in books

Sadako Sasaki's story is spreading around the world as the tale of "Sadako and her paper cranes."



## Books published about "Sadako"

Books about Sadako: more than 20 in Japan; about 15 available in roughly 35 countries and regions



### Eleanor Coerr (1922-2010)

When Canadian children's author Eleanor Coerr saw A-bombed Hiroshima in ruins, she was distressed. She visited again ten years later and was moved to see the city restored and the Children's Peace Monument standing in Peace Memorial Park. She wrote *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (1977), which was published with high-quality illustrations in more than 18 English-speaking and Asian countries and regions. Over the years, countless children around the world have loved Coerr's book.



### Robert Junk (1913-1994)

A year after Sadako's death, Austrian journalist Robert Junk came to Hiroshima. Because many Austrian Jews had perished under the rule of Nazi Germany, Junk felt a special sympathy for the people of Hiroshima, who had also suffered a terrible fate. His report *Light in the Ruins* (1958), triggered the process by which Sadako Sasaki became known to the world as "Sadako."



### Karl Bruckner (1906-1982)

Austrian Karl Bruckner, a soldier during World War II, became a children's writer when he turned 40. His desire was that no children should ever again suffer from war. Touched by Sadako's fate, Bruckner wrote the novel *Sadako will leben* (1961) based on Junk's report. *Sadako will leben* won the Andersen Award, which is conferred on high-quality books for children. It was published in more than 24 countries and regions mostly in Europe and read by many people around the world.

# Sadako in Songs

Sadako's story is spreading not only through books but through animation, plays, and songs.



### CDs and sheet music related to Sadako

More than 10 songs have been written about Sadako in Japan. Other countries with songs about Sadako include Russia, Mongolia, the U.S.A., Australia, and Germany.



### Animated film ; *Tsuru ni Noite* (On a Paper Crane ; Tomoko's Adventure)

1993 / Produced by the Animation for Peace Society, which produces animated films about peace for children around the world

On a Paper Crane is available in Japanese, English, and French. Other animated films about Sadako have been made in the U.S.A.

Courtesy of the Animation for Peace Society



Courtesy of East Wing

### Song ; *Hiroshima no Shojo no Orizuru* (Paper Cranes of a Young Girl of Hiroshima)

Singer: Oyunaa (from Mongolia)

Even in Mongolia, there is a song about Sadako.



Donated by Seishi Toyota

### Film ; *Senbazuru* (One Thousand Paper Cranes)

1958 / Kyodo Eigasha,

produced by the Hiroshima Students' Association for Building Peace

Two films about Sadako are available in Japan.



### New Noh Play ; *Sadako-Genbaku no Ko* (Sadako-Child of the Atomic Bombing)

2002 / Produced by Masaki Domoto

A noh play about Sadako has been performed in Japan.

Noh: A form of musical dance-drama played on the theater stage whose origin dates back to the 14th century.

Courtesy of the New Noh Work Sadako Executive Committee



Courtesy of Osugi Musical Theater

### Musical ; *Hiroshima no Tori - Hiroshima no Isan - Sadako to Senbazuru* (Peace Cranes - Hiroshima Legacy - Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes)

1999 / Produced by Gert Westerhout

Two plays have been performed in Japan and more than six in other countries.





## **From Sadako to you**

**Sadako folded paper cranes out of an undying will to live.**

**She is one of the many who died because of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. Half a century has passed since her death. Even now, so many children in our world suffer from radiation effects, war, sickness, hunger, and other ills.**

**What can we do to make the world a place where no child is deprived of the life he or she was meant to live?**

**"Sadako," the image born from the life of a young girl named Sadako Sasaki, is traveling around the world. Now that you have read this, you are among those the image has touched.**

**Living fully, loving her family, showing kindness to others, caring about her friends, understanding the terror of war, longing for peace... Like Sadako, who lived with all her might and entrusted her hopes for the future to the paper cranes she folded, let us each start with what we can do.**