

Au Ka Kei 3A 22 March, 2007

Good morning everyone. I'm Xavier Au from Form 3. Already some Form 4 students have told you about some interesting English books to read, and today I'm going to share another excellent story with you.

The novel I want to tell you about is called *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, and its author is Eleanor Coerr. The novel is set in Hiroshima in Japan in 1954 and 1955. If you remember the terrible end to the war when an atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima. Thousands died instantly while many more died from radiation poisoning later.

The story is about Sadako and her family and friends. It is also about how the people of Hiroshima spend one day each year called Peace Day to pray for all those who died in 1945.

Sadako, the main character, is 11 years old and was only 2 years old when the bomb was dropped. She is a very talented runner and her dream is to get into her high school running team. However, she becomes very sick from leukemia, as a result of radiation poisoning 9 years before in 1945, and is unable to run any more. She spends all her days in hospital making paper cranes. She tries to make 1000 of them because she believes it will bring her good luck. You will have to read the book to see if she gets to her target. I have made 5 paper cranes. It was difficult. Here they are.

When you read this book, you will agree that war is always bad and hurts many innocent people like Sadako. You will feel sad that her life was so short. However, you will feel respectful for her courage and her will to live. You will feel happy about her warm and loving family too. You will also hope that one day all people in the world can live in peace.