



# Within These Lines

## By Stephanie Morrill

### Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



#### Pre-reading questions:

1. What do you know about the internment camps for Japanese-American citizens during World War II?
2. Do you know anyone (maybe an older person who lived in the 40s-60s) that was in a “forbidden love” relationship? What do you know about their experience?
3. When was the last time you received a hand-written note or letter? How did that feel different than a text, email, or other digital communication?

#### Post-reading questions:

1. Why were Taichi and Evalina hiding their relationship? Whose family do you think would have reacted more harshly, the Hamasakis or the Cassanos?
2. If you were friends with Taichi or Evalina, what advice would you give them about their relationship? What advice would you give after Taichi and his family are sent to Manzanar?
3. Imagine you were in Taichi’s shoes, and you were being forced to leave your home even though you had done nothing wrong. Would you have gone agreeably as the majority did? If you would have tried to fight this injustice, what are some things you might have done?
4. Looking back at this time, how does it make you feel to learn about such injustices as the internment camps? How do you think so many US citizens thought these practices were acceptable?
5. What role did you see media play in this story (radio, newspapers)? Compare the media coverage of the internment camps with the media coverage of a controversial story in modern times.
6. \*Spoiler alert\* Were you surprised by the epilogue? Did you expect Taichi and Evalina’s relationship to work out?

#### Post-reading Activities

1. Write a fanfiction prologue for Within These Lines revealing more details on the development of Taichi and Evalina’s relationship. Follow the guidelines for the Fan Fiction competition at <http://www.tomesociety.org/competitions.html> to enter your writing in the Tome Competition.
2. Write a fanfiction piece about one of the side characters in Within These Lines. Some ideas are Aiko and her life during college, Diego and his time as a prisoner of war, or James’ life before he came to Manzanar. Follow the guidelines to enter your writing into the Tome Fanfiction competition.
3. Create an infographic on the Japanese internment camps of World War II. Follow the guidelines to enter it into the Tome Infographic competition.

#### More About This Book

- FlipGrid Topic Link: <https://flipgrid.com/81f00817>
- Watch the official book trailer here: <https://youtu.be/SE9v9HbR6PQ>
- Check out the authors’ official websites at: [stephaniemorrill.com](http://stephaniemorrill.com)