

## Sample Timed Writing Prompt

### *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*

Bahrain School  
SY 2003/2004

After reading this book, think about a time you were under pressure to survive, or a time you experienced being bullied. A common saying is that *Whatever doesn't kill us makes us stronger*. Apply this saying to an event in your own life that made you stronger. Tell us the challenges you faced, and how those challenges caused you to grow up. Use specific examples of the challenges and the changes in your thinking and behavior that **SHOW** your readers that the hard times turned out for the best.

This is a timed writing period for a total of 45 minutes. It is important for you to learn to think and write under pressure. At the end of the 45 minute period, you will be expected to turn in your plans/prewriting and your first draft.

1. The essay format must include the following:
  - a. An **INTRODUCTION** with an interesting opening, explanation & thesis statement of your main idea,
  - b. **THREE BODY PARAGRAPHS** with a topic sentence, evidence, and specific examples of everything listed in the prompt, and
  - c. A **CONCLUSION** which wraps it up at the end.
2. Take ten minutes to plan what you want to write. You are encouraged to list, diagram, cluster, map or outline all possible main ideas and sub topics you might want to include in your writing.
3. Take the remaining time period to format your writing into paragraphs to tell your story. The reader knows there will be mistakes, scratch-outs, and erasure markings. This is fine because it will serve as a nice *rough draft* when you have more time to proofread and polish your work.

**NOTE:** Later, during this school year, I plan to revisit this book and pursue the following:

Write a scene where Ko, Hideyo and Yoko meet ten years later.