This is trauma literature

Beginning of the novel: Kagawa points out that there is a big issue in Canada

p.4: Everything in front of us

Addresses both the Japanese camps and aboriginal issues. Both were oppressed and mistreated. The Japs were involved in the fishing industry and had boats. These boats were later seized and the Japs had their ownership stripped from them. They never got these boats back. There is a lot of anger in Obasan.

Laws there were unabashedly based off of race were passed by Louis St. Laurent. He later became the prime minister of Canada.

Joy Kogawa’s Poem:

- The brackets represent an adult talking. It is the narrator’s point of view as an adult.

- Stephen – Kogawa’s brother – wants to assimilate and become westernized

Pg.40: “There are some indescribable items in the fridge that never see the light of day”

- Do you assimilate to the culture of the country you emigrate to or do you keep your culture?

Pg.70: “In earlier versions there were flight, terror, and pursuit”

- The dreams raises the issue of how people were treated. They were made to feel as animals, powerless, etc. Naomi was molested by Old Man Gower. She’s just a body to him and he can do whatever he want.

Pg.246 – 247: “It was a terrible business.. its like being offered a pair of crutches…”

The barkers come to visit Obasan. Ice breaker questions that create awareness of ice were asking about the Japs going back to Japan.