Teaching KAMISHIBAI

Youth Arts New York – Hibakusha Stories

The Story of Yasuaki Yamashita
“PAPER THEATER”

A kamishibai is a form of storytelling with a narrator, illustrated cards and text.
AN ANCIENT ART

Its earliest origins were with Buddhist monks in the 8th century.
HOW TO MAKE A KAMISHIBAI IN 7 STEPS
STEP 1. LISTEN

Listen to the testimony of an A-bomb survivor
2. TELL THE STORY

Choose 9 to 12 episodes that define the person’s life’s experiences.

1. This *kamishibai* tells the story of Shigeko Sasamori. It was created by students in Jennifer Brown and Jennifer Deal's art classes at Broken Arrow High School.
3. MAKE IT SIMPLE

Write one or two sentences representing each episode

5. One minute Yasuaki was happy and carefree and the next everything changed. At 11:02 the wind roared and debris flew everywhere.
4. DECIDE

Decide who will print out the text and who will create the drawings.
5. WRITE

Create the text boards
6. ILLUSTRATE

Create the illustration boards
7. FINISH

Assemble and appreciate your collective creation

For more information see: Kamishibai Defined: A Core Topic of Modern Japan, Hoover Institution Library and Archives