

Block 4
Barrack No. 60
Poston, Arizona
May 25, 1942

My dear Miss Taylor, Miss Thomas and Schoolmates, (ahem!) cough! cough!

I knew that you didn't know that I was going to write to you. It's kind of silly but I can't help it. Look at Miss Taylor, she knows.

I hope all of you are o.k. because, it's like hell out here, anyway that's the truth. The trip over was all right. The soldiers treated us o.k. but just as soon as we reached here we were disappointed. As far as for treatment they treat us fine, but it's hot, dusty, and the water tastes like clay. I wish I were back in Colton going to school and drinking that good ol' Colton water. Anybody from that vicinity would pay you 10 bucks for a gallon of it. I believe we have to go to school in the summertime. (precious as tires and sugar) Our wages here for working are approximately \$8.00 per month, .04 an hour.

Everybody and myself are lonesome. We're sure glad to receive a letter. I could tell you quite a bit of information but there's so much that I'd be writing all night. You can just take my words because it's really bad. I give a lot to be back in Colton. I'm not only talking for myself—but everybody would too. It's just not a place for small children, girls and old people. Several have already been killed by snakes and some have just died. It's pretty hard to find out about these things but I managed.

I'll appreciate it very much if you write (know it 'll take up some of your school time so try and make it take up the whole period so we'll be satisfied. Thanks and good luck.

Your schoolmate
Haruto Shimazu

Block 4
Barrack No 60
Poston, Arizona
June 6, 1942

Dear Miss Thomas,

I was very glad and also surprised to hear from you.

I was working for a while, in a kitchen for no pay. That was because I wasn't sixteen or over. At present, I'm not doing a thing except loafing in the heat.

School won't start until September but they're planning to have classes on handicraft, sewing and etc. for kids who want to do something during the summer. And about that Journal business, I believe I had enough of that at school. But seriously if I did keep a journal, I wouldn't want it to bring back memories of this place – ten years from now. Yes, we're allowed to have radios, in fact we have one in our apartment, but it's pretty hard to get certain stations because they're always interrupted by other stations.

As for my hobby, I don't know what to do. I could probably have supplies sent but at the rate of 4cents an hour, well, you know. I'm used to the water and I can stand the heat now, but there are some other things, mainly one thing that seems to be bothering me. (some of my other friends also)

The government wants to know if we would like to go back to Japan. If so they'd take us. I believe my parents and some of my friend's parents want to go, but my friends and I don't want to. So it stands. We don't know what to do about it, but if it comes right down to it I guess I'll have to separate from my parents.

I haven't seen this girl you've talked about. I've only become acquainted with girls and a few boys on my block.

A few nights ago I danced with a girl for the first time in my life (can you imagine it.) It really took nerve, but I did it. Since then I've been dancing like an old timer.

Things are being improved quite rapidly, except the dust and heat.

Sincerely,
A student,
Haruto Shimazu

P.S. Thanks for the self addressed envelope.

You saved almost an hour's wages.

Block 4
Barrack No 60
Poston, Arizona
July 24, 1942

Dear Miss Thomas,

I'm sorry I didn't answer sooner but there wasn't anything to write about hardly, but I decided it was about time to answer you.

Last Wednesday we had a combination dust, wind, rain and dirt storm. The wind tore the roofing off of several buildings, boy did it make a mess of everything. I went around looking for my Mom and Dad and I got all wet. While I was looking for them the wind blew me off the walk several times.

Yes, we have stores and movies. At least we have a movie once a week so we're satisfied. They are very old pictures but they're interesting.

I haven't been doing very much of anything. I made a glider and I broke that dud. I'm having a devil of a time trying to fix it. I've also been roasting and sweating in this hot, damp weather. But otherwise I'm not doing anything. Sometimes I do a little washing but as far as anything that has to do with schooling, nothing. Well, I guess I haven't anything to say so I guess I'll close.

Sincerely,

Haruto Shimazu

P.S.

I haven't heard from Miss Taylor since the beginning of vacation. I haven't received the class letter either.