

June 2009

Dear Parents,

Niagara University is pleased to inform you of Niagara Reads, an important program to introduce your son or daughter to the intellectual life of college. During the summer, all first-year students will be asked to read **When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka**. When the Emperor Was Divine is a touching novel about the internment of American citizens of Japanese descent during World War II. Otsuka's story focuses on one family, poignantly humanizing an unfortunate chapter in American history. Reading about the experiences of the mother, the father, and their two children enables readers to understand the deep and painful effects of discrimination.

Students who attend CARE sessions in July will receive **a copy of the book as a gift from the university**. Students unable to attend CARE but who live near campus may pick up their book in Student Affairs, O'Shea Hall, 1st floor, Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM or Fridays from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM. Students who do not live nearby may borrow a copy from a public library to read and then pick up their copy when they arrive on campus in August. **Students should finish reading the book by August 31, since they'll be discussing it in their NUS 102 class ("First-Year Niagara") early in the semester and writing a two-page response to the book.**

In conjunction with reading this book, we are pleased to announce that author Julie Otsuka will be speaking to the freshman class on Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 PM in the Gallagher Center. Students are also encouraged to enter the Niagara Reads [contest](#). We will be awarding three \$125 prizes.

We look forward to providing your son or daughter with this important opportunity to engage in reading, thinking, and discussing ideas in an academic setting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharon Green

Chair, Niagara Reads

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