



Heroes

By Ken Mochizuki



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From the author of *Baseball Saved Us* comes an intergenerational story that describes how a Japanese-American family deals with the painful legacy of war. Set against the backdrop of the 1960s and talk of Vietnam, it offers a universal message of dignity and courage to anyone who feels they are different. Full-color illustrations.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The creators of the estimable *Baseball Saved Us* move from a WWII setting to the Vietnam-era '60s with this affecting tale of a Japanese American boy. When Donnie plays war with his friends, he must represent the enemy-"because I looked like them." He hates always being the bad guy and wishes he could prove that his father and uncle both fought bravely in the U.S. army. They, however, are reluctant to come to his aid: "You kids should be playing something else besides war," says his dad. Once again Mochizuki and Lee adroitly focus kids' attention on a pervasive social problem by giving it an individual face; they make their points in an age-appropriate fashion, neither trivializing the issues nor condescending to their audience. Mochizuki captures his protagonist's hurt, confusion and pride-emotions capably matched by Lee's atmospheric artwork. Produced with the same technique here as in the earlier book-images scratched out of beeswax on paper-his burnished paintings exude the patina of age and the glint of hard-won experience. Ages 4-up. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 2⁺-4. As they did in *Baseball Saved Us* (1993), Mochizuki and Lee tell a moving picture-book story about a Japanese American child who is treated as the enemy in his own country. The time here is the 1960s; the Vietnam War is on. In the schoolyard war games, Donnie is always made to play the bad guy "because I looked like them." He begs his father and uncle to show the school that they fought in the U.S. Army during World War II. The strong, brown-shaded pictures show the pain of the outsider and his loneliness in the crowd. There's no glorification of war: even in the triumphant scene when the Japanese American soldiers reluctantly come out in their uniforms and medals, they have dignity but no bravado. *Hazel Rochman*

About the Author

Ken Mochizuki is the award-winning author of numerous books for children for LEE & LOW (see full list to the right). Mr. Mochizuki lives with his wife in Seattle, Washington, where he lives and teaches and writes children's books and gives presentations about his work full time.

Dom Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea, and received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. With his unique style of art combining techniques of painting and scratching details in encaustic wax, Lee has illustrated many award-winning picture books for children for LEE & LOW (see full list to the right). He lives with his wife and children in Demarest, New Jersey. To find out more about Dom Lee, visit www.domandk.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessica Davis:

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