**Viewing Worksheet for Memory of a Forgotten War**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Specific Experiences of Four Who Lived through the War** | |
| **HEEBOK KIM**  Originally from northern Korea, Heebok Kim recalls the hardships of living under Japanese colonial rule and her overwhelming joy when Korea achieved independence at the end of WWII. But her euphoria was short lived when Korea was immediately partitioned at the 38th parallel. Having moved to Seoul with her new husband, she was now separated from her family who remained in the North. North Korean soldiers killed her only brother and she soon joined the millions of internal refugees when she fled to the southern tip of the peninsula. There she lived with two children in a ‘hakkobang’, a cardboard hovel, for three years until the armistice was signed. |  |
| **KEE PARK**  Kee Park is the granddaughter of a wealthy landowner living in northern Korea before the country was partitioned. Her grandfather was stripped of his property when the North Korean leadership instituted land reform shortly after the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was established in 1948. Mrs. Park fled to the south with her family before the war broke out and was plunged into poverty and desperation when the fighting began. She lost her father to unknown causes and a sister to malnutrition. Her brother was spared starvation, ironically with the help of a man who had previously been a worker on her grandfather’s farm. |  |
| **MIN YONG LEE**  Min Yong Lee was a resident of Seoul, South Korea when the war broke out. Nine years old when the fighting commenced, he lost a brother to right wing youth who attacked people suspected of sympathizing with the North. Later, two older brothers and a sister went to the north leaving him in constant fear of being ostracized as a member of a ‘communist’ family. As a result, he turned inward, hiding his identity as best he could. After the war, his mother changed the official family registration wiping out all traces of his older siblings. Mr. Lee eventually immigrated to the United States in an effort to escape his pariah status in South Korea. |  |
| **SUNTAE CHUN**  Suntae Chun was a young teen from the city of Kaesong just south of the 38th parallel. The war began for him when bullets hit the waters where he and other members of his school’s swimming team were practicing on the morning of June 25, 1950. Through a terrible irony, he was separated from his family when Kaesong became the first site of the two-year long armistice negotiations. He had left his home in search of his father who, in turn, returned to Kaesong unbeknownst to him. The city was immediately cordoned off; residents could not leave and outsiders like him could not enter. Mr. Chun survived the remainder of the fighting as a child laborer by working on U.S. military bases. His life on the run left him with deep scars, some of which continue to haunt him today. |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **General Experiences During and After the War** | |
| **Soldiers** |  |
| **Civilians** |  |
| **Children** |  |