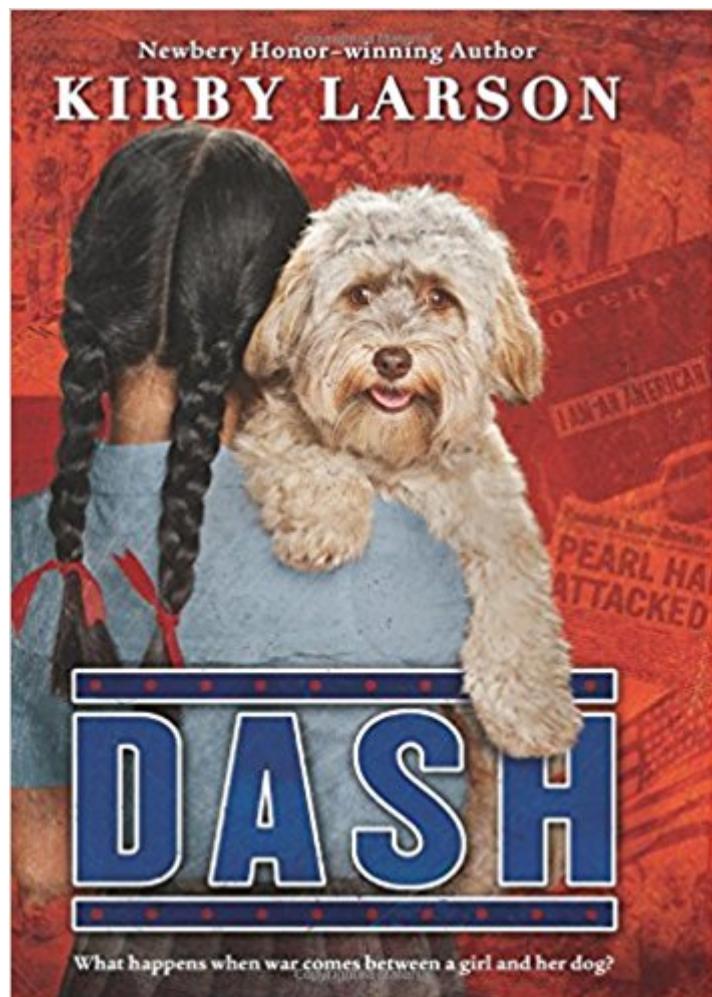


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# Dash



## **Synopsis**

New from Newbery Honor author Kirby Larson, the moving story of a Japanese-American girl who is separated from her dog upon being sent to an incarceration camp during WWII. Although Mitsi Kashino and her family are swept up in the wave of anti-Japanese sentiment following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mitsi never expects to lose her home -- or her beloved dog, Dash. But, as World War II rages and people of Japanese descent are forced into incarceration camps, Mitsi is separated from Dash, her classmates, and life as she knows it. The camp is a crowded and unfamiliar place, whose dusty floors, seemingly endless lines, and barbed wire fences begin to unravel the strong Kashino family ties. With the help of a friendly neighbor back home, Mitsi remains connected to Dash in spite of the hard times, holding on to the hope that the war will end soon and life will return to normal. Though they've lost their home, will the Kashino family also lose their sense of family? And will Mitsi and Dash ever be reunited?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (August 26, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545416353

ISBN-13: 978-0545416351

Product Dimensions: 1 x 7.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #304,033 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American #230 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #1511 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

My understanding of World War II deepened when I read Duke (Scholastic Press, August 2013) by 2007 Newbery Honor winner (Hattie Big Sky) Kirby Larson. As a companion title, Dash (Scholastic Press, August 2014), follows the lives of another family on the home front. Barely completing the

first page, readers will have stepped back in time, becoming another member, a silent member, of the Kashino family. Returning to school Mitsi, an American of Japanese descent, is hopeful her classmates will no longer stare at her in the hallways or leave hurtful notes in her desk. Hope leaves when her two friends, Mags and Judy, seem to have acquired another pal, Patty, who is especially cruel to Mitsi. Chapter by chapter the dread filling the hearts and home of the Kashino family builds until the day Mitsi and her magic-loving older brother read the announcement posted on a telephone pole. All people of Japanese descent, whether they were born in America or not, are being evacuated to camps. They can only take with them those items they can carry. A decidedly horrible situation is made worse when Mitsi is told she cannot bring Dash, her closest friend and confidant. Initially they are taken to Camp Harmony (the state fairgrounds) to live in a tiny room with only five cots, a stove to keep them warm and paper thin walls. These Americans ate in a mess hall, used outdoor latrines for multiple people with no privacy, slept on straw-filled mattresses, delivered and received mail and bought supplies at a canteen. As days turn into weeks, Mitsi sees her family dynamics change. Relationships are shifting as connections are made with others at the camp; some are good, others are not. When a rhythm of living here seems to be forming, more bad news is received.

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