

A Boy At War Readers Theatre Script

By Mr. Berry's Class * Booker Middle School * Sarasota, Florida

- 1 *A Boy at War.*
- ALL *A Boy at War* is a novel for teens by Harry Mazer.
- 2 Really it's a story about friendship.
- ALL [Sound Effect—*all hum*: “*When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again...*”]
- ADAM Hi, my name is Adam and my Dad is in the Navy. We move a lot. We just moved to Hawaii and I need to make some friends.
- DAVI Hi, my name is Davi Mori, and I am a Japanese-American in Adam's new class. I just won an essay contest. My title was, “Why I Am Proud to be an American.” Adam thinks I am the smartest kid in school. He likes that, but the other kids call me
- ALL “Sticky Brain,”
- DAVI because all the facts just stick in my mind.
- MARTIN Hey, you guys talk too much! Aloohaaa, kids, I am Martin. Kalahawaii! I'm gonna be best friends with Adam and Davi. I'm a native Hawaiian, and I don't take orders from anybody, especially not from “Haoles!”
- ALL Haoles! What are Haoles?
- BEA A Haole is a white American person – like me! Only I don't
- tell anybody what to do, except my teddy bears, 'cause I am Adam's sister and I am four years old. I think teddy bears should kiss a lot—am I a mean and bossy Haole?
- ALL I don't think so! [gesture] Adam and Bea and their Dad live in Hawaii in 1941, and Pearl Harbor is about to happen!
- BEA What's Pearl Harbor?
- LT. PELKO A dangerous place in 1941! A war is about to start right here. I am Lieutenant Pelko and I am Adam's dad. I am proud to be a Navy officer, and proud to serve on the Battleship Arizona.
- ALL Wow, I've heard that name! What is the battleship Arizona?
- LT PELKO That's the flagship of the Pacific Fleet—the most famous battleship in American history.
- ADAM Yes, a famous battleship, but our story is really about friendship—
- DAVI Especially friendship between Americans and Japanese-Americans, like me.
- MARTIN It doesn't really matter if we're not the same color—
- DAVI It doesn't really matter where our parents were born—
- ADAM, DAVI & MARTIN We are friends and we are going to stick

From the web site of Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn, Educational Drama Specialist

www.rosalindflynn.com

together!]*sound effect: All hum*
“*You’ve Got a Friend in Me*”]

LT PELKO But—I don’t really want
my boy to be friends with a
“Jap.” He might not be loyal to
our country.

ADAM Dad! Davy is an
American citizen!

DAVI Yes I am! And I am proud
to be one, just like you!

LT PELKO Wait ‘til the bombs start
dropping – then we’ll see!

ALL [*Sound effect: bombs dropping and*
guns booming] *Can* these boys
remain friends even when war
pushes them apart? How will
Adam feel – when he sees
Japanese bombs sink the
Arizona?

ADAM And how will Davi feel –
when the FBI throws his dad in
jail, just because he was
born in Japan?

MARTIN How will we all feel, after
Pearl Harbor is all messed up
and on fire? And we are right in
the middle of it -- in a rowboat!

ALL Read *A Boy at War* to find out!
(*Sound Effect: All hum “Stars and*
Stripes Forever”)