



## 2023 K-STATE FIRST BOOK SELECTION

*They Called Us Enemy* is an illustrated memoir that George Takei co-wrote with Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott and artist Harmony Becker. The story provides a window into the Japanese internment camps of World War II through the eyes of Takei and his family. It offers Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

Learn more at [www.k-state.edu/ksfb](http://www.k-state.edu/ksfb).



## A CAMPUS ON THE SAME PAGE

K-State First Book is a part of the K-State First program, and both are designed to help first-year students like you transition from high school to college, grow academically and socially, and share something with all other first year students. K-State First Book helps guide your transition by giving you a common experience with the book and provides guided academic and social events and activities connected to it.

The events that go along with *They Called Us Enemy* will help you to bond over your common reading experience and learn new things about the book, its themes, K-State, and the Manhattan community. Get a head start on reading this summer so you are ready to use the book in your K-State First CAT Community and First-Year Seminar classes. It's also a great way for you to find common ground with your peers and to start a conversation both inside and outside the classroom!

## JOIN US FOR THE K-STATE FIRST BOOK FALL 2023 EVENT SERIES



Follow us on     @kstatefirst for more discussions, information, and event info!

Join our whole campus community for a series of events in the fall connected to the book:



Check [www.k-state.edu/first/events](http://www.k-state.edu/first/events) for updates and special announcements!

### PROGRAMMING PARTNERS:

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art; Department of English in the College of Arts and Sciences; Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging; College of Education; College of Architecture, Planning & Design; College of Agriculture and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) chapter; College of Veterinary Medicine; College of Health and Human Sciences; K-State Libraries; Staley School of Leadership; UFM Community Learning Center; Lafene Health Center; Housing and Dining Services; and the Manhattan Public Library.

### KEY THEMES:

- Culture
- Democracy
- Patriotism
- Family & Community
- Justice
- Trauma
- Racism & Xenophobia
- Perseverance
- Joy

OK,  
everybody  
out.

Outside, people!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

This book is a graphic novel, which means that it is told more through pictures than words. What do you think about Takei's decision to share his story as a graphic memoir? What are you able to learn through the use of pictures? Have you read other graphic novels?

There's a historical K-State connection to this book. (Hint: it has to do with one of our past University Presidents.) What do we learn from this local historical connection about how to shift our mindset moving into the future?

What did you know about Japanese American incarceration during World War II before? What new information did you learn after reading Takei's graphic novel?

The graphic novel is told from Takei's experience and perspective as a young boy. How does that shape our understanding of the narrative?

What was the most engaging or powerful part of the novel to you? Why?

