Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

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This book is amazing! In my opinion Sadako is one of the best books I have ever read in my life. Sadako is about a little girl who lives with her family her mom, dad, 2 brothers, and a sister. She has a happy life for a while.

Since her grandmother died from the atom bomb she goes to honor her on peace day. Then the next day she comes back from school eager to tell her family good news she has got on the relay team. Then the day of the race she ran and then won but while she was running she got a dizzy spell. Another day she was running on her school field when she felt the dizzy spell again and sank to the ground. A teacher rushed to help and the teacher also sent her sister Misue home to get help. Then Sadako’s parents took Sadako to the hospital and they found out she had leukemia.

This was the disease that people got due to the effects of the atom bomb. Then one day her friend Chizuko came to visit her at the hospital and then she reminded her about the old folktale about the thousand cranes and showed her how to make the paper cranes the tale says that if you fold 1000 paper cranes it will bring you health.

Later on in the story she meets a boy named Kenji. He is a 9-years-old boy who also has leukemia. He got the disease from his mother when he was in her belly. His mom died along with his dad and he is living with his aunt who is really old. Then one night Kenji wasn’t outside and the nurse came in to tell her that Kenji had just died. Sadako started to cry. The nurse told her to make a crane before she went to sleep. Then a day later her mom worried that she wasn’t eating enough so she brought her favorite food- an egg roll, chicken and rice, pickled plums, and bean cake. But Sadako’s gums were to swollen to chew the food and finally Sadako pushed away all the food away. Then Sadako felt better and came home for a few days to celebrate O Bon, a celebration to honor the spirits that come see their loved ones. Then Sadako started getting sicker again so they had to take her back to the hospital. Then one day her whole family came in and gave her a gift it was a kimono. Then when Sadako started
getting weaker and weaker she started thinking more about death and she couldn’t even fold a paper crane. The next day she woke up and looked at her flock of cranes hanging from the ceiling. Then the wind came in through the window and it made the cranes look like they were flying. Sadako touched them. She laid down, closed her eyes, and never woke up again.

I like that this was a short book, but it was really detailed. I didn’t like that a lot of people died. I think that the theme is hope or bravery. I think the message is too enjoy life, like Sadako did, while you have it.