

Document #1: Japanese

Mary Nagao was born in 1920 in San Bernardino, California, the only child of immigrant parents.

.....the Mexican and Japanese children were usually seated at the back of the classroom. If the new textbooks ran out as they were being passed out, we got the older ones. We were always last in the cafeteria food line. When game equipment was passed out, it usually wasn't handed to any of us. We were never given the privilege of being captain or leader.

So although no one was physically abusive, there was that quiet snobbery. "You stay in your place and we'll leave you alone." It started in the lower grades and you learned to work around it.

You learned maybe from all of this a little more human understanding than most other people. You learned to be a bit more patient.

Source: Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas. The Family Album series. New York: Oxford Press, 1994