Doe 1

Jane Doe

Ms. Fontaine

English 11

Modified 4/12/11

Investigation #1; Part I: MODEL-T FORD

Part 1 mentions the Model T Ford—in fact it is mentioned in the very first paragraph of the book when Kiyoshi said that Makot’s parents, described as being different from other parents, owned one. I didn’t know much about the car or what it looked like, so I decided to do some research on it.

*The Model T Ford and How it Changed America* by Marty Shaw indicated that production of the Model T stopped in 1927, but that was about 5 years BEFORE the scene in Part I, which takes place about 1932. I was confused, thinking that Milton Murayama had made a mistake in saying that Makot’s parents owned a “brand new one,” but wikipedia reports that a few more Model Ts were produced after 1927 until 1941 (*Ford Model T*). Shaw’s report presented the Model T as an important part of American life since it was the first car that was mass-produced via an assembly line, thus making it affordable to people other than the wealthy and giving many more people the ability and freedom to travel greater distances, which in turn had a huge effect on the American lifestyle. Shaw also notes that Henry Ford, the founder Ford Motors, had only a 6th grade education, so I think that his success truly represents the American Dream. The photo attached (found in Coppola, Levesque and Wilmouth’s source) is a 1927 model, most likely what Makot’s family car looked like.

Even though the Model-T was considered “affordable,” most plantation workers didn’t make even enough money to purchase one, so now I understand better just how low plantation wages were and how tough it was to make a living and to support a family, especially one as large as the Oyamas. Now I wonder: HOW were Makot’s parents able to have such a luxury, when none of the other plantation families could? HMMMMMMM….

Doe 2

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