

**A Guide for Using**

# **Kira-Kira**

**in the Classroom**

*Based on the novel written by Cynthia Kadohata*

*This guide written by*  
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6421 Industry Way  
Westminster, CA 92683  
[www.teachercreated.com](http://www.teachercreated.com)  
©2006 *Teacher Created Resources, Inc.*  
Made in U.S.A.  
ISBN-1-4206-3003-2

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# Quiz Time

Answer the following questions about Chapters 1–3.

1. Why does Lynn write that Katie saved her life? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Why do Katie’s parents decide to move to Georgia? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What are the differences between Katie’s father and Uncle Katsuhisa? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why is Katie sad to leave Iowa? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Why does the woman at the hotel give Katie’s family a back room and charge them extra money? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What does Katie notice about white people in Georgia? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What do the farm kids understand about death, according to Uncle Katsuhisa? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Why does Katie miss her parents at the end of Chapter 3? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Making Rice Balls

“Rice balls are called *onigiri*, and they were the only thing I knew how to make. To make *onigiri*, you wash your hands and cover your palms with salt. Then you grab a handful of rice and shape it into a lump.”

—Kira-Kira

Japanese people often eat *onigiri* for lunch or snacks. With fillings such as salmon or pickled plums, rice balls become a sandwich!

**Note:** Please check for allergies before using this recipe.

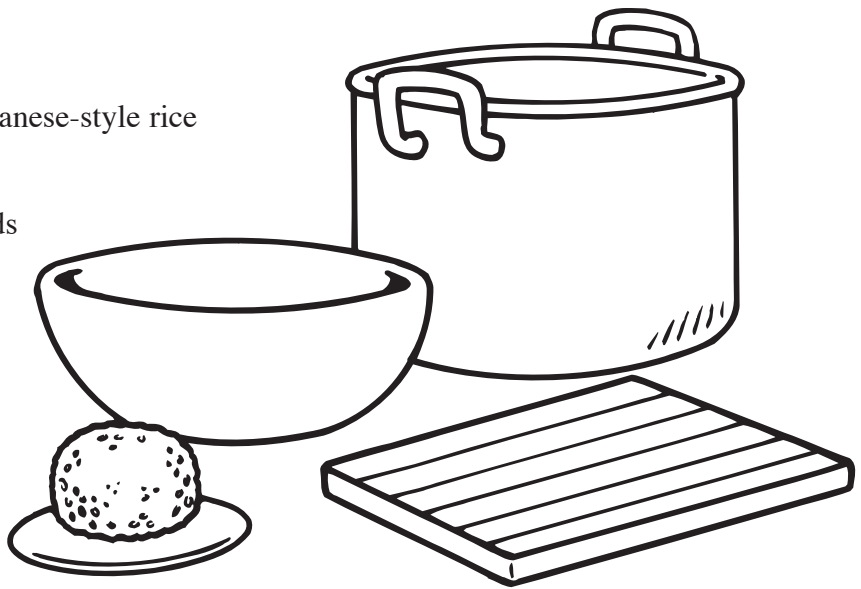
## *Onigiri*

### Ingredients

- 10 cups uncooked white or Japanese-style rice
- salt
- package of toasted sesame seeds
- bottle of soy sauce

### Materials

- large bowl
- soup pot
- dinner plate
- cutting board



### Directions

1. Place the rice in a bowl and rinse with cold water until the water runs clear.
2. Put the rinsed rice in the soup pot with five quarts of cold water and bring to a gentle boil.
3. Turn down the heat, cover the pot, and simmer for 20-30 minutes until the rice is sticky. In the meantime, sprinkle a plate with salt.
4. When the rice has cooked, wet your palms and cover them lightly with salt. Shape a handful of rice into a ball or triangle. Roll ball in sesame seeds and enjoy!

### Serves 24

**Variation:** Try making rice balls with chopped up vegetables such as cucumbers or thinly-sliced carrots, bits of scrambled eggs, or shredded canned salmon.