

Appendices

Synopsis of *Snow Falling on Cedars*

In the book *Snow Falling on Cedars*, the story takes place on San Piedro Island in 1950s. A trial is held on the island to determine whether Carl Heine, a local fisherman, is murdered by Kabuo Miyamoto, a Japanese immigrant.

Throughout the book, each character is discussed as to their feelings about the trial and how their lives are connected to the island. Most of the islanders are descendants of the first people to arrive on the island. These immigrants, including a large portion of Japanese people, are later forced into camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Kabuo's family work as strawberry pickers on Carl Heine's father's farm and buys seven acres of land from him even though the law says that Japanese cannot own land because they are not citizens. They have almost done the paying for the land when they are taken away to camps.

Carl Heine's mother, who dislikes Japanese people, takes advantage of their absence and sells the farm, including the seven acres, to Ole Jurgensen. Later when the Miyamoto family returns, they cannot retrieve the land, until Kabuo finds a chance, nine years after the war, to buy the farm when Jurgensen decides to sell it.

However, Kabuo is accused of being the murderer of Carl Heine, who dies later on that night when Kabuo buys the land. The only evidence to prove Kabuo's innocence is held by Ishmael Chambers, who grows up sharing a secret love affair with Hatsue, who later becomes Kabuo's wife.

Finally, the jurors decide to free Kabuo from his trial because he is not guilty. Carl's death is caused by his ship batteries which break down.

Biography of David Guterson

David Guterson was born in Seattle, Washington, on 4th May 1956. He went to college in Seattle at the University of Washington, where he got a Bachelor degree in English literature and Master's in creative writing. David got married at the age of 23. He and his wife spent 4 months in Europe with their first son, living in a Volkswagen van purchased at an American military base in Germany. Finally, he went bankrupt and they came back to Seattle, where he delivered newspapers each morning at 3 a.m. Then he had three more kids and spent twelve years as a teacher in Seattle. During that time he began to publish stories and essays in small magazines and periodicals.

His first book, A Story Collection, was published in 1989, his second Essays on Family and Education in 1992, and his third book, Snow Falling on Cedars, was published in 1994 and became one of the PEN Faulkner Award winners. David has also done a lot of freelance journalism, most of which is on environmental issues, and some are travel writings and human-interest features. He is an outdoor lover who

enjoys roaming across the Northwest Area, especially Oregon, where he lives and where most of his published works are set.