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Diverse Voices In Literature
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Include one sentence of context or summary before going into the thesis
In "Seventeen Syllables," Hisaye Yamamoto employs the symbols of adopted names, tomato

fields, and the destruction of Tome's award to illuminate the intergenerational and cultural struggles between Tome, her Husband, and Rosie. Yamamoto uses these literary devices to show how themes of cultural identity, generational conflict, and the immigrant experience manifest in the lives of Japanese-American women. Her aim is to illustrate how the complex dichotomy between hope and despair shapes the immigrant experience, particularly for women.

The symbol of haiku poetry represents one's cultural identity and personal aspirations, highlighting the gap between first and second-generation immigrants. This is embodied by the following excerpt: "Her mother became an extravagant contributor, taking for herself the blossoming pen name, Ume Hanazono" (211). The "blossoming pen name" symbolizes Tome's culture and desire for self-expression, contrasting with Rosie's American upbringing and lack of connection to this art form. This is further illustrated through Rosie's lackluster attempts to learn Japanese. While her mother sends her to Japanese school, Rosie does not put in the effort needed to fluidly comprehend and speak Japanese. This dichotomy reveals an issue many Asian immigrant families faced after immigrating in the 1920s and

author's name,
title, cultural
context of
author/story
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9 / 10 pts

5 / 5 pts

55 / 60 pts

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