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This film is largely concerned with the modernization of Japan and how the past is being demolished to make room for the modern world. The setting is Japan in 1963. The 1960s were years in which student activism was very popular. Pretend you are a member of the journalism club at your school; your assignment is to advocate for a cause: to raise awareness about a historic building in your neighborhood that the local authorities want to demolish.

Research a historic building in your area and design a flyer that includes all important facts about the building. Don’t forget to take a picture of what it looks like to include in it. The flyer will be published in the club’s newsletter.

Where is it located?

When was it built?

Who was the architect?

What use did it primarily have?

How is it being used today?

What architectural style does it belong to?

Can you identify its most important architectural elements?
2 Very often, filmmakers reflect reality on their films based on memories of their own experiences. Home-cooked meals play a significant role in this story. Umi is usually the one responsible for making meals at the boardinghouse where she lives with her grandmother and other residents. In an early scene, she prepares rice and eggs for breakfast. In other scenes she shops for ingredients. The lunches she packs for school reflect culinary traditions of Japan, such as the obento box. Color the food in the box below with your favorite colors.

A key characteristic of obento, and one of the reasons why it is so culturally important for the Japanese, is because it is seen as a means of communication from the maker to the eater. People prepare their obento with love and care, which can be seen through the attention to detail and healthiness of the box.

3 Can you draw your favorite home-cooked meal? What is it called? Is it a tradition in your family or in your country? What ingredients does it have in it? Write the recipe with as much information as you can gather about how it is made.

Recipe:

Ingredients:

Directions:

For questions, e-mail: lili@coralgablesmuseum.org