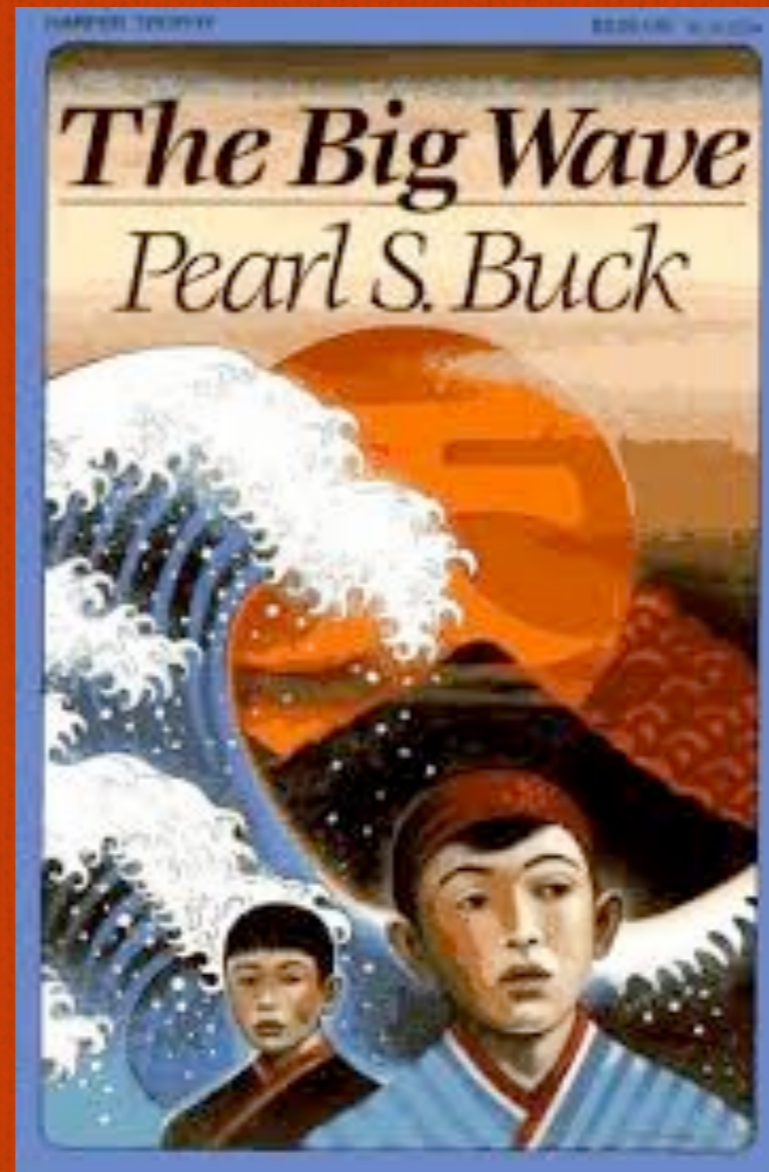


THE BIG WAVE

By PEARL S. BUCK





The nation of Japan is composed of four main large islands and a series of smaller islands off of the eastern edge of Asia in the Pacific Ocean.



The four main islands are **Hokkaido**, **Honshu**, **Shikoku**, and **Kyushu**. Another famous island is the island of **Okinawa**, where the USA has military bases built to protect the Japanese since World War II.



Japan is a geographic landform called an **archipelago**. Japan consists of a grouping of 6,852 islands. It is **surrounded** on the south by the **Philippine Sea**, on the southwest by the **East China Sea**, on the west by the **Sea of Japan**, and on the east by the **North Pacific Ocean**.



The setting of The Big Wave is located on a small island where fishing and farming are the main livelihoods (occupations).



Kino

Jiya

**farmer's
son**

**fisherman's
son**

VOCABULARY

- **island**- land surrounded by water on all four sides

- **farm**- land used to grow plants for food
- **mountain**- a tall steep hill over 1,000 feet tall
- **terraced**- farming on the side of hills

