

**Film Title and Release Date:** *Changing Season: On the Masumoto Family Farm* (2015)

**Length in Minutes:** 56 minutes

**Film Genre:** Documentary

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Wendy T., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** March 25, 2022

*Changing Season: On the Masumoto Family Farm* is a documentary about the lives of the Masumoto family. After Nikiko Masumoto tells her father, David “Mas” Masumoto, that she wants to start farming, he teaches her how to do so. The film tells of the farm’s origins, as Mas’ father had bought the farm when he had immigrated to America. Mas’ worries of the farm are pushed aside once his daughter asks to partake in farming. One event in the film is Mas’ 60th birthday. The documentary also describes both Nikiko’s and Mas’ struggles. Mas had troubles with his wife’s parents when they started dating, as they were Christian and conservative. Meanwhile, Nikiko is a part of the LGBTQ, and faces homophobia in her life. The family also struggles with the death of Mas’ father. Later on in the film, we also learn of Mas’ heart complications. The film is successful in teaching viewers of the Matsumoto's, as they capture their daily lives on the farm. It’s also successful in telling the audience the pros and cons of this kind of life, as Nikiko overcomes the stress of becoming a farmer, but is also rewarded because this is what she loves doing.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?*

I found this film while browsing on Kanopy.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?*

At some points I felt it was a bit boring, but otherwise it was good!

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

I thought the pace of the film was just right.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

I think this film is okay for anyone in or above 7th grade.

*4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch.*

I rate this film 4 stars because I liked how you got to learn about the lives of the Masumoto’s, and their struggles as well. For example, the family faced the tragic loss of Mas’ father, yet were still able to remain joyful. I thought it was an interesting insight into the lives of these farmers.