# Asian Americans

**Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library**

**A Selective Annotated Selective Bibliography**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EASY</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>At her Tol, the first birthday party, Sara Mee plays the traditional Korean prophecy game--Toljabee--while her extended family and friends watch.</td>
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<td>After her best friend, Hector, moves away, Juna's brother Minho tries to make her feel better by finding things to put in her special kimchi jar, and each night, whatever is in the jar takes her on a magical journey in search of Hector.</td>
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<td>Sam must decide how to spend the lucky money he's received for Chinese New Year.</td>
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<td>Whenever Nima meets someone on her long walk to the market village in Nepal, she brings her hands together with her fingers almost touching her chin, bows her head slightly, and says &quot;Namaste,&quot; which means &quot;the light in me meets the light in you.&quot;</td>
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When Ming Da's Chinese grandpa comes to visit, he overcomes his initial embarrassment at his grandfather's traditions and begins to appreciate him.


In 1934, twelve-year-old Kai leaves China to join his father in America, but first he must take a long sea voyage, then endure weeks of crowded conditions and harsh examinations on Angel Island, fearing that he or his new friend will be sent home.


Twelve-year-old Lee, an orphan, reluctantly leaves his grandparents in China for the long sea voyage to San Francisco, where he and other immigrants undergo examinations at Angel Island Immigration Station.


When all her older siblings are away, Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. Includes recipe for pancit.


After a young Chinese American girl opens fortune cookies with her family, she notices that the fortunes seem to come true. Includes brief notes on the history of the fortune cookie.


A Chinese American girl's Auntie Yang discovers soybeans—a favorite Chinese food-growing in Illinois, leading her family to a soybean picnic tradition that grows into an annual community event.


A Chinese American girl describes the festivities surrounding her uncle's Chinese wedding and the customs behind each one.

Retells the folktale of the gecko who complains to the village chief that the fireflies keep him awake at night but then learns that in nature all things are connected.


The story of Claire's arrival in the United States from her birth home in China.


There is an elegant substitute teacher in class today, but Katie's attempts to impress her keep going wrong.


A fifteen-year-old soldier in World War II meets a sweet young girl in the Philippines who helps him remember what he is fighting for as he helps her and others of her village avoid starvation, and many years later she returns his kindness.


Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name.


When Ji-su's mother is chosen by the emperor to be a seamstress in his court, Ji-su vows to learn to sew the beautiful Korean bojagi, or wrapping cloths, just as well so that she will also be summoned to the palace and be reunited with her mother.


In illustrations and rhyming text, depicts the vivid sights, sounds, and smells of a Saturday morning outdoor market in Chinatown.

Told in verse, a Chinese American girl and her little brother protest the idea of moving, until their grandmother teaches them a special trick to make the change easier.


A Chinese American child fears that the food her parents are preparing to sell on the Fourth of July will not be eaten.


When brothers Taro and Jimmy and their mother are forced to move from their home in California to a Japanese internment camp in the wake of the 1941 Pearl Harbor bombing, Taro daringly escapes the camp to find fresh fish for his grieving brother.


A young Chinese girl and her parents emigrate to the United States and try their best to assimilate into their San Francisco neighborhood while anxiously awaiting the arrival of their green cards.

Fiction


Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.


As one of only two Asian students at Slackenkill High School, freshman Xing Xu exists on the fringes of adolescent society, counting the days until he's free. When a series of abductions rattles his adopted hometown, Xing as an outsider is able to see and hear things others cannot. As he moves closer to unveiling the
kidnapper, he must choose between staying in the shadows and revealing a secret from his past which may prove his worth to his classmates.


When Jade Moon, born in the unlucky year of the Fire Horse, and her father immigrate to America in 1923 and are detained at Angel Island Immigration Station, Jade Moon is determined to find a way through and prove that she is not cursed.


In 1883 thirteen-year-old Katrien Courtlandt is more interested in science and exploring the Javanese jungle for beetles with her native friend, than in becoming a young lady like her despised cousin Brigitta--but when Krakatoa erupts, the tsunami hits, and their families are swept away the two cousins must struggle to survive together.


Bullied at school, eighth-grader Apple, a Filipino American who loves the music of the Beatles, decides to change her life by learning how to play the guitar.


A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, though, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the Vietnam War. Mai's parents think this trip will be a great opportunity for their out-of-touch daughter to learn more about her culture.


In 1845, Sammy, a Chinese American girl, and Annamae, an African American slave girl, disguise themselves as boys and travel on the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri.


Andy's father is a former refugee from Vietnam. 15-year old Andy and his father go to Vietnam and meet relatives who speak a different language, seem
to be greedy and impatient and run a pretty crummy restaurant. For Andy Vietnam becomes a place for learning how to see things in a whole new way.

**NONFICTION**

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<th>Call Number</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Green, Thomas A. (Ed.)</td>
<td><em>Asian American Folktales</em>. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2009.</td>
<td>398.2 AS421</td>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>Mattern, Joanne.</td>
<td><em>East Asian Cultures in Perspective</em>. Hockessin, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2015.</td>
<td>951</td>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>630L</td>
<td>Wong, Li Keng.</td>
<td><em>Good Fortune: My Journey to Gold Mountain</em>. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2006.</td>
<td>979.4 W8466G</td>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
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Written expressly for students and general readers, this book is a fascinating introduction to Asian American folktales. This book gathers together a selection of more than 30 Asian American folktales and groups them in thematic sections on origins; heroes, heroines, villains, and fools; society and conflict; and the supernatural. These tales reflect the traditional beliefs of the East as well as the new experiences of Asians in America.

This book provides an in-depth look at the different regional cultures of East Asia with an emphasis on current culture.

A middle-grade history of the "other Ellis Island" traces how Angel Island served as an entry point for one million Asian immigrants to the United States in the early 20th century, drawing on memoirs, diaries, letters and "wall poems" discovered at the facility long after it closed to describe the center's screening process, immigration policies and eventual renaissance as a historic site.

Li Keng Gee’s father has decided to bring his family from a small village in southern China to "Gold Mountain," the United States. California. Now Li Keng, her mama, and her two sisters will embark on a remarkable journey that will take them halfway around the world. Getting to America is not easy. The family travels by foot, by train, and by boat. Even more difficult is getting past America's strict anti-Chinese immigration laws. To do so, the family must keep secrets and offer well-rehearsed lies to American officials. The Gees are detained for processing along with other Asian immigrants at Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay.
BIOGRAPHY


Presents the life and career of the Chinese American woman who dreamed of flying as a child and who went on to become one of only two Chinese American Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) to serve during World War II.


In a shockingly honest narrative, a former prisoner-of-war tells how her family, along with ten thousand other Dutch residents living in the Dutch East Indies were shipped off to internment camps where food rationing, terrible sanitary conditions, and an uncertain future were the norms for more than three years.


Oscar-winning director Ang Lee has a remarkable life story. His creative genius bloomed late: he came to America from Taiwan at age 23, but was not able to make his first film until he was 37 because of language and cultural barriers that were slow and painful to overcome.


A biography of the renowned architect that focuses on six of his signature buildings.


Presents the true story of Lao-American artist Malichansouk Kounchao, who walked with her family from Laos to Thailand when she was five years old.


Traces the childhood dream of Japanese-American baseball pioneer Kenichi Zenimura of playing professionally and his family's struggles in a World War II internment camp where he introduces baseball to raise hope.
PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION


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