



Asian Americans

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
EASY		
K - 2	Avraham, Kate Aver. <i>What Will You Be, Sara Mee?</i> Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2010. At her Tol, the first birthday party, Sara Mee plays the traditional Korean prophecy game--Toljabee--while her extended family and friends watch.	E AV81W
1 - 3	Bahk, Jane. <i>Juna's Jar</i> . New York: Lee & Low Books Inc., 2015. 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.	E B1478J
PreK - 2	Chinn, Karen. <i>Sam and the Lucky Money</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999. Sam must decide how to spend the lucky money he's received for Chinese New Year.	E C4419S.A
3 - 6	Cohn, Diana. <i>Namaste!</i> Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2009. Whenever Nima meets someone on her long walk to the market village in	E C661N

Nepal, she brings her hands together with her fingers almost touching her chin, bows her head slightly, and says "Namaste," which means "the light in me meets the light in you."

- K - 2 Compestine, Ying Chang. ***Crouching Tiger***. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Pres, 2011. E
C73844C
- When Ming Da's Chinese grandpa comes to visit, he overcomes his initial embarrassment at his grandfather's traditions and begins to appreciate him.
- 4 - 7 Currier, Katrina Saltonstall. ***Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain: An Angel Island Story***. Tiburon, CA: Angel Island Association, 2005. E
C9369K
- 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.
- 1 - 4 James, Helen Foster. ***Paper Son: Lee's Journey to America***. Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2013. E
J2335P
- 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.
- PreK - 3 Lazo Gilmore, Dorina K. ***Cora Cooks Pancit***. Walnut Creek, CA: Shen's Books, 2009. E
L459C
- When all her older siblings are away, Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. Includes recipe for pancit.
- PreK - 3 Lin, Grace. ***Fortune Cookie Fortunes***. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. E
L6303F
- 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.
- K - 2 Lo, Ginnie. ***Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic***. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2012. E
L7803A
- 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.
- K - 3 Look, Lenore. ***Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding***. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006. E
L872U
- A Chinese American girl describes the festivities surrounding

her uncle's Chinese wedding and the customs behind each one.

- PreK - 2 MacDonald, Margaret Read. *Go to Sleep, Gecko! A Balinese Folktale*. Little Rock, AR: August House LittleFolk, 2006. E
M1457G
- 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.
- PreK - 4 McMahon, Patricia. *Just Add One Chinese Sister*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2005. E
M22735J
- The story of Claire's arrival in the United States from her birth home in China.
- 1 - 2 Manushkin, Fran. *Katie and the Fancy Substitute*. North Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books, 2015. (*Katie Woo* series) E
M3198KAA
- There is an elegant substitute teacher in class today, but Katie's attempts to impress her keep going wrong.
- 2 - 5 Polacco, Patricia. *Tucky Jo and Little Heart*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015. E
P7569TU
- 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.
- K Reibstein, Mark. *Wabi Sabi*. New York: Little, Brown, 2008. E
R27W
- 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.
- 2 - 4 Schoettler, Joan. *Good Fortune in a Wrapping Cloth*. Walnut Creek, CA: Shen's Books, 2011. E
SCH636G
- 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.
- 2 - 3 Sehgal, Kabir. *Festival of Colors*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2018. E
SE413FE
- Siblings Chintoo and Mintoo collect flowers and press the petals into a fine powder as they prepare for Holi, the Indian springtime Festival of Colors.

- PreK - 3 Thong, Roseanne. *Gai See: What You Can See in Chinatown*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2007. E
T388G
- In illustrations and rhyming text, depicts the vivid sights, sounds, and smells of a Saturday morning outdoor market in Chinatown.
- PreK - 2 Tupper Ling, Nancy. *Double Happiness*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2015. E
T839D
- 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.
- PreK Wong, Janet S. *Apple Pie Fourth of July*. Orlando, FL: Voyager Books, 2006. E
W8464A.A
- A Chinese American child fears that the food her parents are preparing to sell on the Fourth of July will not be eaten.
- 1 - 3 Yamasaki, Katie. *Fish for Jimmy: Inspired by One Family's Experience in a Japanese American Internment Camp*. New York: Holiday House, 2013. E
Y147F
- 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.
- K - 3 Yang, Belle. *Hannah is My Name*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004. E
Y16H
- 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

- 6 - 8 Burg, Ann E. *All the Broken Pieces: A Novel in Verse*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2009. F
B91A
- 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.

- N/A Fukuda, Andrew Xia. *Crossing*. Las Vegas, NC: AmazonEncore, 2010. F
F9558C
- 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.
- 9 - 12 Honeyman, Kay. *The Fire Horse Girl*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013. F
H7573F
- 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.
- 4 - 6 Joiner, Sara. *After the Ashes*. New York: Holiday House, 2013. F
J6675A
- 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.
- 4 - 6 Jung, Mike. *Unidentified Suburban Object*. New York: Scholastic, 2017. F
J9544U
- The next person who compares Chloe Cho with famous violinist Abigail Yang is going to HEAR it. Chloe has just about had it with people not knowing the difference between someone who's Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. She's had it with people thinking that everything she does well - getting good grades, winning first chair in the orchestra, etCETera - is because she's ASIAN. Of course, her own parents don't want to have anything to DO with their Korean background. Any time Chloe asks them a question they change the subject. They seem perfectly happy to be the only Asian family in town. It's only when Chloe's with her best friend, Shelley, that she doesn't feel like a total alien. Then a new teacher comes to town: Ms. Lee. She's Korean American, and for the first time Chloe has a person to talk to who seems to understand completely. For Ms. Lee's class, Chloe finally gets to explore her family history. But when she unearths is light-years away from what she expected.
- 5 - 8 Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Blackbird Fly*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2015. F
K29595B
- 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.

- 4 - 6 Krishnaswami, Uma. *Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh*. New York: Tu Books, 2017. F
K8979S
- Nine-year-old Maria Singh learns to play softball just like her heroes in the All-American Girls' League, while her parents and neighbors are struggling through World War II, working for India's independence, and trying to stay on their farmland.
- 5 - 8 Lai, Thanhà. *Listen, Slowly*. New York: Harper, 2015. F
L14L
- 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.
- 7 - 12 Lee, Stacey. *Under a Painted Sky*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2015. F
L5157U
- 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.
- 9 - 12 Menon, Sandhya. *When Dimple Met Rishi*. New York: Simon Pulse, 2017. F
M5278W
- Dimple Shah has it all figured out. With graduation behind her, she's more than ready for a break from her family, from Mamma's inexplicable obsession with her finding the "Ideal Indian Husband." Ugh. Dimple knows they must respect her principles on some level, though. If they truly believed she needed a husband right now, they wouldn't have paid for her to attend a summer program for aspiring web developers... right? Rishi Patel is a hopeless romantic. So when his parents tell him that his future wife will be attending the same summer program as him -- wherein he'll have to woo her -- he's totally on board. Because as silly as it sounds to most people in his life, Rishi wants to be arranged, believes in the power of tradition, stability, and being a part of something much bigger than himself. The Shahs and Patels didn't mean to start turning the wheels on this "suggested arrangement" so early in their children's lives, but when they noticed them both gravitate toward the same summer program, they figured, Why not? Dimple and Rishi may think they have each other figured out. But when opposites clash, love works hard to prove itself in the most unexpected ways.
- 9 - 12 Perkins, Mitali. *You Bring the Distant Near*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017. F
P4197Y
- Five girls. Three generations. One great American love story. *You Bring the Distant Near* explores sisterhood, first loves, friendship, and the inheritance of culture--for better or worse. Raneer, worried that her children are losing their

Indian culture; Sonia, wrapped up in a forbidden biracial love affair; Tara, seeking the limelight to hide her true self; Shanti, desperately trying to make peace in the family; and, Anna, fighting to preserve Bengal tigers and her Bengali identity.

8 - 12 Pung, Alice. *Lucy and Linh*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. F
P9693L

In Australia, Lucy tries to balance her life at home surrounded by her Chinese immigrant family, with her life at a pretentious private school.

4 - 6 Starke, Ruth. *Noodle Pie*. Tulsa, OK: Kane Miller Book, 2010. F
ST284N

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

4 - 7 Leatherdale, Mary Beth. *Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees*. 305.9
Toronot, ON: Annick Press, 2017. L483S

A desperate last hope for safety and freedom. The plight of refugees risking their lives at sea has, unfortunately, made the headlines all too often in the past few years. This book presents five true stories, from 1939 to today, about young people who lived through the harrowing experience of setting sail in search of asylum: Ruth and her family board the St. Louis to escape Nazism; Phu sets out alone from war-torn Vietnam; José tries to reach the United States from Cuba; Najeeba flees Afghanistan and the Taliban; and after losing his family, Mohamed abandons his village on the Ivory Coast in search of a new life.

N/A Green, Thomas A. (Ed.) *Asian American Folktales*. Westport, CT: 398.2
Greenwood Press, 2009. AS421

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.

3 - 7 Kaneko, Misuzu. *Are You an Echo? The Lost Poetry of Misuzu Kaneko*. 895.61
Seattle, WA: Chin Music Press, 2016. K1317A

Are You an Echo? folds poetry and history into recent events, resurrecting the work of Misuzu Kaneko and bringing the gentle grace of her poems to a new

generation.

- 7 - 12 Marrin, Albert. *Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience during World War II*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. 940.53
M3495U
- Just seventy-five years ago, the American government did something that most would consider unthinkable today: it rounded up over 100,000 of its own citizens based on nothing more than their ancestry and, suspicious of their loyalty, kept them in concentration camps for the better part of four years. How could this have happened? *Uprooted* takes a close look at the history of racism in America and follows the treacherous path that led one of our nation's most beloved presidents to make this decision. Meanwhile, it illuminates the history of Japan and its own struggles with racism and xenophobia, which led to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, ultimately tying the two countries together.
- 6 - 12 Atwood, Kathryn J. *Women Heroes of World War II: The Pacific Theater. 15 Stories of Resistance, Rescue, Sabotage, and Survival*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2017. 940.54
AT95WOP
- Collects the stories of fifteen women who risked their lives to become heroes in the Pacific theater of World War II.
- N/A Mattern, Joanne. *East Asian Cultures in Perspective*. Hockessin, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2015. 951
M4298E
- This book provides an in-depth look at the different regional cultures of East Asia with an emphasis on current culture.
- 5 - 8 Freedman, Russell. *Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain*. New York: Clarion Books, 2013. 979.4
F8757A
- 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.
- 4 - 6 Wong, Li Keng. *Good Fortune: My Journey to Gold Mountain*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2006. 979.4
W8466G
- 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

- 4 - 6 Brierley, Saroo. *Lion: A Long Way Home*. New York: Puffin Books, 2017. B
B766B
- Describes how the author was accidentally separated from his family and home in India as a child, how he survived as an orphan in Kolkata, his adoption by an Australian family, and his search for his biological family as an adult.
- 4 - 6 Rau, Dana Meachen. *Who is the Dalai Lama?* New York: Penguin Workshop, 2018. B
B849R
- Get to know the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader and one of the most popular world leaders today. Two-year-old Lhamo Thondup never imagined he would be anything other than an ordinary child, but after undergoing a series of tests, he was proclaimed the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. By age 15, he found himself the undisputed leader of six million people who were facing the threat of a full-scale war from the Chinese. After the defeat of the Tibetan national uprising in 1959, the Dalai Lama had to flee Tibet and went into exile in India. For nearly 50 years, he has aimed to establish Tibet as a self-governing, democratic state. In 1989, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent efforts for the liberation of Tibet and his concern for global environmental problems. As the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, the Dalai Lama continues to spend his life working to benefit humanity and preserving Tibetan culture.
- 1 - 4 Moss, Marissa. *Sky High: The True Story of Maggie Gee*. Berkeley, CA; Toronto, ON: Tricycle Press, 2009. B
G27M
- 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.
- 4 - 6 Layson, Annelex Hofstra. *Lost Childhood: My Life in a Japanese Prison Camp during World War II, a Memoir*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2008. B
L455L
- 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.
- 10 - 12 Mills, Cliff. *Ang Lee*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 2009. B
L5102M
- 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.

- 5 - 8 Rubalcaba, Jill. *I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place, and Purpose*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2011. B
P35R
- A biography of the renowned architect that focuses on six of his signature buildings.
- 4 - 6 Atkins, Laura. *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up*. Berkeley, CA: Heyday, 2017. B
K8416A
- Fred Korematsu liked listening to music on the radio, playing tennis, and hanging around with his friends--just like lots of other Americans. But everything changed when the United States went to war with Japan in 1941 and the government forced all people of Japanese ancestry to leave their homes on the West Coast and move to distant prison camps. This included Fred, whose parents had immigrated to the United States from Japan many years before. But Fred refused to go. He knew that what the government was doing was unfair. And when he got put in jail for resisting, he knew he couldn't give up.
- 1 - 4 Youme. *Mali Under the Night Sky: a Lao Story of Home*. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2010. B
K8491Y
- Presents the true story of Lao-American artist Malichansouk Kouanchao, who walked with her family from Laos to Thailand when she was five years old.
- 3 - 5 Moss, Marissa. *Barbed Wire Baseball*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2013. B
Z43M
- 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

- Knowles, Elizabeth. *Understanding Diversity Through Novels and Picture Books*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 011.62
K762U
- Yokota, Junko. *Kaleidoscope: A Multicultural Booklist for Grades K-8*. Urbana, IL: The Council, 2001. 016.3058
K1245
2001
- Petrillo, Valerie. *A Kid's Guide to Asian American History: More Than 70 Activities*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2007. 973
P4484K

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