

# Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month 2021

## BOOKS

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

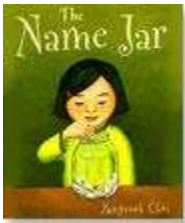
#### **The Name Jar**

By: Yangsook Choi (Author, Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 3-6

Link to book: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0440417996/readingrockets-20>



The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious about whether American kids will like her.

#### **Tutu Makes a Lei**

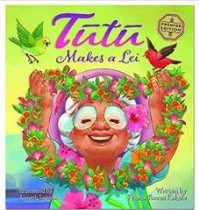
by Kuana Torres Kahele (Author), Anneth Lagamo (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 3-6

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Tutu-Makes-Kuana-Torres-Kahele/dp/1617104019/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=tutu+makes+a+lei&qid=1619829429&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Tutu-Makes-Kuana-Torres-Kahele/dp/1617104019/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=tutu+makes+a+lei&qid=1619829429&sr=8-1)



Tutu Makes a Lei is an adorable story about a sweet old lady with a flourishing garden. She wakes up in the morning to make a special lei for her dear friend with the flowers and plants she has grown. Her bird friends descend from the sky to help Tutu make her lei. When its completed, the birds deliver the lei to Tutu's friend to celebrate her birthday. Tutu Makes a Lei shows us that the best gifts are the ones that come from the heart. Even a beautifully simple lei can be a touching present and a wonderful way to express your Aloha. Children will love the easy-to-follow rhyming scheme and beautiful artwork with bright and vibrant colors.

#### **Froggy Goes to Hawaii**

By: Jonathan London (Author), Frank Remkiewicz (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 3-6

Link to book: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0670012211/readingrockets-20>



Once you've joined Froggy and his family on their Hawaiian vacation, find out more about what many have called a tropical paradise in the Pacific Ocean.

### **Apple Pie Fourth of July**

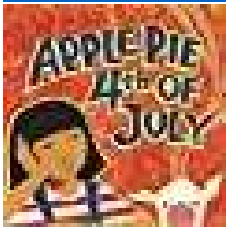
by Janet S. Wong (Author), Margaret Chodos-Irvine (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 4-7

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0152057080/ref=as\\_li\\_ss\\_il?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0152057080&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0152057080/ref=as_li_ss_il?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0152057080&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20)



Shocked that her parents are cooking Chinese food to sell in the family store on an all-American holiday, a feisty Chinese American girl tries to tell her mother and father how things *really* are. But as the parade passes by and fireworks light the sky, *she* learns a surprising lesson.

### **Baseball Saved Us**

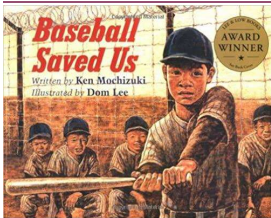
by Ken Mochizuki (Author), Dom Lee (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 6-9

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1880000199/ref=as\\_li\\_ss\\_il?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=1880000199&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1880000199/ref=as_li_ss_il?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=1880000199&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20)



Shorty and his family, along with thousands of other Japanese Americans, have been forced to relocate from their homes to a camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Fighting the heat, dust, and freezing cold nights of the desert, Shorty and the others at the camp need something to look forward to, even if only for nine innings. So they build a playing field, and in this unlikely place, a baseball league is formed. Surrounded by barbed-wire fences and guards in towers, Shorty soon finds that he is playing not only to win, but to gain dignity and self-respect as well. Inspired by actual events, this moving story of hope and courage in a Japanese American internment camp during World War II reveals a long-hidden and ugly part of the American past. This 25th Anniversary Edition features a revised cover and a new introduction from the author and illustrator.

### **A Place Where Sunflowers Grow**

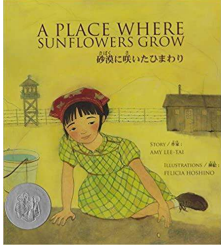
By: by Amy Lee-Tai (Author), Felicia Hoshino (Illustrator)

Genre: Nonfiction

Age Level: 6-9

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0892392150/ref=as\\_li\\_ss\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0892392150&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0892392150/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0892392150&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20)



Under the harsh summer sun, Mari's art class has begun. But it's hard to think of anything to draw in a place where nothing beautiful grows — especially a place like Topaz, the internment camp where Mari's family and thousands of other Japanese Americans have been sent to live during World War II. Somehow, glimmers of hope begin to surface — in the eyes of a kindly art teacher, in the tender words of Mari's parents, and in the smile of a new friend. Amy Lee-Tai's sensitive prose and Felicia Hoshino's stunning mixed-media images show that hope can survive alongside even the harshest injustice.

### **Ohana Means Family**

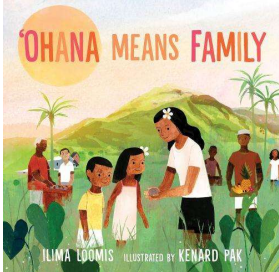
by Ilima Loomis (Author), Kenard Pak (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 4-8

Link to book:

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A warm, vibrant story about Hawaiian lu'au traditions. Written in a cumulative style, the story starts with "the poi for our 'ohana's lu'au" and zooms out to the rich land, large family and gorgeous world that go into this custom. This is a story of land and family and culture, beautifully written and illustrated with lush watercolor paintings. A wonderful book about Hawaiian family and culture.

### **Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao**

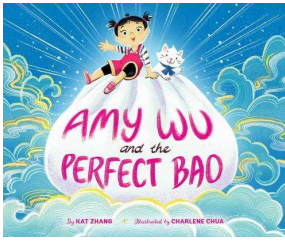
by Kat Zhang (Author), Charlene Chua (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 4-8

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/153441133X/ref=as\\_li\\_qf\\_asin\\_il\\_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=bambtrav-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=153441133X&linkId=93869888823a1d886d74ea49bef4a290](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/153441133X/ref=as_li_qf_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=bambtrav-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=153441133X&linkId=93869888823a1d886d74ea49bef4a290)



Sweet little Amy just wants to help, like all preschoolers. Her family is making yummy bao but her little hands just can't quite figure it out. A great story about problem solving that will leave you hungry for bao!

### **The Mountains of Mumbai**

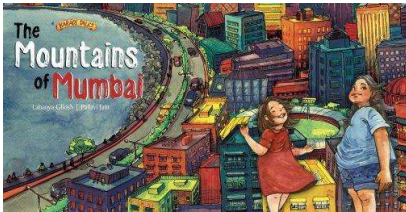
by Labanya Ghosh (Author), Pallavi Jain (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 4-8

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1250249317/ref=as\\_li\\_qf\\_asin\\_il\\_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=mstc-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=1250249317&linkId=40c66336e040f29bb25d2b04c1979798](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1250249317/ref=as_li_qf_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=mstc-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=1250249317&linkId=40c66336e040f29bb25d2b04c1979798)



Doma has come all the way from Ladakh to visit her friend Veda in Mumbai. While Doma loves the sights and sounds of the big city, she longs for the mountains of Ladakh. Imagine her surprise when Veda reveals that there are mountains in Mumbai too! Author Labanya Ghosh takes you on an unforgettable tour of Mumbai, and illustrator Pallavi Jain's watercolours bring this beloved, bustling coastal city alive.

### **I Dream of Popo**

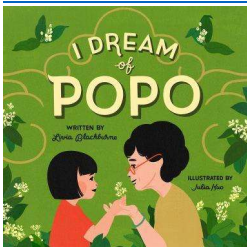
by Livia Blackburne (Author), Julia Kuo (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 4-8

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1250249317/ref=as\\_li\\_qf\\_asin\\_il\\_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=mstc-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=1250249317&linkId=40c66336e040f29bb25d2b04c1979798](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1250249317/ref=as_li_qf_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=mstc-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=1250249317&linkId=40c66336e040f29bb25d2b04c1979798)



I DREAM OF POPO is about a warm relationship between a little girl and her grandmother. The young girl and her family emigrate from Taiwan to San Diego in the US and she leaves behind her popo. It is about how their relationship endures across time and distance. Taiwanese culture and language are also wonderfully woven into the story.

### **Too Many Mangos**

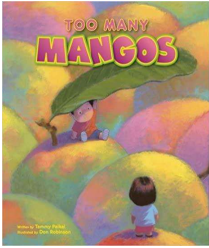
by Tammy Paikai (Author), Don Robinson (Illustrator)

Genre: Nonfiction

Age Level: 6-8

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/1597007587?linkCode=ogi&tag=bp\\_links-20&ascsubtag=%5bartid%7C2089.g.32366322%5bsrc%7C%5bch%7C%5blt%7C](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1597007587?linkCode=ogi&tag=bp_links-20&ascsubtag=%5bartid%7C2089.g.32366322%5bsrc%7C%5bch%7C%5blt%7C)



Based on the author's childhood experiences, *Too Many Mangos* is the story of two young Hawaiians, Kama and Nani, who help their grandpa pick mangos from the giant mango tree. They pick large, small, ripe, half-ripe, and even green mangos. But this time, they've picked too many, so it's time to load up the wagon and share the tasty treats with friends and family. Along the way, they show young readers the many ways to enjoy the treasured island fruit, and introduce their friendly neighbors around the block. Tammy Paikai's thoughtful text and Don Robinson's vibrant illustrations capture the joys of island living while teaching a valuable lesson about friendship and community.

### **A Different Pond (Fiction Picture Books)**

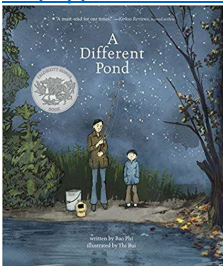
by Bao Phi (Author), Thi Bui (Illustrator)

Genre: Nonfiction

Age Level: 6-8

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Different-Pond-Bao-Phi/dp/1623708036/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=a+different+pond+book&qid=1619392772&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Different-Pond-Bao-Phi/dp/1623708036/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=a+different+pond+book&qid=1619392772&sr=8-1)



A 2018 Caldecott Honor Book that Kirkus Reviews calls "a must-read for our times," *A Different Pond* is an unforgettable story about a simple event - a long-ago fishing trip. Graphic novelist Thi Bui and acclaimed poet Bao Phi deliver a powerful, honest glimpse into a relationship between father and son - and between cultures, old and new. As a young boy, Bao and his father awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. A successful catch meant a fed family. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam. Thi Bui's striking, evocative art paired with Phi's expertly crafted prose has earned this powerful picture book six starred reviews and numerous awards.

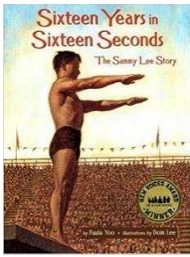
### **Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story**

by Paula Yoo (Author) and Dom Lee (Illustrator)

Genre: Non-Fiction

Age Level: 6-9

Link to book: <https://amzn.to/2lnR328>



As a young teen, Sammy Lee longed to learn to dive. But it was the 1930s, and people of color were only allowed to use public pools one day a week. Sammy, a Korean-American, was determined to teach himself, with the help of his friend Hart, who was Black. Sammy's father thought he should spend less time on sports and focus on becoming a doctor. His father believed deeply in the American dream, but Sammy's experiences of discrimination gave him doubts. In time, Sammy finally understood that his father believed Sammy would earn respect if he became a doctor. They agreed that if he kept up his grades enough to get into medical school, he could also keep diving. Sammy continued to train, not knowing the 1940 Olympics would be cancelled because of World War II. Even after becoming a doctor, he never let go of his dream.

### **The Bracelet**

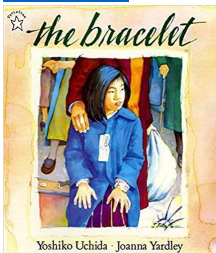
by Yoshiko Uchida

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 4-8

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Bracelet-Yoshiko-Uchida/dp/069811390X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=The+Bracelet%2C+by+Yoshiko+Uchida&qid=1619322896&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Bracelet-Yoshiko-Uchida/dp/069811390X/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=The+Bracelet%2C+by+Yoshiko+Uchida&qid=1619322896&sr=8-1)



Yoshiko Uchida draws on her own childhood as a Japanese-American during World War II in an internment camp to tell the poignant story of a young girl's discovery of the power of memory.

### **Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist**

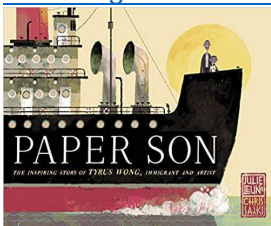
By Julie Leung (Author), Chris Sasaki (Illustrator)

Genre: Non-Fiction

Age Level: 4-8

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Paper-Son-Inspiring-Immigrant-Artist/dp/1524771872/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=Paper+Son%3A+The+Inspiring+Story+of+Tyrus+Wong%2C+Immigrant+and+Artist&qid=1619392964&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Paper-Son-Inspiring-Immigrant-Artist/dp/1524771872/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Paper+Son%3A+The+Inspiring+Story+of+Tyrus+Wong%2C+Immigrant+and+Artist&qid=1619392964&sr=8-1)



An inspiring picture-book biography of animator Tyrus Wong, the Chinese American immigrant responsible for bringing Disney's *Bambi* to life.

### **Where's Halmoni?**

by Julie Kim (Author, Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 5-9

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Wheres-Halmoni-Julie-Kim/dp/1632170779/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=JAWXVFHBNP4&dchild=1&keywords=where%27s+halmoni+by+julie+kim&qid=1619319604&srefix=where%27s+halmoni%2Caps%2C165&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Wheres-Halmoni-Julie-Kim/dp/1632170779/ref=sr_1_1?crid=JAWXVFHBNP4&dchild=1&keywords=where%27s+halmoni+by+julie+kim&qid=1619319604&srefix=where%27s+halmoni%2Caps%2C165&sr=8-1)



Beautifully illustrated and told by debut author Julie Kim, this picture book in graphic-novel style follows a young Korean girl and boy whose search for their missing grandmother leads them into a world inspired by Korean folklore, complete with mischievous goblins (*dokkebi*), a greedy tiger, a clever rabbit, and a wily fox.

### **Going Home, Coming Home**

by Truong Tran (Author), Ann Phong (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 6-9

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0892391790/ref=as\\_li\\_ss\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0892391790&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0892391790/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0892391790&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20)



Ami Chi is traveling to Vietnam, where the streets are crowded with scooters and the fruit are shaped like dragons and stars. Her parents still consider Vietnam home. But Ami Chi is confused. How can home be a place you've never been? She finds her answer in the green rice paddies that blanket the countryside, in the bustling Cho Lon market, and in the quiet rooms of her grandmother's house. Before long, Ami Chi finds that you can travel very far and still find yourself at home.

### **Chachaji's Cup**

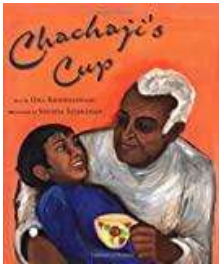
by Uma Krishnaswami (Author), Soumya Sitaraman (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 6-9

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Chachajis-Cup-Uma-Krishnaswami/dp/089239210X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=Chachaji%27s+Cup&qid=1619393813&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Chachajis-Cup-Uma-Krishnaswami/dp/089239210X/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Chachaji%27s+Cup&qid=1619393813&sr=8-1)



Chachaji's Cup is a gentle tale of family love and the power of memory, brought to life with richly hued paintings. Neel loves listening to Chachaji's stories over steaming cups of tea. Chachaji's tales of great Hindu gods and demons, and of his adventures in the Indian Army, leave Neel open-mouthed. But it is the tale of his great-uncle's favorite teacup that teaches Neel the most, for Chachaji's cup holds far more than sweet, spicy masala chai. It holds the story of a family and a country split in two during the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan. When the precious cup and Chachaji's health both prove to be more fragile than they look, Neel knows what he must do.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### **In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson**

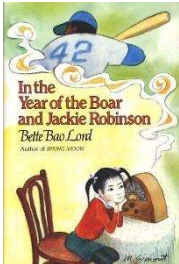
by Bette Bao Lord (Author), Marc Simont (Author)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 8-12

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Year-Boar-Jackie-Robinson/dp/0064401758/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crd=2FJATG0HZTV6P&dchild=1&keywords=year+of+the+boar+and+jackie+robinson&qid=1619317688&sprefix=year+of+the+boar+and+ja%2Caps%2C169&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Year-Boar-Jackie-Robinson/dp/0064401758/ref=sr_1_2?crd=2FJATG0HZTV6P&dchild=1&keywords=year+of+the+boar+and+jackie+robinson&qid=1619317688&sprefix=year+of+the+boar+and+ja%2Caps%2C169&sr=8-2)



Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle happens: baseball! It's 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is a superstar. Suddenly Shirley is playing stickball with her class and following Jackie as he leads the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory after victory. With her hero smashing assumptions and records on the ball field, Shirley begins to feel that America is truly the land of opportunity—and perhaps has also become her real home.

### **Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain**

by Katrina Saltonstall Currier (Author), Gabhor Utomo (Illustrator)

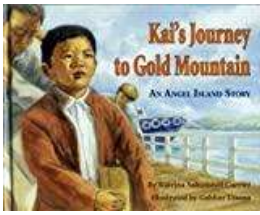
Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 9-12

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0966735277/ref=as\\_li\\_ss\\_il?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0966735277&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0966735277/ref=as_li_ss_il?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0966735277&linkCode=as2&tag=hapa0e-20)





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, the Ellis Island of the west, where immigrants from China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines were detained in barracks, often for long and unpredictable lengths of time. Twelve-year old Kai is one of those new arrivals, who must wait to be released so he can join his father on “Gold Mountain.”

### **Dumpling Days (part of 3-book series)**

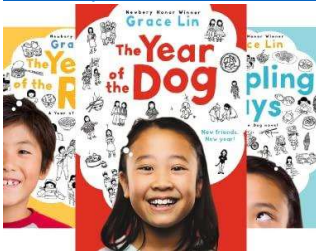
By Grace Lin (Author, Illustrator)

Genre: fiction

Age Level: 8-12

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Pacy-Lin-Novel-Book/dp/B00WKO3ZOM/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?dchild=1&keywords=pacy+lin+books&qid=1619325903&s=books&sr=1-5](https://www.amazon.com/Pacy-Lin-Novel-Book/dp/B00WKO3ZOM/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=pacy+lin+books&qid=1619325903&s=books&sr=1-5)



Loosely based on Lin’s Taiwanese American childhood, *Dumpling Days* follows Pacy as she takes her first trip to Taiwan to visit distant relatives and learn more about her parents’ home country. This book captures Pacy’s journey of experiencing a new culture while trying to better understand herself and her family.

### **The Night Diary Paperback**

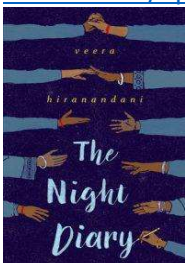
by Veera Hiranandani

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 8-12

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Night-Diary-Veera-Hiranandani/dp/0735228523/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+night+diary+book&qid=1619320953&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Night-Diary-Veera-Hiranandani/dp/0735228523/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+night+diary+book&qid=1619320953&sr=8-1)



It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders.

Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become

refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

## **AHIMSA**

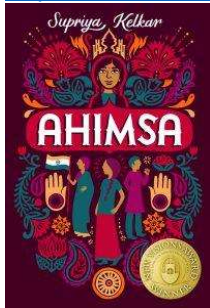
by Supriya Kelkar

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 9-12

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Ahimsa-Supriya-Kelkar/dp/1620143569/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crd=1Q56J09ZPN28E&dchild=1&keywords=ahimsa+book&qid=1619321123&sprefix=ahimsa%2Caps%2C174&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Ahimsa-Supriya-Kelkar/dp/1620143569/ref=sr_1_1?crd=1Q56J09ZPN28E&dchild=1&keywords=ahimsa+book&qid=1619321123&sprefix=ahimsa%2Caps%2C174&sr=8-1)



In 1942, when Mahatma Gandhi asks Indians to give one family member to the freedom movement, ten-year-old Anjali is devastated to think of her father risking his life for the freedom struggle. But it turns out he isn't the one joining. Anjali's mother is. And with this change comes many more adjustments designed to improve their country and use "ahimsa"--non-violent resistance--to stand up to the British government. First the family must trade in their fine foreign-made clothes for homespun cotton, so Anjali has to give up her prettiest belongings. Then her mother decides to reach out to the Dalit community, the "untouchables" of society. Anjali is forced to get over her past prejudices as her family becomes increasingly involved in the movement. When Anjali's mother is jailed, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work, ensuring that her little part of the independence movement is completed. Inspired by her great-grandmother's experience working with Gandhi, New Visions Award winner Supriya Kelkar shines a light on the Indian freedom movement in this poignant debut.

## **Listen, Slowly**

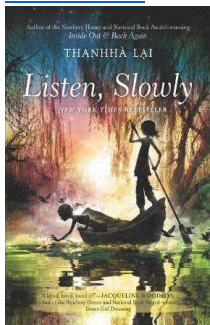
by Thanhà Lai

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 8-12

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Listen-Slowly-Thanhha-Lai/dp/0062229192/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=Listen%2C+Slowly+by+Thanhha%20Lai&qid=1619324858&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Listen-Slowly-Thanhha-Lai/dp/0062229192/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Listen%2C+Slowly+by+Thanhha%20Lai&qid=1619324858&sr=8-1)



When her straight As got her a family vacation to Vietnam, Mai dreads leaving her home to visit where her family comes from. Feeling a sense of disconnect as she learns about her roots and grandfather, Mai cannot wait to go back home to America. However, as time passes, she realizes new things about her identity and what home truly means. While Mai would rather be in America than Vietnam, her journey back home allows readers to better understand the challenges that Asian American children face as they discover their true identity.

### **A Place to Belong**

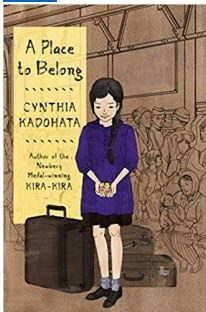
by Cynthia Kadohata (Author), Julia Kuo (Illustrator)

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 10-14

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Place-Belong-Cynthia-Kadohata/dp/1481446649/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=A+PLACE+TO+BELONG+BOOK&qid=1619315914&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Place-Belong-Cynthia-Kadohata/dp/1481446649/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=A+PLACE+TO+BELONG+BOOK&qid=1619315914&sr=8-2)



From the Newberry Medal-winning author of KIRA-KIRA comes a middle grade book about a Japanese American girl and her family who move to Japan after World War II. It is a story about trying to fit in when you don't feel like you do anywhere. It is about discovering who you really are. It is also a fascinating look at the aftermath of World War II.

### **Dust of Eden**

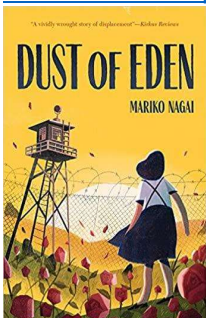
By Mariko Nagai

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 9-12

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Dust-Eden-Mariko-Nagai/dp/0807517380/ref=pd\\_sbs\\_1?pd\\_rd\\_w=mnqir&pf\\_rd\\_p=2f278529-0216-4b0b-87bc-29d98b4b6ca6&pf\\_rd\\_r=R4YDFXW3MHXZ4ZCR166D&pd\\_rd\\_r=8e7f5c79-8d2e-42c5-a8d7-2a04bb080924&pd\\_rd\\_wg=Fsxx7&pd\\_rd\\_i=0807517380&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Dust-Eden-Mariko-Nagai/dp/0807517380/ref=pd_sbs_1?pd_rd_w=mnqir&pf_rd_p=2f278529-0216-4b0b-87bc-29d98b4b6ca6&pf_rd_r=R4YDFXW3MHXZ4ZCR166D&pd_rd_r=8e7f5c79-8d2e-42c5-a8d7-2a04bb080924&pd_rd_wg=Fsxx7&pd_rd_i=0807517380&psc=1)



"We lived under a sky so blue in Idaho right near the towns of Hunt and Eden but we were not welcomed there." In early 1942, thirteen-year-old Mina Masako Tagawa and her Japanese-American family are sent from their home in Seattle to an internment camp in Idaho. What do you do when your home country treats you like an enemy? This memorable and powerful novel in verse, written by award-winning author Mariko Nagai, explores

the nature of fear, the value of acceptance, and the beauty of life. As thought-provoking as it is uplifting, *Dust of Eden* is told with an honesty that is both heart-wrenching and inspirational.

### **The Best We Could Do**

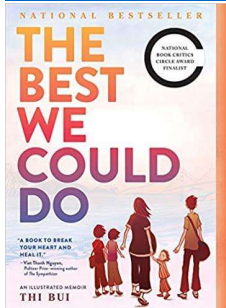
by Thi Bui

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 8+

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Best-We-Could-Do-Illustrated/dp/1419718789/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crid=2YB34LO4S6GIM&dchild=1&keywords=the+best+we+could+do+an+illustrated+memoir+by+thi+bui&qid=1619328492&s=books&prefix=The+Best+We+Could+Do%3A+An+Illustrated+Memoir%2Cstripbooks%2C154&sr=1-2](https://www.amazon.com/Best-We-Could-Do-Illustrated/dp/1419718789/ref=sr_1_2?crid=2YB34LO4S6GIM&dchild=1&keywords=the+best+we+could+do+an+illustrated+memoir+by+thi+bui&qid=1619328492&s=books&prefix=The+Best+We+Could+Do%3A+An+Illustrated+Memoir%2Cstripbooks%2C154&sr=1-2)



An intimate and poignant graphic novel portraying one family's journey from war-torn Vietnam, from debut author Thi Bui.

This beautifully illustrated and emotional story is an evocative memoir about the search for a better future and a longing for the past. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and her family, Bui documents the story of her family's daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s, and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves.

At the heart of Bui's story is a universal struggle: While adjusting to life as a first-time mother, she ultimately discovers what it means to be a parent—the endless sacrifices, the unnoticed gestures, and the depths of unspoken love. Despite how impossible it seems to take on the simultaneous roles of both parent and child, Bui pushes through. With haunting, poetic writing and breathtaking art, she examines the strength of family, the importance of identity, and the meaning of home.

### **Pashmina**

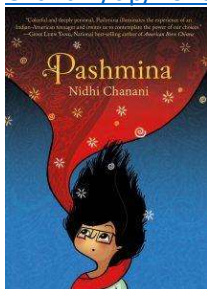
by Nidhi Chanani

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 10-14

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Pashmina-Nidhi-Chanani/dp/1626720878/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=pashmina+book&qid=1619320702&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Pashmina-Nidhi-Chanani/dp/1626720878/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=pashmina+book&qid=1619320702&sr=8-1)



Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? What was it like there? And most importantly, who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? But Pri's mom avoids these questions—the topic of India is permanently closed.

For Pri, her mother's homeland can only exist in her imagination. That is, until she finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase. When she wraps herself in it, she is transported to a place more vivid and colorful than any guidebook or Bollywood film. But is this the real India? And what is that shadow lurking in the background? To learn the truth, Pri must travel farther than she's ever dared and find the family she never knew.

In this heartwarming graphic novel debut, Nidhi Chanani weaves a tale about the hardship and self-discovery that is born from juggling two cultures and two worlds.

## HIGH SCHOOL

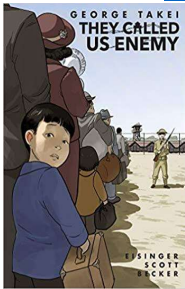
### **They Called Us Enemy**

by George Takei (Author), Justin Eisinger (Author), Steven Scott (Author), Harmony Becker (Illustrator)

Genre: Non-Fiction

Age Level: 12-17

Link to book: <https://www.amazon.com/They-Called-Enemy-George-Takei/dp/1603094504/>



#### ***New York Times Bestseller!***

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon -- and America itself -- in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in *Star Trek*, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard.

*They Called Us Enemy* is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

### **The Downstairs Girl**

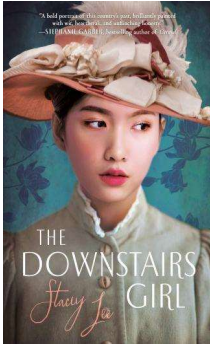
by Stacey Lee

Genre: -Fiction

Age Level: 12+

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Downstairs-Girl-Stacey-Lee/dp/1524740977/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=The+Downstairs+Girl&qid=1619394444&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Downstairs-Girl-Stacey-Lee/dp/1524740977/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=The+Downstairs+Girl&qid=1619394444&sr=8-1)



From the critically-acclaimed author of *Under a Painted Sky* and *Outrun the Moon* and founding member of We Need Diverse Books comes a powerful novel about identity, betrayal, and the meaning of family.

By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie." When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender. While her opponents clamor to uncover the secret identity of Miss Sweetie, a mysterious letter sets Jo off on a search for her own past and the parents who abandoned her as a baby. But when her efforts put her in the crosshairs of Atlanta's most notorious criminal, Jo must decide whether she, a girl used to living in the shadows, is ready to step into the light. With prose that is witty, insightful, and at times heartbreaking, Stacey Lee masterfully crafts an extraordinary social drama set in the New South.

### **American Born Chinese**

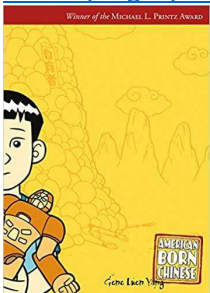
by Gene Luen Yang

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 12-18

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/American-Born-Chinese-Gene-Luen/dp/1250811899/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2FOQ30S6R8JSR&dchild=1&keywords=american+born+chinese+by+gene+luen+yang&qid=1619831816&sprex=American+Born+Chinese%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/American-Born-Chinese-Gene-Luen/dp/1250811899/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2FOQ30S6R8JSR&dchild=1&keywords=american+born+chinese+by+gene+luen+yang&qid=1619831816&sprex=American+Born+Chinese%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-1)



A tour-de-force by *New York Times* bestselling graphic novelist Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.

*American Born Chinese* is the winner of the 2007 Michael L. Printz Award, a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature, the winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New, an Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring, a 2007 Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year, and a *New York Times* bestseller.

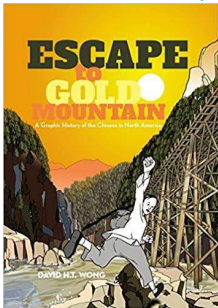
### **Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America**

by David H.T. Wong

Genre: Non-Fiction

Age Level: 12+

Link to book: <https://www.amazon.com/Escape-Gold-Mountain-Graphic-History/dp/1551524767/>



This is a vivid graphic history of the Chinese experience in North America over the last 150 years, beginning with the immigration of Chinese to "Gold Mountain" (the Chinese colloquialism for North America) in the 1800s that resulted in decades of discrimination, subjugation, and separation from loved ones. Based on historical documents and interviews with elders, the book is also the epic story of the Wong family as they traverse these challenges with hope and determination, creating an immigrant's legacy in their new home of North America.

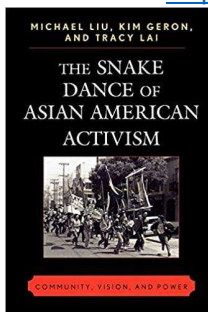
### **The Snake Dance of Asian American Activism: Community, Vision, and Power**

by Michael Liu, Kim Geron, Tracy Lai

Genre: Non-Fiction

Age Level: 16+

Link to book: <https://www.amazon.com/Snake-Dance-Asian-American-Activism/dp/0739127209/>



Liu, Geron, and Lai write about the Asian American Movement and its impact on the equality and inclusion of Asian Americans. This novel challenges the "model minority" stereotype that is harmful for our communities.

### **This Time Will Be Different**

by Misa Sugiura

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 13-17

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/This-Time-Will-Be-Different/dp/006247345X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=This+Time+Will+Be+Different+by+Misa+Sugiura&qid=1619324608&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/This-Time-Will-Be-Different/dp/006247345X/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=This+Time+Will+Be+Different+by+Misa+Sugiura&qid=1619324608&sr=8-1)



CJ is a Japanese American girl who loves flowers and has a knack for arranging beautiful bouquets. While she loves helping her aunt at their family floral shop, she feels that she is unable to live up to her mom's expectations for her. When Japanese Americans are forced to enter internment camps during World War II, she finds a way to help save her family's business, her own inner strength and her voice.

[\*This Time Will Be Different\*](#) is a great piece of literature that allows teens to learn more of the direct impact on and hardships on Japanese Americans during World War II.

### **American Panda**

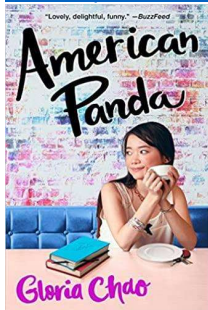
by Gloria Chao

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 12+

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/American-Panda-Gloria-Chao/dp/1481499114/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=american+panda+book&qid=1619326898&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/American-Panda-Gloria-Chao/dp/1481499114/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=american+panda+book&qid=1619326898&sr=8-2)



Four starred reviews for this incisive, laugh-out-loud contemporary debut about a Taiwanese-American teen whose parents want her to be a doctor and marry a Taiwanese Ivy Leaguer despite her squeamishness with germs and crush on a Japanese classmate.

### **A Step from Heaven**

by An Na

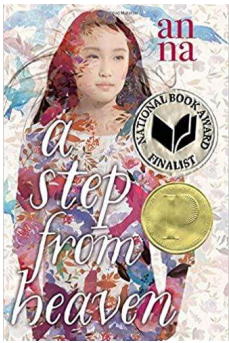
Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 12+

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Step-Heaven-Na/dp/1481442368/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=step+from+heaven+book&qid=1619327531&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Step-Heaven-Na/dp/1481442368/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=step+from+heaven+book&qid=1619327531&s=books&sr=1-1)





From master storyteller An Na comes the Printz Award–winning novel about a Korean girl who tells her firsthand account of trying to find her place and identity in America from the day she leaves Korea as a child to her rocky journey through the teenage years.

### **The Astonishing Color of After**

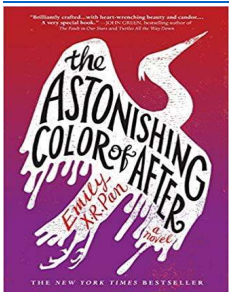
by Emily X.R. Pan

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 12+

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Astonishing-Color-After-Emily-X-R/dp/0316464015/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+astonishing+color+of+after+by+emily+x.r.+pan&qid=1619328791&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Astonishing-Color-After-Emily-X-R/dp/0316464015/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+astonishing+color+of+after+by+emily+x.r.+pan&qid=1619328791&s=books&sr=1-1)



Leigh Chen Sanders is absolutely certain about one thing: When her mother died by suicide, she turned into a bird. Leigh, who is half Asian and half white, travels to Taiwan to meet her maternal grandparents for the first time. There, she is determined to find her mother, the bird. In her search, she winds up chasing after ghosts, uncovering family secrets, and forging a new relationship with her grandparents. And as she grieves, she must try to reconcile the fact that on the same day she kissed her best friend and longtime secret crush, Axel, her mother was taking her own life.

Alternating between reality and magic, past and present, hope and despair, *The Astonishing Color of After* is a luminous debut novel about finding oneself through family history, art, bravery, and love.

### **Butterfly Yellow**

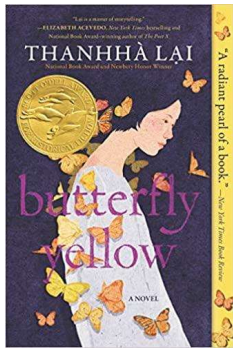
by Thanhà Lai

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 13-17

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Butterfly-Yellow-Thanhà-Lai/dp/0062229222/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=butterfly+yellow+by+thanhha+lai&qid=1619329111&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Butterfly-Yellow-Thanhà-Lai/dp/0062229222/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=butterfly+yellow+by+thanhha+lai&qid=1619329111&s=books&sr=1-1)



In the final days of the Việt Nam War, Hằng takes her little brother, Linh, to the airport, determined to find a way to safety in America. In a split second, Linh is ripped from her arms—and Hằng is left behind in the war-torn country.

Six years later, Hằng has made the brutal journey from Việt Nam and is now in Texas as a refugee. She doesn't know how she will find the little brother who was taken from her until she meets LeeRoy, a city boy with big rodeo dreams, who decides to help her.

Hằng is overjoyed when she reunites with Linh. But when she realizes he doesn't remember her, their family, or Việt Nam, her heart is crushed. Though the distance between them feels greater than ever, Hằng has come so far that she will do anything to bridge the gap.

### **A Very Large Expanse of Sea**

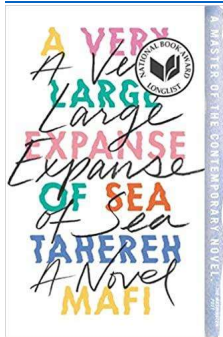
by Tahereh Mafi

Genre: Fiction

Age Level: 13-17

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Very-Large-Expanse-Sea/dp/0062866575/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=A+Very+Large+Expanse+of+Sea+by+Tahereh+Mafi&qid=1619329208&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Very-Large-Expanse-Sea/dp/0062866575/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=A+Very+Large+Expanse+of+Sea+by+Tahereh+Mafi&qid=1619329208&s=books&sr=1-1)



From the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of the *Shatter Me* series comes a powerful, heartrending contemporary novel about fear, first love, and the devastating impact of prejudice.

It's 2002, a year after 9/11. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped.

Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments—even the physical violence—she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So she's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother.

But then she meets Ocean James. He’s the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know Shirin. It terrifies her—they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds—and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she’s not sure she’ll ever be able to let it down.

### **Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning**

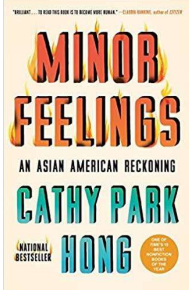
by Cathy Park Hong

Genre: Non-Fiction

Age Level: 16+

Link to book:

[https://www.amazon.com/Minor-Feelings-Asian-American-Reckoning/dp/1984820389/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=Cathy+Park+Hong%3A+Minor+Feelings&qid=1619329540&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Minor-Feelings-Asian-American-Reckoning/dp/1984820389/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Cathy+Park+Hong%3A+Minor+Feelings&qid=1619329540&s=books&sr=1-1)



A ruthlessly honest, emotionally charged, and utterly original exploration of Asian American consciousness

Poet and essayist Cathy Park Hong fearlessly and provocatively blends memoir, cultural criticism, and history to expose fresh truths about racialized consciousness in America. Part memoir and part cultural criticism, this collection is vulnerable, humorous, and provocative—and its relentless and riveting pursuit of vital questions around family and friendship, art and politics, identity and individuality, will change the way you think about our world.

Binding these essays together is Hong’s theory of “minor feelings.” As the daughter of Korean immigrants, Cathy Park Hong grew up steeped in shame, suspicion, and melancholy. She would later understand that these “minor feelings” occur when American optimism contradicts your own reality—when you believe the lies you’re told about your own racial identity. Minor feelings are not small, they’re dissonant—and in their tension Hong finds the key to the questions that haunt her.

With sly humor and a poet’s searching mind, Hong uses her own story as a portal into a deeper examination of racial consciousness in America today. This intimate and devastating book traces her relationship to the English language, to shame and depression, to poetry and female friendship. A radically honest work of art, *Minor Feelings* forms a portrait of one Asian American psyche—and of a writer’s search to both uncover and speak the truth.

### **ADDITIONAL BOOKS**

<https://www.mystorytimecorner.com/childrens-books-to-read-for-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/celebrating-asian-pacific-american-heritage>

<https://debbimichikoflorence.com/books/jasmine-toguchi/>

<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=20-books-young-readers-celebrate-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month-year-round>

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/series/ALV/alvin-ho>

<http://gabrielleahulii.com/books>

<https://www.bestproducts.com/parenting/g32366322/kids-books-for-asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month/>  
<https://www.lapl.org/teens/books/asian-american-heritage-month-young-adult-books>  
<https://www.epicreads.com/blog/books-for-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month/>  
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/books-asian-and-pacific-islanders-authors>

## **BOOKS FOR ADULTS**

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/books-for-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month>  
<https://www.bustle.com/p/19-books-to-read-for-asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month-22892034>  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month-books-reading-list-n1208036>

## **BOOKS BY COUNTRY/REGION**

Pacific Islander focus:

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/hawaiian-and-pacific-islander>  
<https://diversebooks.org/resources-for-pacific-islander-heritage-month/>  
<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/hawaiian-and-pacific-islander>

Chinese

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/chinese-and-chinese-american>

Burmese

<http://talkstorytogether.org/burmese-and-burmese-american>

Cambodian

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/cambodian-and-cambodian-american>

Filipino

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/filipino-and-filipino-american>

Hmong

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/hmong-and-hmong-american>

Japanese

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/hmong-and-hmong-american>

Korean

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/korean-and-korean-american>

Laotian

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/laotian-and-laotian-american>

Malaysian

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/malaysian>

Mongolian

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/mongolian>

South Asian

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/south-asian-and-south-asianindian-american>

Taiwanese

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/taiwanese-and-taiwanese-american>

Thai

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/thai-and-thai-american>

Tibetan

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/tibetan>

Vietnamese

<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list/vietnamese-and-vietnamese-american>