

Asian & Pacific Islander Creators

Nonfiction, Biographies, and Traditional Tales

Nonfiction

Amara, Philip. *Awesome Asian Americans: 20 Stars Who Made America Amazing* (920.009 AMA). A compelling collection featuring 20 profiles of Asian Americans. Challenged by racism, prejudice, and stereotypes, these pioneers forged ahead and became role models for generations to come, across a variety of backgrounds and vocations.

Cherenfant, Sabine. *How Vietnamese Immigrants Made America Home* (973.049 CHE). Treatments of Vietnamese history in American schools are usually limited to the Vietnam War. This book explains the reasons members of the Vietnamese community migrated to a country that conducted a great deal of violence against their people. It explains how they survived a hostile labor market when many did not speak the language, and how they built a cultural identity that preserved their heritage while allowing them to assimilate.

Du, Fei. *China Through Time: A 2,500 Year Journey Along the World's Greatest Canal* (951 DU). Embark on an unforgettable time-travelling journey through Chinese history. This book spans 2,500 years and more than a thousand miles along China's Grand Canal with panoramic illustrations to bring key periods and turning points in the canal's history to life. Cutaway views show the inside of buildings and introduce children to important places, characters, and events - from humble workers to mighty emperors, and from floods and wars to life in bustling ports and modern cities.

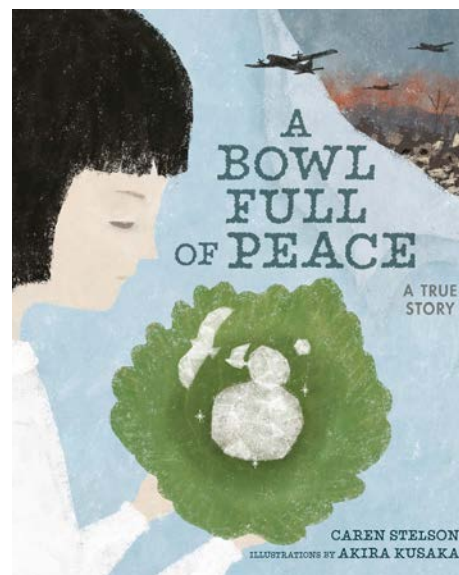
Francis, Angela Sangma. *Everest* (954.96 FRA). There is a place where a mountain grows. It is the highest spot on Earth, the ultimate challenge for mountain-climbing adventurers, the towering figure of Sagarmatha, the Goddess of the Sky... Welcome to Mount Everest. Travel back to the mountain's ancient origins, learn about the flora and fauna of its great flanks, and discover the rich culture and history surrounding it.

Grady, Cynthia. *Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind* (940.531 GRA). When Executive Order 9066 is enacted after the attack at Pearl Harbor, children's librarian Clara Breed's young Japanese American patrons are to be sent to prison camp. Before they are moved, Through the three years of their internment, the children correspond with Miss Breed, sharing their stories, providing feedback on books she gave them, and creating a record of their experiences.

Hood, Susan. *Titan and the Wild Boars: The True Cave Rescue of the Thai Soccer Team* (796.525 HOO). One afternoon, eleven-year-old Titan, his friends from the Wild Boars soccer team, and their coach rode their bikes to explore local caves. They crawled through the narrow tunnels in the dark to reach the center of the cave. When they turned to go home, heavy rains had flooded the tunnel. They were trapped. With rising waters and monsoon season upon them, time and oxygen were running out. For older readers, try *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat (796.525 SOO), which explores the story further, combining first hand interviews of rescue workers with in-depth science and details of the region's culture and religion. It shows how both the complex engineering operation above ground and the mental struggles of the thirteen young people below proved critical in the life-or-death mission.

Javaherbin, Mina. *My Grandma and Me* (955 JAV). While Mina is growing up in Iran, the center of her world is her grandmother. Whether visiting friends next door, going to the mosque for midnight prayers during Ramadan, or taking an imaginary trip around the planets, Mina and her grandma are never far apart, making lifelong memories.

Jimenez, Gidget Rocoles. *All About the Philippines: Stories, Songs, Crafts and Games for Kids* (959.9 JIM). An incredible journey across the colorful island nation of the Philippines with Mary, Jaime, and Ari—three Filipino cousins who look entirely different and yet are the best of friends. You'll visit their homes, their schools, their families, their favorite places, and much more. They'll show you how kids in different parts of the Philippines come from many different ethnic groups and have very various cultures—each with separate traditions, languages, and beliefs—and yet, they are all 100% Filipino!



Kaneko, Misuzu. *Are You an Echo?: The Lost Poetry of Misuzu Kaneko* (811 KAN). Misuzu Kaneko was born in 1903 in Senzaki, Japan. She rose to fame as a celebrated author of children's poems. After her death, her poems fell into obscurity for decades, until the 1970s when Setsuo Yazaki discovered and published her full body of work in Japanese. This is the first English-language biography and collection of her poetry to be distributed in English.

Kaur, Paramjot. *How Indian Immigrants Made America Home* (973.049 KAU). From agrarian economies to the booming technology industry, Indian immigrants have been a fueling force to the development of today's world. Throughout the intense years of the early 1900s to present day America, they bore the duty of hard labor, political activism against colonizers who have held power in their original home country for 200 years, and the role of pioneers in unfamiliar lands.

Khaira, Raj Kaur. *Stories for South Asian Supergirls* (920.72 KHA). The inspirational stories of 50 famous and under-celebrated women from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, including illustrious entertainers (Meera Syal, Jameela Jamil, Mindy Kaling), pioneering business leaders (Indra Nooyi, Anjali Sud, Ruchi Sanghvi) and a host of other, equally remarkable yet less well known, figures (including the British Muslim spy Noor Inayat Khan, and fearless activist Jayaben Desai). *Stories for South Asian Supergirls* seeks to redress the imbalance for young girls of color by empowering them to break new ground for themselves and to inspire others in the process.



continued on back

Learn more: oppl.org/kids-lists

OAK PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Asian & Pacific Islander Creators

Nonfiction, Biographies, and Traditional Tales

Nonfiction cont.

Lu, Georgina W.S. *How Chinese Immigrants Made America Home* (973.049 LU). Chinese immigrants first reached the shores of California in the mid 1800s. Since then, they have made significant contributions to the American economy. Written by a Chinese immigrant, readers will discover that even the xenophobia that exists today can be defeated and one's culture celebrated in the United States.

Nagara, Innosanto. *My Night in the Planetarium* (Multicultural Collection). A true story from Nagara's childhood in Indonesia: a child's view of a particular place and time, but also an introduction to Indonesia, a story about colonialism, and a message about the power of creativity.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler. *Thirty Minutes over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story* (940.542 NOB). The moving true story of reconciliation after war; a Japanese pilot bombs the continental U.S. during WWII—the only enemy ever to do so—and comes back 20 years later to apologize.

Riley, Scott. *The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field* (796.334 RIL). On a tiny Thai island without room for a soccer field, a group of resourceful teen boys gathers scraps and works together to build a floating field so they can play the game they love.

Say, Allen. *Drawing from Memory* (741.6 SAY). Shunned by his father, who didn't understand his son's artistic leanings, Allen was embraced by Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist and the man he came to love as his "spiritual father," all while WWII changed their lives.

Singh, Rina. *111 Trees: How One Village Celebrates the Birth of Every Girl* (305.42 SIN). After the deaths of his mother, and later his daughter, Sundar Paliwal is determined to live in a place where girls and boys are treated equally. He manages to convince the people of his rural Indian village to welcome every girl born with the planting of 111 trees. His efforts have turned a desert village into a green oasis that is safe and prosperous for girls.

Stelson, Caren Barzelay. *A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story* (940.542 STE). Six-year-old Sachiko and her family suffered greatly after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and in the years that followed, the miraculous survival of a ceramic bowl became a key part of Sachiko's journey toward peace.

Tejubehan. *Drawing the City* (759.954 TEJ). Teju Behan is a singer and self-taught urban folk artist from western India who describes her life of poverty until a job working as a singer with a fellow artist led her to discover her own artistic talent.

Tran, Phuoc Thi Minh. *All About Vietnam: Stories, Songs, Crafts and Games for Kids* (959.7 TRA). Vietnam comes vibrantly alive! Tour the teeming streets of Hanoi to the red and white sand dunes of Mui Ne. Cross the Dragon Bridge in Da Nang at night, illuminated with 2,500 red lights, and visit the early morning fish markets of the central coast. Use the recipes to make authentic dishes. Hear popular folk tales and legends. Learn how to ring in the new year with Tet, and so much more!

Tsiang, Sarah. *Warriors and Wailers: One Hundred Ancient Chinese Jobs You Might Have Relished or Reviled* (931 TSI). Explore the wide range of professions prevalent in China throughout its history, including those in the fields of civil service, academia, religion, law and order, entertainment, and health.

Zhao, Guangchao. *What Was it Like, Mr. Emperor?: Life in China's Forbidden City* (951 KWO). Have you ever wondered what it was like to be the Emperor of China? How was the emperor chosen? What was school like? How did he celebrate his birthday? Journey through the average life of an emperor and learn about the people who lived in the palace. Also by Guangchao Zhao: *In the Forbidden City* (951 ZHA).

Traditional and Folk Tales

Beach, Milo Cleveland. *The Adventures of Rama* (398.2 BEA). Adapted episodes from the Ramayana that follow Rama as he seeks to rescue the kidnapped Sita with the help of Hanuman and his army of monkeys, with illustrations reproduced from paintings from a sixteenth-century Mughal manuscript.

De La Paz, Myrna J. *Abadeha: The Philippine Cinderella* (398.2 DEL). Abadeha endures abuse by her stepmother before being helped by the Spirit of the Forest and becoming the bride of the island chieftain's son.

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. *Grandma and The Great Gourd: A Bengali Folk Tale* (Picture Books). On her way to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, Grandma encounters a hungry fox, bear, and tiger, and although she convinces them to wait for her return trip, she still must find a way to outwit them all.

Ganeri, Anita. *Star Stories: Constellation Tales from Around the World* (398.2 GAN). For thousands of years people have looked up to the night sky and told stories about the stars. These epic tales tell of vengeful gods and goddesses, of monsters and heroes. Others try to make sense of the natural world, or unravel the mysterious forces of the universe.

Heo, Yumi. *The Green Frogs: A Korean Folktale* (398.2 HEO). A folktale about two green frogs who always disobey their mother, explaining why green frogs cry out whenever it rains.

Kim, So-un. *Korean Children's Favorite Stories* (398.2 SOU). These Korean fables pulsate with the rhythm of life and the seasons, transporting the reader to a wonderland where ants talk, a baby rabbit outwits a tiger, a tree fathers a child, and a toad saves a whole village.

Li, Jian. *The Water Dragon: A Chinese Legend* (World Languages, Chinese 398.2 LI). A little boy sets off in search of the Water Dragon, to save his village from a mysterious drought.

Nhất Hạnh, Thích. *The Dragon Prince: Stories and Legends from Vietnam* (398.2 NHA). Creation myths, tales of wars, and food and custom myths, all told around the notion of mindfulness.

Sapre, Reshma. *The Traveller, the Tiger, and the Very Clever Jackal* (398.2 SAP). Ignoring his wife's warnings, old Raaheji wanders deep into the woods where he is about to meet his demise. Threatened by a man-eating tiger, Raaheji goes on an adventure, meeting an interesting cast of characters.

Seki, Sunny. *The Last Kappa of Old Japan: A Magical Journey of Two Friends* (398.2 SEK). Young Norihei saves the life of a kappa, one of the mythological beings who keep the water clean, and the two become friends, but changes brought by the Industrial Revolution force the kappa to leave, only to return when Norihei needs him most.

Suyenaga, Joan. *Indonesian Children's Favorite Stories* (398.2 SUY). Set in tropical rain forests, on balmy beaches, and in the remote highlands of the Indonesian islands, find the universal values of bravery, cleverness, true love, kindness and loyalty through stories of astute princesses, resourceful villagers and daring travelers.

Yasuda, Yuri. *A Treasury of Japanese Folktales* (398.2 YAS). Adventures carry us, on turtle-back, to the splendors of the underwater palace of the dragon princess, to the beautiful hills where Kintaro plays with his animal friends, and to a temple where we discover a "tea kettle" that is really a cunning badger in disguise.

Ye, Luying. *The Ode to the Goddess of the Luo River* (398.209 YE). Although a goddess and a mortal can fall in love, it is best to remember that the 'world of humans and gods could never exist together.' The story of the beautiful goddess of the Luo River is one of love and loss, based on a poem written by Cao Zhi, a Chinese writer who lived in the state of Wei during the three Kingdoms period (approximately 220–280 CE.)

continued on next page

Asian & Pacific Islander Creators

Nonfiction, Biographies, and Traditional Tales

Biographies

The Eagle Huntress: The True Story of the Girl Who Soared Beyond Expectations (BIO AISHOLPAN). Aisholpan Nurgaivyn tells her own story for the first time. She captured and trained her own golden eagle and won the Ölgii eagle festival, one of Mongolia's most prestigious competitions.

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando (BIO ANDO). This is the true story behind one of the world's most popular foods. For years, Ando dreamed about making a new kind of ramen noodle soup that was quick, convenient, and tasty to feed the hungry people he'd seen following World War II.

Girl Under a Red Moon (BIO CHEN). Persecuted by the Red Guard, Da and his older sister Sisi escape their home so she can find work elsewhere, trying to find a compromise between safety and justice, and a decent life for both of them.

Dumpling Dreams: How Joyce Chen Brought the Dumpling from Beijing to Cambridge (BIO CHEN). Delectable rhymes tell the story of how Joyce Chen, a girl born in Communist China, immigrated to the US and popularized Chinese cooking.

Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix (BIO CHOI). For Chef Roy Choi, food means love. It also means culture, not only of Korea where he was born, but the many cultures that make up the streets of Los Angeles, where he was raised.

Tammy Duckworth (BIO DUCKWORTH). How did Tammy Duckworth become a Senator? Learn all about the significant events in her life in this biography for young readers.

It Began With a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way (BIO FUJIKAWA). A talented artist in a time when women and Japanese Americans had fewer opportunities, Gyo became a hero in the fight for racial diversity in picture books!

Be the Change: A Grandfather Gandhi Story (BIO GANDHI). At Grandfather Gandhi's service village, each day is filled, from sunrise to sunset, with work that is done for the good of all. The villagers vow to live simply and non-violently. Arun Gandhi tries very hard to follow these vows, but he struggles with one of the most important rules: not to waste.

A Song for China: How my Father Wrote Yellow River Cantata (BIO GUANG). The fascinating story of how a young Chinese author, Guang Weiran, a passionate militant from the age of twelve, fought, using art, theater, poetry and song to create a socially just China.

Too Young to Escape: A Vietnamese Girl Waits to be Reunited With Her Family (BIO HO). During the aftermath of the Vietnam War, Van wakes up to find that her mother and her siblings are gone, having escaped the new communist regime for freedom in the West. Four-year-old Van is too young—and her grandmother is too old—for such a dangerous journey by boat, so the two have been left behind.

Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity (BIO KUSAMA). Growing up in the mountains of Japan, Yayoi Kusama dreamed of becoming an artist. One day, she had a vision in which the world and everything in it - the plants, the people, the sky - was covered in polka dots. She began to cover her paintings, drawings, sculptures, and even her body with dots!

The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee (BIO LEE). Hazel was born fearless and the moment she took her first airplane ride, she knew where she belonged. Even when people scoffed at her dreams of becoming a pilot, Hazel joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II. It was a dangerous job, but Hazel flew with joy and boldness.

The Story of Olympic Diver Sammy Lee (BIO LEE). Dr. Sammy Lee dove into Olympic history and became the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal, in 1948. But growing up, he was a Korean American boy facing discrimination at home. How could he learn to dive if he, like other people of color, was only allowed to use the pool one day a week?

Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea (BIO LEE). The memoir of Sungju Lee, who grew up in North Korea and, at the age of twelve, was forced to live on the streets and fend for himself after his parents disappeared. After years of being homeless and living with a gang, Sungju was reunited with his grandparents and, eventually, his father.

Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines: Designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (BIO LIN). As a child, Maya Lin loved to study the spaces around her. The daughter of a clay artist and a poet, she grew up with art and learned to think with her hands as well as her mind.

Yo-Yo Ma (BIO MA) How did Yo-Yo Ma become a world-renowned cellist? Learn all about this great Asian American musician and the significant events in his life in this biography for young readers.

I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place, and Purpose (BIO PEI). Although world-renowned architect I.M. Pei claims that he does not have a stylistic signature, his work is identified by geometric form, minimalist beauty, and an integral relationship with nature. Here are the conflict-ridden stories behind six of Pei's most celebrated buildings, all turning points in his career.

Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon (BIO SINGH). The true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon. Learn about the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment to positive representation of the Sikh community.

A Girl Called Genghis Khan: How Maria Toorpakai Wazir Pretended to be a Boy, Defied the Taliban, and Became a World Famous Squash Player (BIO TOORPAKAI). When the President of Pakistan gave Maria an award for outstanding achievement, the Taliban threatened her squash club, family, and life. Forced to quit the team, she continued to practice in her bedroom every day for three years!

Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist (BIO WONG). As a boy, Wong Geng Yeo traveled across a vast ocean from China with only a suitcase. Once in America, he seized every opportunity to make art! Eventually, he was given the opportunity of a lifetime—and using sparse brushstrokes and soft watercolors, Wong created the iconic backgrounds of *Bambi*.

Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom (BIO WU). When Wu Chien Shiung was born in China 100 years ago, girls did not attend school. But her parents encouraged her love of science. Wu battled sexism at home and racism in the USA to become "Queen of Physics" for her work on how atoms split.

I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban (BIO YOUSAFZAI). When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. She has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. For younger readers, try *Malala's Magic Pencil*.

Pirate Queen: A Story of Zheng Yi Sao (BIO ZHENG). The most powerful pirate in history was a woman who was born into poverty in Guangzhou, China, in the early 1800s. When pirates attacked her town and the captain took a liking to her, she saw a way out. Zheng Yi Sao agreed to marry him only if she got an equal share of his business. When her husband died six years later, she took command of the fleet!

Flying Paintings: The Zhou Brothers: A Story of Revolution and Art (BIO ZHOU). Amid the turbulence of China's Cultural Revolution in the 1970s, the Zhou Brothers began painting together on the same canvas. Today, ShanZuo and DaHuang Zhou are icons in the art world, renowned for working side by side on all their paintings and sculptures.