

## MAY 2021 SPOKANE DIVERSITY/CULTURAL EVENTS

### Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian Pacific Americans, a term that encompasses many ethnic groups, worked tirelessly to build a national railroad infrastructure, paving the way for western expansion. The first Asian Pacific Heritage Week was celebrated in 1979, in response to little or no recognition of this population in the 1976 bicentennial celebrations. By 1990, the celebration was a month long and then made official in 1992. For more information visit <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/> and the WA State Commission for Asian Pacific American Affairs <https://capaa.wa.gov/>.

### Jewish American Heritage Month

In 2006, President George W. Bush designated May as the month to teach about Jewish history and culture and to recognize the important contributions of Jewish Americans to U.S. history. For more information visit <https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov>. In addition, visit the Washington State Jewish Historical Society at <http://www.wsjhs.org/> for information about Jewish people in WA State.

### Older American's Month - USA

It was established by Presidential Proclamation in 1963. The entire nation is encouraged to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. It is celebrated across the country through ceremonies and events.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Art Hour

#### Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Program includes in-depth interviews with local artists, cultural commentary, and announcements for the creative community and their fans. Hosted by Mike and Eric. On KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

### Can You Queer Me Now?

#### Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Hear voices directly from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning community right here in the Inland Northwest. You will hear more about current events, local groups, and perspectives directly from the queer youth community. Hosted by Ian Sullivan on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

### Democracy Now

#### Day: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-6:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

### Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish

#### Date: Saturday

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

*Democracy Now!* is a national, daily, independent, award winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: [www.kyrs.org](http://www.kyrs.org) or [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

**Dragonflies on Thin Air****Day: Sunday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children's radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more. includes Alice, Elenor C., Lily, Rowan, Sicely, Finn, Eleanor M., Sophia, Aleric and Amara. They all go to Spokane Public Montessori elementary school. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Irish Music on Tap****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England as well as Celtic Brittany and Canada. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Ke Buena.**

Spanish language station. Oz 95.7.

**Latin Lounge****Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by "Corazon" on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Layali Arabia****Day: Monday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Arabic songs from a multitude of different genres to come out of the Arab World. Hosted by Rachel on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Queens of Noise****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by Luscious Duchess, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**QueerSounds****Day: Thursday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

QueerSounds is radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events and forums. KYRS FM 92.3 or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**The Persian Hour****Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour's consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Raise Your Voice****Day: Friday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

A teenage-run music and current events program. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**The Science of Poverty****Day: Saturday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Explores the topic of poverty. Hosted by Jesse Quintana, official Facebook site. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**SOS-Spokane****Day: Thursday**

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

The show addresses critical issues facing the Inland Northwest via research, in-depth news, information, analysis, and reasoned opinion. Hosted by Paul Potocky. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Sounds of Science****Day: Sunday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Lively discussion of what's happening in the world of science, from how it is affecting our lives to the ways we are shaping it. Hosted by Blake, Amaya and Adam. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Two Brown Ladies and a Microphone****Day: Sunday**

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Soul conversations. Life advice. Things that make us think, reflect, cope and ultimately stay the course. Hosted by Duncan & Brown. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Welcome Home****Day: Thursday**

Time: 10:00 am – noon

A multi-genre roots based folk show. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Women's Media Center Live****Day: Wednesday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

*WMC Live with Robin Morgan* tackles today's hottest topics; whether it be sex, politics, art, humor, religion, culture, or news stories that go unreported, each is engaged regularly, insightfully, and intelligently. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Workin' Woman Blues****Day: Sunday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tunes to help you shake the blues out of your hair with a mix of Funk, R&B, Soul and Blues. Hosted by Jukebox Jennie. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Art Contest**Faith leaders and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho invites you to their art contest. Open to Middle School, High School, College/Adult. Create an artistic poster to **"Celebrate Curiosity"**

One top prize of \$150 and three \$100 runner-up prizes (one in each age category).

**Submit no later than May 12, 2021.** Announcement of winner by June 10, 2021.For more information for entry and rules, email [FLLConscience@gmail.com](mailto:FLLConscience@gmail.com).

### **Trauma and Healing in Asian American Communities Today**

Dr. Okazaki's current research focuses on the twin impact of anti-Asian racism and anti-Black racism during the pandemic on Asian Americans' wellbeing. Join them as she discusses the lessons emerging about individual and community actions promoting healing, resilience, and solidarity.

**Date: Monday, May 3, 2021**

Time: noon-1:00 pm

Location: On -line

Cost: Free, register at [bit.ly/aapiheal](https://bit.ly/aapiheal)

For more information visit <https://inside.ewu.edu/mcc/aapi-heritage-month-2021/>. Sponsored by Eastern WA University. Hosted by the Anthropology Department, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies, and the WAGE Center.

### **Paint the Cracks Red**

Paint the cracks red is a project in support of May 5<sup>th</sup> MMIW Day of Action as a reminder to not let our loved ones fall through the cracks. They will be painting red handprints on the sidewalks and painting the cracks red in reflection of the high numbers of missing and murdered indigenous that are falling through the cracks in.

**Date: Monday, May 3, 2021**

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Starts in front of city Hall

Cost: Free

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/MusicMovement509>. Sponsored by MAC (Music, Art, Creative) Movement.

### **Always On: How to Turn Up the Volume on Everyday Communication**

Is there such a thing as an "authentic self?" Though the phrase looks great on an inspirational poster, we are constantly in flux. You may act differently as a friend or a romantic partner, as a worker or a boss, or as a student or a teacher. We are all performing every day, and these performances should be embraced—they influence our lives in profound ways and can help us have richer experiences.

Drawing from philosophy and psychology, actor and public speaking expert Monica Cortés Viharo explores the roles we play in our lives and the performances all around us—and shows how to communicate confidently in all situations. This interactive discussion also introduces practice exercises for combating performance anxiety and being a confident public speaker. Viharo is earning a PhD in Drama and has twenty years of experience as an actor and public speaking consultant. Viharo lives in Seattle.

**Date: Monday, May 3, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at <https://fvrl.librarymarket.com/always-how-turn-volume-everyday-communication>.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-always-on-how-to-turn-up-the-volume-on-everyday-communication-2/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries.

### **From Mexican to Mexican-American: A Family Immigration Story – SCC Hagan Center**

As immigration has become more hotly debated in the United States, the arguments have become cartoonish, with one side often painted as naïve and another as xenophobic. What has become lost is the human story of immigration to America, with all its complexity, heartache, and hope.

Professor Carlos Gil sought to understand immigration by tracing his family's history from the 1920s to the 1970s. In the process, he discovered the excitement, culture shock, inter-family conflict, and questions of identity that many immigrants face when seeking a better life in another country. Based on his book, *We Became Mexican-American: How Our Immigrant Family Survived to Pursue the American Dream*, this talk explores Mexican immigration by spotlighting his own family's experience in southern California, including parallels with Washington State. Carlos Gil is an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Washington, where he has taught the history of Latin America for over thirty years.

**Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Time: 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

Location: On-line – this presentation will be in English and in Spanish.

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/from-mexican-to-mexican-american-a-family-immigration-story-26/> for am session; and <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-from-mexican-to-mexican-american-a-family-immigration-story-8/> for pm session. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Cascadia College (am) and Walla Walla Community College (pm).

### **Celebrate Cinco de mayo with History and Culture!**

HBPA will be hosting an exhibit of the real history behind 5 de Mayo. It commemorates the date of the Mexican army's 1862 victory over Napoleon III's France at the Battle of Puebla during the France-Mexican War.

**Dates: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Time: 3:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Spring Market at the Pavilion

Cost: Free

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/HBPASPOKANE>. Sponsored by Hispanic Business/Professional Association (HBPA) and Spokane Riverfront Park. and to register

### **She Traveled Solo: Strong Women in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

During a 5,000-mile solo bicycle ride from southern California to Maine, Tessa Hulls heard the same thing daily: that a woman can't travel alone. Using historical photographs, primary documents, and hand-drawn illustrations, Hulls takes participants into the lives of intrepid female adventurers who lived through the turn of the 20th century—before the right to vote or the right to own property. In sharing these stories and her own, Hulls illuminates the power of history in today's world and demonstrates why female role models are vital in affecting social change.

Tessa Hulls is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, and outdoorswoman who focuses on women's stories, and her writing has appeared in the Washington Post and Atlas Obscura's Kickass Women series.

**Dates: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-she-traveled-solo-strong-women-in-the-early-20th-century-10/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Hearthstone.

### **No More Stolen Sisters: A Discussion of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

Join the conversation for an important discussion on the urgent crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and steps forward to secure safety and justice for them.

This conversation will be moderated by Commissioner Vicki Lowe, and we will be joined by special guests: Representative Debra Lekanoff, , representing the 40th House district; Patricia Whitefoot, President of the National Indian Education Association; and Abigail Echo-Hawk, , Director of the Urban Indian Health Institute and Executive Vice President at the Seattle Indian Health Board

**Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: On-line - [us02web.zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us)

Cost: Free

For more information visit <https://www.wswc.wa.gov/>. Sponsored by WA State Women's Commission.

### **Grand Opening – Office of Latinos en Spokane**

Join the Latinos en Spokane team for an opening ceremony, tour of the office, music, and food.

**Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: 1502 N Monroe Ave.

Cost: Free, please wear a mask and social distance.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=latinos%20en%20spokane>.

### **View the Pavilion in Honor of Missing & Murdered Indigenous (MMI)**

The Pavilion at Riverfront Park will be lit up RED to honor, remember and bring awareness for our missing and murdered community members and to show support to their loved ones. The MMIW (Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women) proclamation was signed by Spokane City to honor MMI people every year on May 5th. We encourage participation in this event as well as the community walk and art installations scheduled earlier in the day. Another positive way to support this cause is to wear red clothing on May 5th and donate to local organizations who work actively to address this systemic issue.

**Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Riverfront Park Pavilion

Cost: Free, please respect others by wearing a mask in public settings.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/MusicMovement509>. Sponsored by MAC (Music, Art, Creative) Movement.

### **From Crime to the Classroom: How Education Changes Lives**

According to statistics, Omari Amili's story should have turned out much differently. His parents suffered from addiction which led to him growing up in poverty and struggling in school. Eventually, he ended up serving prison time. Though Amili was a product of what's often referred to as the "school-to-prison pipeline," it was ultimately education that changed Amili's life. Blending his personal story and scholarship, Amili leads a discussion on the benefits of another path: the "prison-to-college pipeline," where incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people can take college courses and receive a degree. Studies have shown that education is one of the best ways to reduce the chance of returning to prison, and Omari explores how we all benefit—as individuals and a society—from the new perspective, sense of direction, and confidence education provides.

Omari Amili earned a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Washington Tacoma, where his research focused on the benefits of college education for formerly incarcerated people.

**Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit the website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-from-crime-to-the-classroom-how-education-changes-lives-9/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Anacortes Public Library.

### **Let It Not Happen Again: Lessons of the Japanese American Exclusion**

In March of 1942, 227 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes on Bainbridge Island by the US Army. Starting with this small community, a national strategy began, with more than 120,000 Japanese American men, women, and children forcibly removed and incarcerated during World War II.

Clarence Moriwaki shares the story of Bainbridge Island—the origin point of the Japanese American exclusion—to provide a human, historical account of this national tragedy, and to ask the question: Are there parallels to what's happening in America now? Moriwaki is the president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and a founder and former president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association.

**Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021**

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-let-it-not-happen-again-lessons-of-the-japanese-american-exclusion-8/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by The Westport Timberland Library.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lavender Graduation**

To protect the health and safety of our community, Lavender Graduation 2021 will be a Drive-Thru celebration. Lavender stoles will be given to students participating in our drive-thru celebration and for those who are unable to attend we will mail your stole to you or you can pick one up at the Pride Center by appointment.

**To receive a lavender stole, all graduates must register by April 30th.**

**Date: Friday, May 7 2021**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: EWU Parking Lot = P15 (behind Hargreaves Hall), EWU, Cheney, WA. The celebration will be streamed live.

Cost: \$10 registration fee for non-EWU students; graduates need to register, visit their website

For more information visit <https://inside.ewu.edu/pridecenter/lavendergraduation/>. For questions, please contact Vanessa Delgado, Interim Director of Student Equity and Inclusion Service at: [vdelgado2@ewu.edu](mailto:vdelgado2@ewu.edu) or (509) 359-4121.

### **SCC Hagan Center - Luis Rodriguez**

Rodriguez is a poet, novelist, journalist, critic, and columnist. He was the 2014 Los Angeles Poet Laureate. He is recognized as a major figure in contemporary Chicano literature. His best-known work is *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.*, which received several awards

**Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Time: 10:30 am on [Facebook Live](#), 6:30 pm on YouTube

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

To view the presentation, visit <https://scc.spokane.edu/News-Events/Live-Events>.

### **What's Age Got to Do With It?**

"You look good for your age." "You're too young to understand."

In employment decisions, family discussions, medical care, and even in birthday cards, assumptions about being "over the hill" or "a lazy kid" are common. What do you wish society would stop saying about your generation?

How can we talk about age and aging in a more positive, affirming way? In this interactive and fun talk, Dori Gillam welcomes individuals from every generation to explore how we can begin valuing all ages—including our own.

Dori Gillam has researched and spoken on ageism and aging for over 30 years.

**Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/whats-age-got-to-do-with-it-15/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by United Methodist Women.

### **The Complexity of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Identities: A Conversation**

The Asian and Pacific Islander communities, although often grouped into one acronym, are made up of large vibrant and ethnically diverse identities. Join us as we explore the shared experiences, unique challenges, and complexities from members of AAPI communities. Moderator and Panelists: Rowena Pineda (Moderator), Tamika Williams, Sam Lee, Ryann Louie, Sarah Dixit and Kiana McKenna.

**Date: Monday, May 12, 2021**

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, register at [bit.ly/aapicomplexity](http://bit.ly/aapicomplexity)

For more information visit <https://inside.ewu.edu/mcc/aapi-heritage-month-2021/>. Sponsored by Eastern WA University. Hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition - Spokane Chapter, Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies, and the Women's and Gender Education Center, and the EWU AAPI Month Planning Committee.

### **26th Annual Hispanic/Latinx Graduate and Young Scholar Recognition Ceremony**

All Hispanic/Latino(a) graduating students and young scholars (grades 7-11 with 3.0 gpa) from Spokane County schools and colleges/universities are invited to participate via on-line.

**Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021, deadline to register to be recognized is May 1, 2021.**

Time: 6:00 pm (new time)

Location: Virtual, on-line via Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HBPASPOKANE](https://www.facebook.com/HBPASPOKANE)

Cost: Free

For more information email [hbpacceremony@gmail.com](mailto:hbpacceremony@gmail.com), visit their website at [www.hbpaofspokane.org](http://www.hbpaofspokane.org).

### ***Murder at Manito* Book by Author Chris Bieker**

Can Detective Rex Begonia and his partner Ivy Lizei find the murderer of Manito Park's head gardener before the Lilac Festival is ruined? Join local author Chris Bieker as she discusses her first novel, *Murder at Manito*. As a special treat Chris will do a reading from her book inside Gaiser Conservatory, the scene of the crime. You don't want to miss this different angle on gardening.

**Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021**

Time: 11:00 am

Location: On-line via Zoom - Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87963348898?pwd=QIRUTE0ydGM3bGxrMUxreWdxR3ZtZz09&fbclid=IwAR3KIVmv8Z5\\_wkI7FfrnZtBBYze8mCspOyzf1IzvNyQo81FqHHleDO2vvUw#success](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87963348898?pwd=QIRUTE0ydGM3bGxrMUxreWdxR3ZtZz09&fbclid=IwAR3KIVmv8Z5_wkI7FfrnZtBBYze8mCspOyzf1IzvNyQo81FqHHleDO2vvUw#success), Meeting ID: 879 6334 8898, Passcode: 249708

Cost: Free

For more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheFriendsofManito> or website at <https://thefriendsofmanito.org/>. Sponsored by The Friends of Manito.

### **NAACP General Membership Meeting**

**Date: Monday, May 17, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line via Zoom

Cost: Free, meeting open to everyone.

For more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naACP/> or visit their website at <http://spokanenaACP.com/>.

### **What's Age Got to Do With It?**

Read information at their May 12, 2021 presentation..

**Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

Time: 11:00 am

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit website below.



For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-whats-age-got-to-do-with-it-7/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Hearthstone.

### **Cultural Conversation: Does Family Really Come First?**

Join us as we discuss the role of family in our lives, what truly makes a family, and how to balance familial expectations, individuality, and honoring our roots.

**Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

Time: noon-1:30 pm

Location: On-line - [bit.ly/aapifamily](https://bit.ly/aapifamily) and [Live streamed on Facebook @ewumcc](#)

Cost: Free

For more information visit <https://inside.ewu.edu/mcc/aapi-heritage-month-2021/>. Sponsored by Eastern WA University. Hosted by the Multicultural Center.

### **Sometimes Heroes: America's Changing Relationship with Its Veterans**

"Support our troops" is a common phrase, seen on lawn signs and bumper stickers across America. Veterans are welcomed home by enthusiastic crowds, and thousands of service organizations help veterans find jobs, secure housing, and heal from the experience of war.

But it wasn't always this way. Veterans returning from Vietnam were often greeted by mobs accusing them of being "baby killers." Veterans from Korea felt their war was forgotten and unknown. And veterans from World War I, destitute during the Great Depression, were treated like criminals by their government.

Why and how has America's treatment of its veterans changed over time? How have the country's citizens responded to the call of duty from one war to the next? This presentation examines America's relationship to wars and veterans over the last century, and what shapes our current national consciousness towards veterans and the wars they fight in our name. Jeb Wyman has been a faculty member for over twenty years at Seattle Central College.

**Dates: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 and/or Thursday, May 20, 2021**

Time: 1:00 pm | 12:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register, visit their website below.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-sometimes-heroes-americas-changing-relationship-with-its-veterans-6/> | <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-sometimes-heroes-americas-changing-relationship-with-its-veterans-4/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Walla Walla community College | Speakers Bureau Event Seattle.

### **From Mexican to Mexican-American: A Family Immigration Story – SCC Hagan Center**

Read information at their May 5, 2021 presentation.

**Date: Friday, May 21, 2021 | Saturday, May 22, 2021**

Time: 6:00 pm | 2:00 pm

Location: On-line – this presentation will be in English and in Spanish.

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-from-mexican-to-mexican-american-a-family-immigration-story-9/> for session on the 21st; and <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-from-mexican-to-mexican-american-a-family-immigration-story-10/> for 22nd session. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by North Olympic Library System (21<sup>st</sup>) and Speakers Bureau Event Port Angeles (22<sup>nd</sup>)

**Virtual Screening Room: *Minari* & *Kapaemahu***

*Minari*(115min) is a tender and sweeping story about what roots us. *Minari* follows a Korean-American family that moves to an Arkansas farm in search of their own American Dream. The family home changes with the arrival of their sly, foul-mouthed, but incredibly loving grandmother.

*Kapaemahu* (8min 24sec) reveals the healing power of four mysterious stones on Waikiki Beach. Long ago, four extraordinary individuals of dual male and female spirit brought the healing arts from Tahiti to Hawaii. The name of their leader was Kapaemahu.

**Date: May 21, 2021**

Time: 6:00 pm - visit information below for time restrictions to watch the film.

Location: Virtual, must RSVP at least 3 business days before screening schedule, register at <http://bit.ly/virtualminari> (limited slots available).

Cost: Free,

For more information visit <https://inside.ewu.edu/mcc/aapi-heritage-month-2021/>. Sponsored by Eastern WA University.

**Outdoor Movie Night: *Minari* & *Kapaemahu***

See above for film descriptions.

**Date: May 21, 2021**

Time: 8:30 pm, gates open at 7:00 pm

Location: Parking Lot 12, Register: <http://bit.ly/aapiminari> (Limited slots available)

Cost: Free, will accept voluntary donations

For more information visit <https://inside.ewu.edu/mcc/aapi-heritage-month-2021/>. Sponsored by Eastern WA University.

**Higher Power: The History of Evangelicals in American Politics**

Explore the history and meaning behind a uniquely American movement: Evangelical Christianity. Evangelicals are the strongest religious voting bloc in America, despite being a relatively new coalition. How did they come to hold such power?

In this balanced and respectful talk, WSU professor Matthew Sutton traces the history of the religious right in America, from its early roots to its rise to power under Ronald Reagan and into the current era. Feeling concerned about the rise in secularism, evangelicals have taken to the pulpit and the airwaves to explain how Biblical end-times prophecies make sense of a troubled modern world. How does this history help us understand our current political system? Matthew Sutton is the Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of History at Washington State University.

**Dates: Saturday, May 22, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register at website below (registration to come).

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-higher-power-the-history-of-evangelicals-in-american-politics-3/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Online Speakers Bureau Event Seattle.

**Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change**

Ethicist Brian G. Henning discusses how global warming itself is not the only problem—it's a symptom of a larger issue concerning how we conceive of ourselves and our relationship to the natural world. Brian G. Henning is a professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at Gonzaga University and has earned a PhD in philosophy.

**Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free, must register

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/online-heating-up-the-ethics-of-climate-change-13/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>. Hosted by Friends of Third Place Commons, dba Third Place Commons.

### **Asian American Women's Experiences Past and Present**

Dr. Doris T. Chang, Associate Professor of Political Science at Wichita State University, discusses the ways in which stereotypes and U.S. immigration laws affect Asian American women's experiences and how the white majority society perceive Asian American women both past and present.

**Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

Time: 4:00 pm (PDT) – 5:00 pm

Location: On-line via Zoom

Cost: Free, must register at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7316173076666/WN\\_5UvYNOmuSugExgX--qQtYQ?fbclid=IwAR3902fKaFtyYbgK5rPHe\\_TUiaRliu9IIQIWQGH46YzGxWs8Vu-WLveWY8](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7316173076666/WN_5UvYNOmuSugExgX--qQtYQ?fbclid=IwAR3902fKaFtyYbgK5rPHe_TUiaRliu9IIQIWQGH46YzGxWs8Vu-WLveWY8).

For more information visit <http://www.watkinsmuseum.org/>. Sponsored by The Watkins Museum of History, Lawrence, KS.

### **Up Coming Events**

#### **AAPI Heritage Day**

Art Show, Performances, 50+ vendors, free kid's activities, and Island Style Food truck.

**Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021**

Time: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location Centerplace's West Lawn Plaza. 2426 N Discovery Pl

Cost: Free

For more information contact [charitydoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:charitydoyle@yahoo.com).

If you know of diversity/cultural event open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at [yvonnecmz04@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnecmz04@gmail.com) with event details. For general Spokane events visit [www.visitspokane.com](http://www.visitspokane.com) or <http://www.spokane7.com/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MAY 2021 INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL DIVERSITY/CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS**

#### **May 1**

##### **International Labor (or workers) Day - International**

Observed in more than 140 countries under various names, this day is a celebration of the central contributions of workers to the economic life of their nation, and of worker solidarity. The day was designated by the international Socialist Congress of 1889, though it had been observed earlier, partly in commemoration of the Haymarket massacre in Chicago in 1886.

##### **Vappu Day – Finland**

Known as May Day around the world.

##### **Beltane – Wicca**

Greets the summer. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel who mates with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a midsummer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. Maypole dances are presently held.

##### **Santa Cruzan Day – Philippines**

Filipinos consider this the first day of spring. It commemorates the corresponding day in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. when St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine of Rome found the holy cross on which Jesus was crucified.

- May 2**      **Pasha/Easter – Christian-Coptic & Eastern Orthodox**  
This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.
- Mother's Day (Día de la Madre or Día de las Madres)– Portugal and Spain**  
Honors mothers and mother figures in Spain on the first Sunday in May.
- May 3**      **Easter Monday - Christian-Coptic & Eastern Orthodox**  
This day commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.
- World Press Freedom Day – UN, 26<sup>th</sup> Celebration**  
A day to promote press freedom in the world and to remind the public that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.
- Constitution Day - Japan**  
Commemorates the 1947 democratic constitution.
- Constitution Day - Poland**  
Commemorates ratification of the first constitution in 1791.
- May Day Bank Holiday – N. Ireland, Scotland, UK**
- May 4**      **Midori-No-Hi – Japan**  
Previously known as Showa Day stemming from the celebration of the Emperor Showa's birthday on April 29, this celebration was moved to May 4 in 2007 and renamed Greenery Day, acknowledging the emperor's love of plants and to appreciate nature.
- Memorial Day - Netherlands**  
Celebrates the day on which Nazi forces were driven out of Holland by the Allies in 1945.
- Matsu Festival – China, Taiwan**  
Matsu saved her brother from drowning and at the age of 28 ascended into heaven. She earned the title of Goddess of the Sea and is the patron of fisherman. There are rites and processions at Matsu temples.
- May 5**      **Cinco de Mayo – Mexico, USA**  
The 5<sup>th</sup> of May in Spanish. It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Batalla de Puebla in 1862. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, it came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. It is celebrated on a much larger scale in the US than in Mexico. People of Mexican descent in the US celebrate this significant day by having parades, mariachi music, folkloric dancing and other festive activities.
- Kodomo-No-Hi (Children's Day) - Japan**  
A national holiday known as Boy's Day. Kites in the shape brightly colored caps are flown. Carps are a symbol of longevity and strength.
- Liberation Day – Netherlands**  
Commemorates the celebration of freedom and the end of the Second World War for the Netherlands
- May 6**      **National Day of Prayer – USA**

- May 7**      **Laylat al-Qadr – Islam**  
Night of Power, commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad in 620 CE.
- May 8**      **World Red Cross Day - International**  
The American Red Cross is celebrating more than 150 years of humanitarian work and the local and global impact.
- May 9**      **Mother's Day - USA, Canada, Australia, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Denmark**  
In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson set aside the second Sunday in May as an official holiday in honor of mothers. Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia first suggested a day on which to honor mothers and motherhood.
- Victory Day - Russia**  
Commemorates the 1945 surrender of German forces in Eastern Europe and honors the 20 million Soviet people who died in World War II.
- Liberation Day – Channel Islands**  
The Channel Islands were the only part of Britain to be occupied by German forces. The five-year occupation came to an end on May 9, 1945.
- May 10**      **Yom Yerushalayim) – Israel**  
This day marks the anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.
- May 13**      **Our Lady of Fatima – Portugal**  
On May 13, 1917 in Portugal, three shepherd children saw and conversed with the Virgin Mary in a vision. This occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month for six months in a row.
- Eid-ul-Fitr – Islam**  
This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3-days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which are a day later.
- Ascension Christian**  
This day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
- May 15**      **Independence Day - Paraguay**  
A two-day celebration of independence from Spain in 1811.
- International Day of Families – UN**  
Proclaimed in 1993 and reflects the importance the international community attaches to families. Provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families.
- Armed Forces Day – USA**  
Proclaimed in 1949 to pay tribute to those serving in all the US armed forces.
- Akshaya Tritiya - Jain**  
This day celebrates the day when Lord Rishabha broke his first year-long fast by drinking sugar cane juice. To begin anything new is considered very auspicious on this day.

- May 16**      **Ázamat (4<sup>th</sup> Month) – Bahá'í**  
The first day of the fourth Bahá'í month. The English translation of Azamat (Arabic) is Grandeur.
- May 17**      **Constitution Day – Norway**  
The Constitution of Norway was signed on May 17, 1814 declaring it to be an independent nation. Referred to syttende mai (meaning May 17<sup>th</sup>).
- International Day against Homophobia – LGBT**  
May 17 was chosen as the day of the event because homosexuality was removed from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) on May 17, 1990. Idaho seeks to raise awareness of LGBTQ rights and violations.
- Shavuot (May 17-May 18)**  
Begins the previous sundown at 6:00 pm. Called the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost which means 50 and therefore celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day at the end of Passover. Shavuot celebrates the time when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This feast lasts 2-days.
- World Information Society - UN**
- May 19**      **Buddha's Birthday – Hong Kong, Korea**  
Buddhism, the fourth largest religion in the world, being exceeded in numbers by Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism was founded in Northern India by the first know Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. In 535 BCE he attained enlightenment and assumed the title Lord Buddha (one who as awakened).
- Ataturk Commemoration and Youth and Sports Day - Turkey**  
Commemorates the landing at Samsun in 1919 of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and the beginning of a national movement for independence. On this day, young athletes carry torches to the sites of the athletic contests.
- May 20**      **National Day - Cameroon**  
Commemorates the establishment of the Republic of Cameroon on this day in 1972.
- May 21**      **World Day for Cultural Diversity – UN**  
The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.
- Navy Day – Chile**  
Commemorates Battle of Iquique.
- May 22**      **National Day – Yemen**  
Commemorates the unification of North Yemen and South Yemen, which took place on this date in 1990.
- International Day for Biological Diversity – UN**  
The goal is to raise awareness and promote the conservation of biodiversity on a local and global level. Biodiversity is a measure of the health of ecosystems on Earth.
- May 23**      **Pentecost – Christian**  
The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12-apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because of white clothes are worn for baptism.

- May 23**      **Declaration of Báb – Bahá'í**  
The Bahá'í faith began in Persia (now Iran) on this day in 1844, by the prophet Báb who announced his mission as the founder. The event is celebrated about two hours after sunset.
- Labor Day – Jamaica**  
This holiday is in commemoration of Alexander Bustamante who led a labor rebellion, leading Jamaica to independence on May 23, 1938, however it was not until 1961 that this day was officially celebrated as Labor Day.
- African Liberation Day - International**  
Anniversary of the 1963 formation of the Organization of African Unity by 30 African leaders. The day is marked by sports contests, political rallies, and tribal dances.
- May 24**      **Victoria Day – Canada**  
Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24, 1837) was declared a holiday in Canada in 1845. The UK celebrates her birthday in June.
- Day of the Patriots – Quebec, Canada**  
Commemorates French patriots of 1837-1838 for their contribution to freedom and national recognition.
- Independence Day - Eritrea**  
Independence from Ethiopian rule in 1993 after a 30-year civil war.
- Bermuda Day – Bermuda**
- May 25**      **Independence Day - Jordan**  
Commemorates the 1946 treaty that established the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and independence from Great Britain.
- Indigenous Awareness Week Indigenous - Canada**  
First introduced in 1992, held on the four days that follow the Victoria Day long weekend. It was designed to increase awareness of Aboriginal peoples among federal public service employees.
- Revolution Day - Argentina**  
The anniversary of a revolution that took place in 1810 which led to Argentina's independence.
- May 26**      **Independence Day - Guyana**  
Independence from British rule in 1966.
- Wesak – Buddhist**  
The most important Buddhist festival, Wesak celebrates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha as one event. Different cultures observe his day with different customs, for example, Sri Lankans light lanterns, Vietnamese purchase captive animals and release them, Koreans host a lantern parade.
- May 27**      **Republic Day – Azerbaijan, Nepal**  
Celebrates the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan in 1918.
- Republic Day –Nepal**

- May 28**      **Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh - Bahá'í**  
Commemorates the 1892 death near Haifa, Israel of the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í faith. The event is observed at his actual time of passing at 3:00 am.
- May 29**      **Peacekeepers Day – UN**  
This pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations and honors the memory of those who have lost their lives in this service.
- May 30**      **Joan of Arc Day – France**  
St. Joan of Arc is the patroness of soldiers and of France. A peasant girl who, believing that she was acting under divine guidance, led the French army in a momentous victory at Orleans. She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431 at the age of nineteen.
- Mother's Day – France, Sweden**
- May 31**      **Memorial Day - USA**  
A day of remembrance for those who died in service to their country. The 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry places American flags at about 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery.
- National Sorry Day – Australia**  
Also known as Journey of Healing Day; commemorates the history of forcible removal of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children from their families and the painful repercussions of that action. In 1998, over half a million Australian people responded, signing Sorry Books and taking part in ceremonies on Sorry Day.
- World No-Tobacco Day - UN**  
The global tobacco epidemic kills nearly 6 million people each year, of which more than 600,000 are non-smokers dying from breathing second-hand smoke.

Source: Diversity/Cultural Celebrations from Creative Cultural Communications 2021 Diversity Calendar, <http://multicultural.com/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Every May, we celebrate the diverse cultures and communities represented by **Asians and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)** in the United States — and recognize the contributions that AAPI people make to our country every day. If you'd like to celebrate AAPI stories during May, you can find dozens of books for children and teens starring Asian American and Pacific Islander Mighty Girls! From charming picture books to inspiring middle grade novels to thoughtful YA historical fiction, these stories showcase the diverse experiences of AAPI people in America. They also highlight universal experiences shared by all children and youth, that of discovering your passions and finding your path in the world. They're perfect for sharing with the kids in your life during AAPI Heritage Month and all year round!



### [Hand in Hand](#)

**Written by:** [Alyssa Satin Capucilli](#), **Illustrated by:** [Sheryl Murray](#)

**Recommended Age:** 0 - 2

"Me/ You/ We, two/ Hand in hand/ Through and through." This charming board book celebrates the special feeling of closeness that grows between parent and child! On a busy day, this pair play at the park, tell stories together, and so much more. And even when they spin apart for a little while — like when the play structure is full of possible friends! — they know they will always come back together. This sweet book from the New Books for Newborns series is cozy and just long enough to engage little readers.

### [Tracks in the Snow](#)

**Written by:** [Wong Herbert Yee](#), **Illustrated by:** [Wong Herbert Yee](#)

**Recommended Age:** 2 - 5

"Just outside my window, / There are tracks in the snow. / Who made the tracks? Where do they go?" When this little girl wakes up to fresh snow, she gets curious about a set of tracks outside. Bundled up in a warm red coat and a striped scarf, she sets out to follow them. She discovers a woodchuck snuggled up safe in a burrow, and does snow angels as she looks at the empty branches of the trees. But her feet are getting colder, and she's getting tired... will she ever find out who made the tracks? Just as she's about to give up, she realizes that these tracks are hers from the day before — and they're leading her home to a warm, cozy kitchen with tea and cookies! This sweet book is a celebration of snow, winter, and home sweet home.

### [Bee-Bim Bop!](#)

**Written by:** [Linda Sue Park](#), **Illustrated by:** [Ho Baek Lee](#)

**Recommended Age:** 2 - 6

This little girl and her mother are making bee-bim bop: a traditional Korean dish of rice mixed with meat and vegetables. In rhyming text, the hungry girl talks about all the steps: shopping for the best ingredients, preparing them all at home, and setting the table patiently (even though she is "Hungry hungry hungry / for some BEE-BIM BOP!") Finally, the whole family gets to sit down together for a delicious meal. Steeped in the details of a modern Korean American family's life, and full of exuberant illustrations that capture the narrator's excitement, this book even includes the author's recipe so you can try your own bee-bim bop at home.

### [Saturday is Swimming Day](#)

**Written by:** [Hyewon Yum](#), **Illustrated by:** [Hyewon Yum](#)

**Recommended Age:** 3 - 6

Saturday is for swimming lessons... and this little girl hates them. It's too loud, the floor is too wet, her swim cap is too tight, and she has a stomachache! Fortunately, her kind swimming instructor, Mary, knows just how to gently urge her to take one step each week... and before long, she discovers that swimming day is fun. This story will be relatable to any child who's found something a little too new and scary to dive in — but urges them to find the combination of courage and patience they need to face their fears.

### [Summer Days And Nights](#)

**Written by:** [Wong Herbert Yee](#), **Illustrated by:** [Wong Herbert Yee](#)

**Recommended Age:** 3 - 6

On a hot summer day, this little girl finds all sorts of ways to entertain herself: butterfly catching, swimming, picnics, and lemonade are just the beginning! Nighttime brings its own special things to explore: owls, frogs, and more. But even this bundle of energy can't stay awake forever, and soon she's dreaming of more adventures to come! This cute story celebrates the small but special details of summer. Fans of this story will want to check out two other books starring this irrepressible girl, [Tracks In The Snow](#) and [Who Likes Rain?](#)

### [Danbi Leads the School Parade](#)

**Written by:** [Anna Kim](#), **Illustrated by:** [Anna Kim](#)

**Recommended Age:** 3 - 7

Danbi is excited for her first day of kindergarten — at a new school in America! But when she arrives, she gets a case of nerves: everyone stares when she arrives, and while she tries to join in, she doesn't know the routines of the dances or the rules of all the games. How will she ever find a way to fit in? The answer, it turns out, is food — her classmates are fascinated and delighted by her traditional Korean lunch! Soon, she's teaching them to use chopsticks (with hilarious results) and leading everyone on a fun-filled parade. This exuberant character conveys a powerful message about navigating two cultures, including the reminder that when we share the things that make us unique, we can find friendship wherever we go.

### [The Ugly Vegetables](#)

**Written by:** [Grace Lin](#)

**Recommended Age:** 3 - 8

When this little girl sets out to help her mother plant their garden in the spring, she can't help but compare their plants to the beautiful flowers their neighbors are growing. Why do her friends all get to grow colorful blossoms while she has to help tend a boring vegetable patch? But her mother assures her that "these are better than flowers," and when harvest time comes — and her mother starts cooking up a huge pot of vegetable soup — those ugly Chinese vegetables draw the whole neighborhood together, eager for a taste. Lin's story is now available in a new anniversary edition, and comes with a guide for the pronunciation of Chinese vegetable names and a recipe for Ugly Vegetable Soup.

### [My Name Is Yoon](#)

**Written by:** [Helen Recorvits](#), [Gabi Swiatkowska](#)

**Recommended Age:** 4 - 7

Yoon's name is beautiful in Korean: it means Shining Wisdom, and the characters look like dancers. But now she's living in America — and in English, where all the letters are just lines and circles, YOON doesn't seem like such a lovely name. At school, she experiments with different names. She tries CAT for a while, then BIRD (who would be able to fly back home to Korea.) And after a classmate offers her a treat as a gift, she even considers calling herself CUPCAKE. As time goes on, though, Yoon realizes that, no matter what, she is still Yoon: "I write my name in English now. It still means Shining Wisdom." Spare but compassionate text and luminous illustrations that capture Yoon's hesitation in her new home make this a powerful immigration story that's sure to build empathy.

### [Binny's Diwali](#)

**Written by:** [Thrity Umrigar](#), **Illustrated by:** [Nidhi Chanan](#)

**Recommended Age:** 4 - 7

Binny wakes up nervous but excited: it's finally her day to share at school! She's going to tell her classmates all about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. But how can she explain how beautiful Diwali is? When her shyness rises, Binny remembers how light wins over darkness, and draws strength from that to describe her favorite holiday: the delicious *pedas* and *jalebis*, the colorful fireworks, and more. And she even brings *diyas*, clay lamps, for her friends to admire! With vivid illustrations and a story that celebrates all the joy and light of this celebration, this picture book is a lovely introduction to this special holiday.

### [Sakura's Cherry Blossoms](#)

**Written by:** [Robert Paul Weston](#), **Illustrated by:** [Misa Saburi](#)

**Recommended Age:** 4 - 8

When Sakura's dad gets a new job in America, Sakura struggles with culture clash and learning a new language, but most of all she misses her beloved grandmother, Obaachan, who used to picnic with her under the cherry trees. Slowly, though, she makes a new friend and starts to settle in... until Obaachan gets sick, and the family has to fly back to Japan to say goodbye. When she gets home, her friend Luke tells her she'll get a surprise in the spring — and Sakura is delighted to see the cherry trees that bloom in her own neighborhood, bringing warm memories and special time with new friends. This warmhearted, thoughtful story celebrates the healing power of friendship and the beauty of spring.

### [Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin](#)

**Written by:** [Chieri Uegaki](#), **Illustrated by:** [Qin Leng](#)

**Recommended Age:** 4 - 8

After being inspired by her grandfather's beautiful playing on a recent trip to Japan — both classical music and fascinating imitations of natural sounds — Hana decides to take violin lessons. Now, she's signed up for the talent show even though she's only had three lessons! Her brothers insist that the performance will be a disaster, but Hana takes a page from Ojiichan's book and practices every day. And when last-minute jitters rear their heads, she draws on him for inspiration one last time — before bringing the house down! This sweet, quiet story is a lesson in the value of practice and dedication, as well as a reminder that grandparents don't have to live next door to influence their grandchildren's lives.

### [Hazel and Twig: The Birthday Fortune](#)

**Written by:** [Brenna Burns Yu](#), **Illustrated by:** [Brenna Burns Yu](#)

**Recommended Age:** 4 - 8

Big sister Hazel is excited for her little sister Twig's first birthday, where she will have her *doljabi*: she'll choose an object that will tell her fortune. Everyone is making guesses about what Twig will pick: a book, and be a scholar? A lute, for a musician? Maybe a hammer, for a builder? Hazel teaches Twig about all the other party preparations — from dandelion kimchi to the details of the doljabi — and when Twig makes an unexpected selection, Hazel is the one who knows exactly what it means. This sweet story based on Korean culture and traditions includes a glossary of Korean words at the back.

### [The Name Jar](#)

**Written by:** [Yangsook Choi](#), **Illustrated by:** [Yangsook Choi](#)

**Recommended Age:** 4 - 8

Unhei has just moved to America from Korea with little but clothes and a name stamp from her grandmother. She's already figured out that people in America struggle to pronounce her name, so rather than introducing herself on her first day at school, she announces that she wants suggestions for a new name. Her classmates are fascinated, and start filling a big glass jar with "proper" American names like Suzy and Amanda. But when one of her classmates overhears her Korean name, the Name Jar mysteriously goes missing, allowing Unhei to embrace introducing herself by her real name (complete with a pronunciation lesson, *Yoon-hey*) — and helps her classmate choose a Korean nickname: Chinku, which means friend. This touching story is also an empowering reminder that no one should have to give up their name or identity to fit in.

### [Eyes That Kiss in the Corners](#)

**Written by:** [Joanna Ho](#), **Illustrated by:** [Dung Ho](#)

**Recommended Age:** 4 - 8

"Some people eyes like sapphire lagoons / with lashes like lace trim on ballgowns," observes the Mighty Girl in this story. Her own eyes are different: they "kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea." Her eyes, in fact, look like those of other women in her life: her Mama, who sees her as "a miracle"; her Amah, who has so many stories to tell; her little sister Mei-Mei, who adores her. Her eyes also remind her of her family's traditions, from the folklore Amah shares to the upside-down Fú character by her family's door that brings good fortune. Empowering, poetic, and full of love for both self and family, this is a gorgeous picture book that celebrates the deeper meaning behind our diverse backgrounds and stories.

### [Suki's Kimono](#)

**Written by:** [Chieri Uegaki](#), **Illustrated by:** [Stephane Jorisch](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 8

Suki's grandmother visited her over the summer, and she brought a special gift: a blue cotton kimono. On the first day of school, Suki wears her precious kimono to school, and when her teacher asks what she did over the summer, she decides to tell the story of joining a circle dance with her *obachan* at a local street festival. In fact, she gets so caught up in the story that, soon, she's humming the music and dancing away! This story of an exuberant

little girl who literally dances to her own drummer is also a great way to celebrate how our differences make our world richer.

### [Small World](#)

**Written by:** [Ishta Mercurio](#), **Illustrated by:** [Jen Corace](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 8

When she is a newborn, Nanda's world is tiny, but as she grows, so does her world. It starts to include extended family and friends, and more places, from the city to the countryside. Soon, she is exploring all the wonders it has to offer, from the tiny — patterns in snowflakes — to the big — cogs, wheels, and engines. She learns to fly her own plane and, finally, blasts off to outer space as an astronaut — where she looks back at Earth, "a circle called home." This lyrical book celebrates curiosity, wonder, the joys of discovering your passions, and the beauty of our world.

### [Time for Bed, Miyuki](#)

**Written by:** [Roxane Marie Galliez](#), **Illustrated by:** [Seng Soun Ratanavanh](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 8

Miyuki's grandfather wants to get her ready for bed — but she can't go yet! There are too many things she has to do, from watering the vegetables to building a canopy for the Dragonfly Queen's grand arrival. Miyuki's patient grandfather goes along with her imaginative plans, but gently reminds her over and over, "Miyuki, it's time for bed." When her creative ideas finally guide her to curl up someplace cozy, she realizes there's one more thing she needs: a story.... This charming story, which captures Japanese culture, nature, and the love of family, is perfect for any child who's tried to delay bedtime — and any caretaker who's tried to hurry it along. For two more book starring this imaginative girl, check out [Patience, Miyuki](#) and [Thank You, Miyuki](#).

### [What Will You Be, Sara Mee?](#)

**Written by:** [Kate Aver Avraham](#), **Illustrated by:** [Anne Sibley O'Brien](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 8

6-year-old Chong is very excited: today is his little sister's first birthday! Sara Mee is all dressed up in her silk *hanbok*, and the whole family is gathering to enjoy traditional Korean celebrations — including the *toljabee*, a prophecy game that predicts what Sara Mee will be when she grows up. Throughout the party, Chong wonders what she will choose, so he's delighted when he's told he can present the game pieces to his sister. And when she chooses the paintbrush, indicating a future as an artist, he's quick to give her paper and crayons to start drawing pictures... while he writes the story that goes along with them. This colorful and loving tale is a celebration of siblings and the blending of traditions.

### [Ling & Ting: Not Exactly The Same!](#)

**Written by:** [Grace Lin](#), **Illustrated by:** [Grace Lin](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 8

Ling and Ting are identical twins, and they stick together, whether they are making dumplings, getting their hair cut, or practicing magic tricks. But looks are deceiving — people can be very different, even if they look exactly the same. In six short chapters, Ling and Ting go on five different escapades — each of which ends with a punchline that will get readers giggling — and then the final chapter ties all the stories together. But what really shines through in this book is the relationship between these two sisters, full of fun and love. Fans of this book can read more about Ling and Ting's further adventures in the second book, [Ling & Ting Share A Birthday](#).

### [How to Solve a Problem](#)

[The Rise \(and Falls\) of a Rock-Climbing Champion](#)

**Written by:** [Ashima Shiraishi](#), **Illustrated by:** [Yao Xiao](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 9

World-record-holding rock climber Ashima Shiraishi provides a lesson in perseverance and resilience, straight from the rock face! In rock climbing, a boulder is called a "problem," and just like any other problem, it can seem "tremendously endless" when you're looking up at it. As the illustrations depict 13-year-old Ashima tackling a challenging rock face — complete with a boldly depicted, breathless fall — she talks about how you can overcome

these obstacles, especially with help from your family. And when she makes it to the top of her problem, Ashima reminds young readers that achieving your goal is the best feeling in the world. This inspiring picture book includes back matter about Ashima's groundbreaking climbing career.

#### [A Morning With Grandpa](#)

**Written by:** [Sylvia Liu](#), **Illustrated by:** [Christina Forshay](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 9

Mei Mai is curious when she sees Gong Gong practicing tai chi in the garden — so she decides to join in! Although Gong Gong patiently teaches her the slow, gentle movements, Mei Mei has a little too much energy, and bounces and bobs rather than swaying. Then Mei Mei offers to teach Gong Gong a few of the yoga poses she learned at school... but Gong Gong's body doesn't bend or stretch nearly as well as hers does! In the end though, each agrees that the other's moves are "perfect," and both have enjoyed their time exploring new things together. This sweet story about valuing the process as much as the result — and about the relationship between grandfather and granddaughter — includes guides to the tai chi and yoga moves in the story.

#### [A Life Made By Hand: The Story of Ruth Asawa](#)

**Written by:** [Andrea D'Aquino](#), **Illustrated by:** [Andrea D'Aquino](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 9

As a child, Ruth Asawa loved working with her hands on her parents' farm — and she loved observing all the tiny details around her. When she grew up, she went to Black Mountain College, following an experimental program where she studied with artists and thinkers of all sorts. And when she traveled to Mexico and saw people crafting wire into baskets, she knew she had found the perfect way to express herself. This elegant picture book biography provides a beautiful introduction to Asawa's life and exquisite sculpture, and even includes directions so kids can try folding their own paper dragonflies. For another picture book about Asawa, check out [Ruth Asawa: A Sculpting Life](#) for ages 5 to 9.

#### [So Far from the Sea](#)

**Written by:** [Eve Bunting](#), **Illustrated by:** [Chris K. Soentpiet](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 9

Laura Iwasaki's family is visiting her grandfather's grave at the Manzanar internment camp one last time: the family is moving from California to Boston and want to pay their respects before they go. Laura's grandfather, a tuna fisherman, died at the camp, never again seeing his beloved ocean. As a token for the grandfather she never met, Laura has brought a heartbreaking piece of family history: her father's Boy Scout neckerchief, which her grandfather urged him to wear on the day they were transported to the camp: "That way they will know you are a true American and they will not take you." This powerful and thought-provoking picture book serves as a reminder that while the past cannot be changed, the most important thing we can do is ensure that such wrongs are not repeated.

#### [The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee](#)

**Written by:** [Julie Leung](#), **Illustrated by:** [Julie Kwon](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 9

Hazel Ying Lee was one of eight siblings — but everyone agreed that she was the fearless one! And when she took her first ride in an airplane at the age of 19, she knew she wanted to be a pilot. But in a time when women didn't fly — and when Chinese Americans were required to carry identification at all times — being a pilot seemed out of reach; plus, her mother thought it wouldn't be ladylike. Lee disagreed, and when the Women Airforce Service Pilots were established during World War II, she finally got the chance to achieve her dream. This picture book biography of the first Chinese American woman to fly for the US military is a celebration of passion and a tribute to a groundbreaking woman who refused to take no for an answer.

### [Juna's Jar](#)

**Written by:** [Jane Bahk](#), **Illustrated by:** [Felicia Hoshino](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 9

Juna loves collecting treasures in empty kimchee jars with her best friend Hector — until the day he moves away without even getting to say goodbye. Juna's older brother, Minh, sees her sadness and gives her small gifts hoping to cheer her up, including a cricket. But it's not until Juna's vivid imagination takes her on a cricket ride to Hector's new bedroom — complete with a kimchi jar still on the windowsill — that she's reassured enough to be ready to make new friends. This sweet and dreamy story explores how kids can overcome sadness and find new friends through the power of imagination.

### [Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom](#)

**Written by:** [Teresa Robeson](#), **Illustrated by:** [Rebecca Huang](#)

**Recommended Age:** 5 - 9

Wu Chien Shiung's name meant "Courageous Hero," and her parents supported her in achieving her dreams: at a time when most girls in China didn't attend school, they encouraged her love of science. When she faced prejudice, they urged her to "Just put your head down and/ keep walking forward." Wu would end up traveling to the US, where her work on parity and beta decay helped drive physics forward — but because of prejudice against both her race and her sex, she was overlooked for both promotions and the Nobel Prize. This bittersweet but inspiring biography from the [People Who Shaped Our World series](#) introduces young readers to a little-known trailblazing woman in physics.

### [The Year of the Baby,](#)

**Written by:** [Andrea Cheng](#), **Illustrated by:** [Patrice Barton](#)

**Recommended Age:** 6 - 9

Anna's family has just adopted a baby girl from China, and she is determined to be the best big sister. But despite the family's best efforts, Kaylee isn't thriving, and the doctor is worried. When Anna's friend Camille manages to feed Kaylee a few bites by singing, Anna, Camille, and their other friend Laura set on a plan: a science project that explores whether music will help Kaylee get enough to eat — and whether American songs or Chinese songs are best! This warm-hearted sequel to [The Year of the Book](#) celebrates a devoted big sister's love for the family's new arrival.

### [A Place Where Sunflowers Grow](#)

**Written by:** [Amy Lee-Tai](#), **Illustrated by:** [Felicia Hoshino](#)

**Recommended Age:** 6 - 10

Under the warm sun, Mari is taking an art class... but how can she think about drawing pretty pictures when she's living in Topaz, a Japanese-American internment camp, which is a forlorn place where nothing seem to grow? Slowly, though, Mari begins to see glimmers of hope: kind words from her art teacher, love from her parents, and a slowly growing friendship. Perhaps, even though everything around her seems wrong, she can still find a way to build a happy life. This sensitive book is a testament to the power of hope and to the resiliency of children to overcome prejudice, discrimination, and hate.

### [It Began With A Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way](#)

**Written by:** [Kyo Maclear](#), **Illustrated by:** [Julie Morstad](#)

**Recommended Age:** 6 - 9

Gyo Fujikawa always felt like an outsider, even when she was growing up in California, and she dreamed of an America where people would see themselves represented on every page. Then, in World War II, while she worked in New York as an illustrator, her family was forced into an internment camp in Arkansas. It made her even more determined to create an inclusive world. Her book *Babies* was rejected by her publisher at first — a spread with black and white babies together was too controversial, they thought, in an America where segregation still ruled. But she persisted, and *Babies* would sell almost two million copies, paving the way for a vibrant, diverse world. Kyo Maclear and Julie Morstad have created an elegant book — part picture book biography, part celebration of racial diversity — that will inspire both kids and adults.

### [Alice on the Island](#)

#### [A Pearl Harbor Survival Story \(Girls Survive\)](#)

**Written by:** [Mayumi Shimose Poe](#), **Illustrated by:** [Matt Forsyth, Alessia Trunfio](#)

**Recommended Age:** 7 - 10

13-year-old Alice knows there is a war across the sea, but it hasn't changed her life in Hawaii — she swims, she goes to school, and she watches her younger siblings, just like so many girls her age. But in 1941, that suddenly changes. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor shocks the nation. Alice survives the attack, but when President Roosevelt declares war on Japan, Japanese-American families like hers find their lives turned upside down. Her father is sent to an interment camp, and Alice and the rest of her family have to figure out how to get by without him, while also facing rising discrimination against people with Japanese heritage. This powerful book from the [Girls Survive series](#) puts a personal face on this piece of American history, highlighting the great tragedy of the internment of Japanese-American citizens during the war.

### [Tara and the Towering Wave](#)

#### [An Indian Ocean Tsunami Survival Story \(Girls Survive\)](#)

**Written by:** [Cristina Oxta](#), **Illustrated by:** [Francesca Ficorilli](#)

**Recommended Age:** 7 - 10

When Tara's mother announces they're traveling to Thailand to explore their Thai heritage, Tara is annoyed: she'd rather be home with her friends over Christmas. Plus, it's a long way to travel for a country she doesn't feel any connection to! But Tara gets overruled, and soon she's staying with her mother in Phuket. Then, on the day after Christmas, disaster strikes: a massive tsunami sweeps through the resort, destroying everything in its path. Tara will have to fight to survive as she struggles to find her mother — and hopes that she's alive. This nail-biting story from the [Girls Survive series](#) brings the 2004 earthquake and tsunami to vivid life, and includes backmatter with an overview on the disaster, photos, maps, and more.

### [Lily and the Great Quake](#)

#### [A San Francisco Earthquake Survival Story \(Girls Survive\)](#)

**Written by:** [Veeda Bybee](#), **Illustrated by:** [Alessia Trunfio](#)

**Recommended Age:** 7 - 10

12-year-old Lily and her family live in Chinatown in San Francisco, where the Chinese-American community is like a city within the city. But when an enormous earthquake strikes, Lily's home collapses, and her neighborhood catches fire. Without her parents, Lily has to help her younger brother and her neighbor, and it soon becomes clear they need to leave San Francisco. But how can they make their way safely through a city on fire and across the bay to Oakland — especially when Chinese-Americans face racism on the best of days? This nail-biting entry in the [Girls Survive series](#) puts a personal face on the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, and includes backmatter to help young readers further explore this historic disaster.

### [Star Scouts](#)

**Written by:** [Mike Lawrence](#), **Illustrated by:** [Mike Lawrence](#)

**Recommended Age:** 7 - 12

Everyone in her new school thinks Avani is weird, especially the girls in her Flower Scouts troop. Is it so strange to think scouting should be about fun and adventure, not about makeovers and boys, boys, boys? Then Avani is accidentally abducted by Mabel, an alien from across the galaxy. It turns out that Mabel is a Star Scout, and collecting alien specimens is just one of the activities on her troop's list. If Avani can make it through Camp Andromeda — and prevent her dad from realizing she's left the planet — she'll prove that humans can hold their own in the Star Scouts and finally find a place to belong. Kids will devour this fun sci-fi romp full of teamwork, inventiveness, and laughs. Avani's adventures continue in the sequel, [Star Scouts: The League of Lasers](#).



### [The Year of the Dog](#)

**Written by:** [Grace Lin](#), **Illustrated by:** [Grace Lin](#)

**Recommended Age:** 7 - 12

It's the start of the Year of the Dog, and 4th grader Pacy's Chinese horoscope says that this is the year she will "find herself." But it's hard struggling to meld her Taiwanese background with American culture! In the end, after wrestling with friends, crushes, and schoolwork, it's having the courage to enter a contest that will give Pacy a clue about her future path. Grace Lin, beloved author of both picture books and middle grade novels, shines in this semi-autobiographical debut novel full of universal themes of friendship, family, and finding your passion. This charming coming-of-age novel is sure to speak to any reader who feels like it takes courage just to be herself.

### [The Land of Forgotten Girls](#)

**Written by:** [Erin Entrada Kelly](#)

**Recommended Age:** 8 - 12

Soledad and Ming inherited a lively imagination from their mother, Mei-Mei, a consummate storyteller. After her death, the girls move with their father from the Philippines to the United States where he marries their "evil stepmother" Vea — and promptly abandons the family. Now Sol is trying to use her mother's storytelling tricks to keep Ming's spirits up (along with her own) by elaborating Mei-Mei's stories of a made-up Aunt Jove, who will surely swing through and rescue them both any day. But when Ming starts to believe Aunt Jove is real, Sol wonders if she's made the right decision. Perhaps what Sol really needs to do for her sister — and herself — is find a way to embrace their new country and new reality, stepmother and all. This is a heartfelt tale about imagination, sisterhood, and finding hope.

### [Karma Khullar's Mustache](#)

**Written by:** [Kristi Wientge](#)

**Recommended Age:** 8 - 12

Everything seems to be going against Karma: her best friend has found a blonder best friend; her beloved *dadima* has passed away; her father has become the new stay-at-home parent while her mother spends most of her time at work; and perhaps worst of all, she's spotted seventeen hairs sprouting on her upper lip. As her classmate's taunts about her mustache grow, Karma wonders if someone like her — half white and half Indian, half Methodist and half Sikh — belongs anywhere. Debut author Kristi Wientge tackles body hair, self-image, and bullying in this relatable novel about defining your own destiny.

### [The Great Wall of Lucy Wu](#)

**Written by:** [Wendy Wan-Long Shang](#)

**Recommended Age:** 8 - 12

Lucy Wu has big plans for sixth grade: she's going to perfect her basketball skills, plan her future business as a designer, and enjoy every second of having a bedroom all to herself! And then, just as quickly, it all falls apart. Lucy's grandmother's sister, Yi Po, is coming to visit for months — and staying in Lucy's room. A bully tries to get Lucy off the basketball team. And now she has to go to Chinese school where she has to deal with a very know-it-all classmate. But as Lucy learns more about her Chinese heritage — and about herself — she might just find the good news in all this disruption. This funny and authentic story will encourage kids to see the bright side, even when all their plans go awry.

### [In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson](#)

**Written by:** [Bette Bao Lord](#), [Marc Simont](#)

**Recommended Age:** 8 - 12

When Shirley Temple Wong arrives in American in 1947, she doesn't know any English, and it seems like she'll never find a friend — or fit in. Then Jackie Robinson, the trailblazing baseball star from her new hometown team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, starts making news around the country. Shirley quickly finds herself drawn into stickball games with classmates, and joining them as they cheer him on through victory after victory! For the first time, Shirley feels like America really could be the promised land of opportunity... and like it could start to feel like



home. This charming story about a Chinese immigrant girl finding connection with her peers through the all-American sport is perfect for fans of [Jennifer Holm](#) and [Thanhà Laj](#).

### [Measuring Up](#)

**Written by:** [Lily LaMotte](#), **Illustrated by:** [Ann Xu](#)

**Recommended Age:** 8 - 12

12-year-old Cici is trying to get comfortable in her new Seattle home, but she misses so many things about Taiwan — especially her grandmother, A-má, who's about to celebrate her 70th birthday. When she learns that there's a cooking contest with a \$1000 prize, it seems like the perfect opportunity: that much money would let her buy A-má a ticket to Seattle. But Cici only knows how to cook Taiwanese food, and her classmates' reaction to her lunchbox tells her THAT won't do. As she draws inspiration from Julia Child and wrestles with fitting in with friends while also staying true to herself, Cici may discover that differences can be something to savor! This delightful graphic novel celebrates food, family, and finding your place in a new home.

### [Any Day with You](#)

**Written by:** [Mae Respicio](#)

**Recommended Age:** 8 - 12

12-year-old Kaia loves doing special effects for movies — and she loves listening to her 90-year-old great-grandfather Tatang's Filipino folk tales. She's even planning to use them as inspiration for a short movie she and her friends are making for a contest! But then she learns another story from Tatang, this one historical: how he fought with the U.S. military in World War II, only to be denied his promised citizenship and the medal he should have won. He's even considering moving back to the Philippines, and Kaia can't bear to imagine him leaving — but maybe if she wins the contest she can convince him to stay. This warm, tender story celebrates the joy of intergenerational relationships while also exploring the overlooked history of Filipino Americans.

### [Stargazing](#)

**Written by:** [Jen Wang](#), **Illustrated by:** [Jen Wang](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

Christine Hong is a dutiful Chinese-American daughter who accepts her parents' strict expectations without complaint... until Moon moves in next door. Moon doesn't attend Chinese language lessons; she's vegetarian; and she carries herself with a confidence that Christine both scorns and envies. Despite their differences the two become close friends, close enough that Moon tells Christine about her visions of celestial animals. But when those visions turn out to be from an earthy — and dangerous — cause, Christine needs to figure out how to be a good daughter and a good friend. Author/illustrator Jen Wang draws on her own childhood for this poignant and funny friendship story that will speak to anyone who's felt out of place.

### [Aru Shah and the End of Time](#)

**Written by:** [Roshani Chokshi](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

Aru Shah tells fibs to fit in with her jet-setting classmates, but it backfires when several of them show up at the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture and demand she prove her claim that the museum's Lamp of Bharata is cursed. Lighting the lamp releases the Sleeper, an ancient demon who wants to wake the God of Destruction. With her classmates and mother frozen in time, Aru will need to seek legendary heroes from the *Mahabharata* — and discover unexpected gifts of her own — but will it be enough to save the day? This exciting adventure rooted in Indian mythology is perfect for fans of Rick Riordan. Aru's adventures continue in the rest of [the Pandava series](#).

### [Amina's Voice](#)

**Written by:** [Hena Khan](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

Pakistani American Amina prefers to stay in the background, hanging out with her friend, Soojin. But with the start of middle school, things are changing fast: Soojin is hanging out with one of the "cool" girls, and is even talking about picking an "American" name, while Amina's uncle believes that her love of music is un-Islamic. Then, Amina's mosque is vandalized, leaving her heartbroken. She's never spoken out before, but when she finds the courage and support she needs to make her voice heard, maybe she can bring her whole community together. This book celebrates the complexity and joys to be found in multicultural communities, as well as the power of one person's voice to change those around her. Amina's story continues in the sequel, [Amina's Song](#).

### [The Dragon Warrior](#)

**Written by:** [Katie Zhao](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

12-year-old Faryn Liu wants to be a warrior in the Jade Society — but since her father disappeared, she and her brother Alex have been outcasts. On a trip into Chinatown to get her Ye Ye's medicine, though, Faryn helps a stranger in a battle with a nián monster. The stranger turns out to be Erlang Shen, the god of war, who urges Faryn to attempt a challenge from the Jade Emperor that could win her the fabled title of Heaven Breaker. With her brother — and a few unlikely allies — Faryn will have to see if she has what it takes... and if she's willing to make the sacrifices necessary. This magical adventure full of humor and heart, and starring a multiracial protagonist determined to prove herself, will delight middle grade readers and leave them eager for the sequel.

### [That Thing about Bollywood](#)

**Written by:** [Supriya Kelkar](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

11-year-old Sonali has been holding her emotions in — even though that's tough when she thinks her parents are going to separate. But when she can't contain her feelings on a school field trip, she's shocked when she bursts out into a Bollywood-style song and dance number! By the next day, her family has had a movie-perfect makeover, everyone around her is also breaking into song, and nobody seems to think it's weird. Maybe her mismanaged emotions have triggered this whole thing — but if so, how can she get everything back to normal? This magical novel, full of bright color and Bollywood cultural flair, uses whimsy and humor to convey an important message about handling tough feelings.

### [Stand Up, Yumi Chung!](#)

**Written by:** [Jessica Kim](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

11-year-old Yumi would be a terrific stand-up comedian... if she had a stage to perform on, and the courage to do it. Instead, she stands out at school, where kids tease her for smelling like her parents' Korean restaurant, and she's a disappointment compared to her over-achieving, med-school-student sister. Her parents enroll her in hagwon — Korean summer school — in hopes that she'll win a scholarship to private school. Instead, she stumbles across a comedy camp... and accidentally takes the place of a girl who was registered for it. But keeping the deception going is a lot of work, and Yumi realizes she may have to admit what happened... even if it means disappointing literally everyone. This laugh-out-loud story about a girl struggling to find her place in both her culture and her family will delight middle grade readers.

### [Kazu Jones and the Denver Dognappers](#)

**Written by:** [Shauna Holyoak](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

11-year-old Kazu Jones is a would-be detective who's gotten herself in hot water a few times — with both her parents and the police — over false alarms. But there's a crew of dognappers in her neighborhood, and Kazu can't let justice go undone, so when she finds a lead, she recruits her own team, including her hacker best friend, her socially anxious dog Genki. Digging into the mystery draws the attention of the dognappers, though, and soon her

beloved Genki could be the next dog to disappear! With its clever story full of fun twists and furry friends, this series opener is sure to please dog lovers and detective fans alike.

### [Midsummer's Mayhem](#)

**Written by:** [Rajani LaRocca](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

11-year-old Mimi feels like the least talented member of her big Indian-American family — but she's planning to change that by winning a local bakery's competition and becoming a celebrity chef, just like her idol. When Mimi meets a mysterious boy named Vik in the woods nearby — who helps her find ingredients you wouldn't expect in a forest in Massachusetts — she thinks it's the key to her success. But as her father and siblings start acting oddly, Mimi starts to wonder if the ingredients might be the cause... Fantasy and wonder draw readers in to this novel, but at its core is a timeless story of family, friendship, and finding your place in the world.

### [Paper Wishes](#)

**Written by:** [Lois Sepahban](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

Manami's Japanese American family finds their lives turned upside down: it's 1942, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour means they're being sent to an internment camp. Worst of all, Yujiin, her and her grandfather's beloved dog, isn't allowed to come. When Manami decides to try to smuggle Yujiin with them, she gets caught — and she has to abandon him halfway between their old home and the camp. Grief- and guilt-stricken, she becomes mute. She tries to cling to the hope that Yujiin will find a way to them, but if Manami is going to find peace — and her voice — she'll have to find a way to say goodbye to everything her family had to leave behind. This heartrending novel about a dark period of American history will help young readers put a human face to the stories from their textbooks.

### [The Way To Bea](#)

**Written by:** [Kat Yeh](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

Bea is a Taiwanese-American budding poet whose writing is providing her small solace in a turbulent time: she's starting seventh grade with no friends thanks to an embarrassing moment at a party, and she's about to go from only child to big sister. She writes haikus in invisible ink and hides them in a secret spot... and then someone writes back. The identity of her secret friend takes a while to untangle, and in the meantime she starts connecting with other classmates, including Will, who's obsessed with the idea of walking a nearby labyrinth. Bea's past experience has taught her that being true to herself leads to loss, but this year, she might just learn how to claim an identity she's proud of.

### [The Serpent's Secret](#)

**Written by:** [Sayantani DasGupta](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

Kiranmala's parents have always told her that she's a *real* Indian princess, and she's always rolled her eyes... until the morning of her twelfth birthday, when her parents disappear and a rakkhosh demon smashes into the kitchen of her New Jersey home! Then, two handsome princes show up at her door, insisting they are here to rescue her. As Kiran gets whisked away to a dimension of magic, wonder, and creatures she thought were Indian fairy tales, she'll have to learn fast to avoid the Serpent King and the Rakkhoshi Queen, find her parents, and save the world. Full of action, mythology, and magic, this book is a thrilling and fast-paced introduction to Kiran's world; she returns in the rest of the four-part [Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond](#) series.

### [Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom](#)

**Written by:** [Booki Vivat](#)

**Illustrated by:** [Booki Vivat](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 12

No matter what's going on in Abbie Wu's life, she's sure it's going to be awful — and now she's starting middle school, which surely will mean even more potential pitfalls. Worst of all, everyone around her seems to be finding

their Thing, and Abbie most definitely isn't, which leaves her feeling left out and left behind. But when Abbie learns 6th graders aren't allowed to eat the pizza and fries at the school cafeteria, she might just find her voice — and her Thing. This hybrid novel blends heavy illustration with casual, conversational text. Fans of this book will enjoy the sequels, [Ordinary Mishaps and Inevitable Catastrophes](#) and [Minor Incidents and Absolute Uncertainties](#).

### [Project Mulberry](#)

**Written by:** [Linda Sue Park](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 13

Julia and her best friend Patrick would love to win a blue ribbon at the state fair, so they need a top-notch project. Julia's mom suggests raising silkworms like she did as a child in Korea, and Patrick loves the idea. Julia, however, is tired of standing out for her background, and secretly hopes the "not American enough" project will fail — especially once she and Patrick start having trouble finding mulberry leaves, the only thing the silkworms will eat. As they get to know Mr. Dixon, an elderly African-American man who is willing to give them the leaves they need, and the silkworms start growing, the pair will wrestle with racism, life and death, and self-acceptance... together. This funny and poignant story also provides interesting details about silkworm life cycles and sustainable farming.

### [The Science of Breakable Things](#)

**Written by:** [Tae Keller](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 13

Natalie's botanist mother is suffering from depression, so Natalie has to figure out how to fix it. Her solution? Enter an egg drop competition, win the prize money, and use it to take her mother to see the cobalt blue orchids that survive in nearly impossible conditions — the ones her mother wrote about in her book *How To Grow A Miracle*. She's sure the sight of them will breathe some hope back into her mother's life. With the help of her friends, Twig and Dari, Natalie gets to work... but in the end, she'll learn that sometimes talking is the best way to grow the miracle you need. This book sensitively explores the impact of depression on both an individual and on the people who love them.

### [Front Desk](#)

**Written by:** [Kelly Yang](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 13

10-year-old Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. She lives in a motel, not a house, and while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, Mia manages the front desk. Her parents hide immigrants — and if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out, the Tangs will be doomed. And she wants to be a writer, even though her mom thinks English being her second language means Mia should stick to math. With enough courage, determination, and kindness, however, Mia might be able to help out her family and the other immigrants *and* pursue her dreams. Based on author Kelly Yang's own experiences in the 1980s and 1990s, this engaging story offers young readers an eye-opening look at the immigrant experience and the power of one girl to make a difference. The story of Mia, her family, and the Calivista Motel continues in [Three Keys](#).

### [The House That Lou Built](#)

**Written by:** [Mae Respicio](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 - 13

Lou feels squashed and smothered in her grandmother's house, where she shares a room with her mom, so the woodshop-loving girl comes up with a solution: this summer, she's going to build a "tiny house," which she can put on land she inherited from her dad when he died before she was born. But building a house is tricky (even when it's tiny) and worse, the land might have to be sold to pay off back taxes and fund a move. Fortunately, both Lou's devoted friends and her loving Filipino family are there to help her achieve her dream... even if it doesn't look quite like she imagined. Full of details about Filipino life and culture, this warm story celebrates the true meaning of home and family.

### [Inside Out and Back Again](#)

**Written by:** [Thanh Hà Lai](#)

**Recommended Age:** 9 and up

10-year-old Hà has lived her whole life in Saigon, and she loves everything about the city — the bustling markets, its unique traditions, and her very own papaya tree. But when the Vietnam War reaches the capital, Hà and her family are forced to flee. They make their way by boat to a tent city in Guam, then to Florida, and finally, to a new home in Alabama. To Hà, this new land is all wrong: her neighbors are cold, the food is dull, and even the landscape feels alien. Even still, thanks to the strength of her family and help from a teacher with a very unexpected connection to the country where she was born, Hà begins to find her own place in this new world. This National Book Award-winning novel is written in free verse. Fans of this story will enjoy the companion novel, [Listen, Slowly](#).

### [Prairie Lotus](#)

**Written by:** [Linda Sue Park](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 13

14-year-old Hanna stands out in Dakota Territory in 1880: the half-Asian girl draws stares and prejudice wherever she goes. When she and her widowed father settle in LaForge, Hanna hopes to attend school before becoming a full-time dressmaker working in her father's dry goods shop. As she sets about to realize her dreams of getting an education and making at least one friend, Hanna draws on memories of her half-Chinese, half-Korean mother's quiet strength to persevere through the challenges she encounters. Narrated by Hanna, *Prairie Lotus* has poignant moments yet sparkles with humor, introducing a captivating heroine whose wry, observant voice will resonate with readers, especially [Laura Ingalls Wilder](#) fans.

### [American as Paneer Pie](#)

**Written by:** [Supriya Kelkar](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 13

11-year-old Lekha has carefully crafted two identities. At home, she's proud of her Indian heritage, but at school, she covers her bindi with her hair to avoid teasing, and makes sure to bring "normal" lunch food. When another Desi girl moves in across the street, Lekha figures there will finally be someone else who understands — but Avantika doesn't feel any need to hide her Indian heritage, and directly confronts bullies who mock her for it. Lekha's not sure she can be as brave, especially with a far-right candidate in her Detroit suburb proudly using the xenophobic slogan "Don't like it? Leave." But when her family is targeted by racist vandalism, Lekha realizes that it's time for her to make her voice heard. This powerful novel, with its sympathetic narrator caught between fitting in and standing out, is perfect for readers who loved [Front Desk](#) and [Amina's Voice](#).

### [When You Trap a Tiger](#)

**Written by:** [Tae Keller](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 13

7th grader Lily's Korean grandmother always warned her: never make a deal with a tiger. But when Lily's family moves in to help Halmoni after she falls sick, a magical tiger straight out of her folk tales appears! The tiger tells Lily that Halmoni has been hiding stories that made her sad, and promises her that, if Lily releases the stories, her health will be restored. But just as Halmoni said, deals with tigers are not what they seem, and soon Lily realizes that, with the help of her sister and her friend Ricky, she needs to find her voice, face the things she's most afraid of, and recognize the power that stories have to remember the ones we love... even when they're gone. This stunning magical realism novel, based on Korean mythology, is a powerful look at the importance of letting go.

### [The Last Fallen Star](#)

**Written by:** [Graci Kim](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 13

12-year-old Riley Oh is thrilled for her sister, Hattie, who's about to be initiated into the Gom clan, a lineage of Korean healing witches. She just wishes that she could join her — but Riley, who is adopted, is a *saram*, a person without magic. Then Hattie and Riley find a spell that could allow them to share Hattie's magic... but casting it violates the laws of the Godrealm. Now Hattie's life is at stake and Riley's only chance is to find the last fallen star

to save her — and repair her fractured community. With the help of her best friend Emmett, Riley will overcome supposedly mythical creatures like an inmyeonjo, a dokkaebi, and gwisin — and discover the truth about her parentage. Graci Kim's first book in the Gifted Clans series is a powerful story of magic, sisterhood, and self-acceptance.

### [Pashmina](#)

**Written by:** [Nidhi Chanani](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 13

Priyanka Das is full of questions that her mother won't answer — about India, the homeland her mother abandoned, and about Pri's father, who she's never known. But when Pri stumbles across a pashmina in a forgotten suitcase, she discovers that it can transport her to a colorful, vivid world. Is this the real India, though, or just a product of her imagination — and what is that shadow lurking in the background? When her mother surprises her with a trip to the actual India, Pri might just find the answers to some of her questions. This heartfelt graphic novel explores sensitive issues like generational and culture clash and the search for identity.

### [The Thing About Luck](#)

**Written by:** [Cynthia Kadohata](#)

**Illustrated by:** [Julia Kuo](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 14

The year has been anything but lucky for Summer: an emergency has taken her parents back to Japan, leaving Summer and her brother Jaz — and the family farm's harvest — in the hands of her demanding grandparents, Obaachan and Jiichan. Summer tries not to disappoint, but just when she thinks she's used up her train of bad luck, things get even worse, and Summer finds herself torn: please Obaachan, or rescue the family fortunes. Or maybe there's a way to do both... This National Book Award winner is sure to be a favorite for Mighty Girls who find it hard to see eye to eye with their grandparents' expectations.

### [Weedflower](#)

**Written by:** [Cynthia Kadohata](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 14

Sumiko was used to being teased as the only Japanese girl in her class, but after Pearl Harbor, things go from taunts to outright suspicion. Suddenly, she and her family have to leave her beloved home and flower farm for an internment camp in the middle of a hot, barren desert. But Sumiko and her family aren't the only ones facing discrimination: the camp is on a Mohave reservation. At first, the Mohave residents and the Japanese detainees are at odds, but as they get to know one another, they realize that they have much in common — including being viewed as second-class citizens. Through a friendship with Frank, a Mohave boy, and her own garden, Sumiko starts to see hope for a better future. Complex and emotional, this novel will get young adult readers thinking about the divisions we don't always see.

### [Kira-Kira](#)

**Written by:** [Cynthia Kadohata](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 - 14

Katie Takeshima's sister Lynn is the one who makes everything seem brighter, whether she's pointing out the simple things like the light on the ocean, or helping Katie with the challenges of being the only Japanese family in a 1950s Deep South town. But when Lynn becomes seriously ill, the job of making everything kira-kira — glittering and shining — falls to Katie. And when Lynn dies, Katie is determined to honor her sister's memory by making kira-kira a part of her life forever. This powerful story of optimism and sisterhood also captures the many challenges faced by immigrants in recent times.

### [A Place To Belong](#)

**Written by:** [Cynthia Kadohata](#), **Illustrated by:** [Julia Kuo](#)

**Recommended Age:** 10 and up

12-year-old Hanako and her family were imprisoned by her own country in World War II, just because of their Japanese heritage, and then coerced into relinquishing their citizenship, forcing them to move to Japan. But their

new country is in desperate straights post-war, including the small village outside of Hiroshima where her grandparents live. Compassionate Hanako wants to help, but her family doesn't even enough for themselves. Still, her grandfather's explanation about *kintsukuroi* — fixing broken items with gold lacquer to make them stronger and more beautiful — gives her hope for a future where her family is the gold that mends the wounds. Hanako shines in this emotional story about the aftermath of World War II and the Japanese internment.

### [A Step From Heaven](#)

**Written by:** [An Na](#)

**Recommended Age:** 12 and up

When Young Ju's family moved to the US from Korea, she envisioned a heavenly future: a life of ease and wealth. Instead, her family struggles to fit in as they learn a new language and face cultural differences — and inside their home, her father's drinking and abusive behavior batters Young Ju's hopes. As she gets older, the respect and privilege granted her younger brother simply for being male frustrates her, and an American friend helps her start to see a future beyond her father's restrictions. And when Young Ju finds the courage to stand up for herself and her mother, one act may be the key to freedom. This gripping novel celebrates the power of claiming strength and seeking the future you deserve.

### [Farewell to Manzanar](#)

**Written by:** [Jeanne Houston, James D. Houston](#)

**Recommended Age:** 12 and up

Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old when her family was moved to the Manzanar internment camp. There, she lived with 10,000 other Japanese Americans, both recent immigrants and natural born citizens like her. She remembers the bizarre juxtaposition of barbed wire, spotlights, and armed guards with sock hops, baton twirling lessons, and a dance band that played hit songs — except for the current #1 on the charts, 'Don't Fence Me In.' This touching first-hand look at the internment experience raises questions about cultural pride versus assimilation; what cost a country is willing to pay for security; and how people can maintain their identities and their dignity under the force of prejudice and oppression.

### [Butterfly Yellow](#)

**Written by:** [Thanh Hà Lai](#)

**Recommended Age:** 13 and up

Six years ago, Hằng tried to escape the Vietnam War with her brother, Linh; instead, American soldiers took him on board their plane and left her behind. After a brutal journey and time in a refugee camp, Hằng has finally made it to Texas and she's determined to find Linh. On the way, she meets LeeRoy, a would-be cowboy who drives her to Linh's adopted home — only for Hằng to discover that Linh doesn't remember her or Vietnam. Hằng refuses to give up on her brother, though, and LeeRoy won't leave her. As Hằng struggles with her trauma and her guilt about her brother, she and LeeRoy find their relationship evolving in ways neither expected. This powerful YA novel by the author of [Inside Out & Back Again](#) explores loyalty, family, and the deep impressions war leaves on its innocent victims.

### [The Epic Crush of Genie Lo](#)

**Written by:** [F. C. Yee](#)

**Recommended Age:** 13 and up

Genie Lo is a top athlete and overachiever who spends her days planning how she'll get into Harvard — until her hometown is suddenly under attack by creatures straight out of Chinese folklore. That's when she learns that Quentin Sun, the handsome transfer student who just arrived at her school, is actually Sun Wukong, the Monkey King. Now, Genie will have to figure out how to save her Bay Area life from its parallel supernatural world — without missing out on a chance to ace her SATs. This thrilling fantasy adventure debut is an absolute delight, and readers will love continuing Genie's story in the sequel, [The Iron Will of Genie Lo](#).



### [Under A Painted Sky](#)

**Written by:** [Stacey Lee](#)

**Recommended Age:** 13 and up

In 1849, Samantha's dreams of moving to New York to be a professional musician seem out of reach: how can a girl, let alone a Chinese-American girl, achieve such a thing? But after a family tragedy and an incident that leaves her on the run from the law and fearing for her life, those dreams are the last thing on her mind. With the help of Annamae, a runaway slave, Samantha head for the Oregon Trail, where the newfound friends disguise themselves as boys for protection. With the law closing in on them, but some unexpected allies in their corner, the girls will have to fight for their safety and their freedom.

### [American Panda](#)

**Written by:** [Gloria Chao](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

Mei is seventeen and a freshman at MIT: skipping fourth grade was part of her parents' plan for her to become a doctor, marry a bright Taiwanese man, and have plenty of children. And she knows her parents have sacrificed to get her there, so she feels tremendously guilty that she hates medicine and that her current crush is definitely not Taiwanese. But when she reconnects with her estranged brother, who dated the wrong woman and ended up disowned, she realizes that an authentic life is worth pursuing. Both funny and touching, many kids will recognize themselves in Mei's desire to find her own way.

### [The Downstairs Girl](#)

**Written by:** [Stacey Lee](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

17-year-old Jo Kuan just wants to keep herself and her adoptive father, two of the few Chinese Americans in 1890s Atlanta, safe — even if it means a job as an abused lady's maid. When she learns that the local newspaper needs someone to write an advice column, she applies anonymously and becomes "Miss Sweetie." Her column gives her an opportunity to challenge stereotypes, but that inevitably brings backlash. And when a letter to Miss Sweetie hints at the identities of the parents who abandoned Jo as a baby, she has to decide if the search — which includes seeking help from a notorious criminal — is worth exposing herself. Stacey Lee, the critically-acclaimed author of [Under a Painted Sky](#), explores identity and the effects of discrimination on marginalized people.

### [To All The Boys I've Loved Before](#)

**Written by:** [Jenny Han](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

Lara Jean Song has had five crushes, but she's never dated; instead, she's written love letters to each boy that she keeps in a hatbox her mother gave her before she died. They seem like a safe way for her to pour out her feelings while dealing with life as the middle sister in a Korean-American family. But this year, things are changing: her big sister Margot is leaving for college (and breaking up with Josh, the boy next door that Lara Jean liked first), and Lara Jean suddenly finds herself in charge of her younger sister, Kitty. And when her secret letters get mailed by accident, Lara Jean suddenly gets a chance at love — if she's willing to take it. Full of compelling twists, charming characters, and sweet romance, this series opener will delight teen readers. All three books in Lara Jean's story are also available in the [To All The Boys I've Loved Before Collection](#).

### [Parachutes](#)

**Written by:** [Kelly Yang](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

Claire Wang is a high school junior living in privilege in Shanghai — until one bad grade too many results in her parents turning her into a "parachute," a teenager who gets dropped off with a host family in the US to study. Her new host sister, Dani De La Cruz, is Filipina American and lives a totally different life from Claire, excelling academically but forced to clean houses to make ends meet. The two seem unlikely to be friends — especially once Claire starts dating Jay, a fellow parachute and Dani's crush — but when both girls experience sexual harassment and assault, they learn about how money, power, and male privilege work... and how they can support one



another as they raise their voices against it. This powerful modern immigrant story is sure to prompt discussion about race, identity, and justice.

### [The War Outside](#)

**Written by:** [Monica Hesse](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

In the midst of World War II, German-American Margot and Japanese-American Haruko have been ripped from their homes and forced into a "family internment camp" based solely on where their parents used to live. The girls don't have much in common, but they are drawn to one another because of their family troubles: Haruko is afraid for her soldier brother and wonders what her father is hiding, while Margot is afraid her mother will lose her pregnancy and has to watch her rational father get courted by Nazis. But can they rely on their friendship, or is the camp truly full of spies? Author Monica Hesse drew on extensive research to create this nuanced and complex look at the impact of America's internment of its own citizens.

### [I Believe In A Thing Called Love](#)

**Written by:** [Maurene Goo](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

Korean-American Desi Lee is an overachiever in everything — except for romance. But when she meets Luka, a transfer student she decides is too good to miss, she decides it's time to devote the same focus to flirting that she has to servicing a carburetor or becoming valedictorian. Her guide will be the Korean dramas that her widowed father watches obsessively; Desi even creates 24 "K Drama Steps to True Love." Real life isn't quite like a K drama, but even Desi's missteps have a lot to teach her about love, identity, and acceptance. Funny and thoughtful, teens will love Desi and her determined approach to romance.

### [The Astonishing Color of After](#)

**Written by:** [Emily X.R. Pan](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

When Leigh Chen Sanders' mother died, Leigh is convinced that she turned into a bird — and she's determined to find it, and not to think about how she kissed her best friend (and longtime crush) Axel on the same day her mother took her own life. As she tries to process her grief, Leigh travels to Taiwan to meet her maternal grandparents for the first time. In her search for the bird, she seeks out places that were important to her mother, and uncovers family secrets, while also expressing herself through art. Part reality, part magic, this novel about recovery from grief and finding yourself is luminous and evocative.

### [Outrun the Moon](#)

**Written by:** [Stacey Lee](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

Mercy Wong has "bossy cheeks" according to her Chinese fortuneteller mother, which make her ambitious and bold. It's 1906 in San Francisco, and she dreams of escaping the poverty of Chinatown, which the white residents of the city sneeringly call "Pigtail Alley." She manages to gain entrance to the prestigious St. Clare's School for Girls under pretense of being a Chinese heiress, and she thinks the hardest part will be avoiding the scrutiny of the headmistress. But when the city is struck down by an earthquake, Mercy's talent at leadership will help her schoolmates survive in the aftermath. This evocative novel by the author of [Under A Painted Sky](#) will leave readers questioning what they would do in the face of such a disaster.

### [Love, Hate and Other Filters](#)

**Written by:** [Samira Ahmed](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

Maya is trying to figure out the right time to tell her parents she's been accepted into a prestigious film school — and that she's more interested in dating a longtime (white) classmate than the Muslim boys her parents deem suitable. Then a young man — one who reportedly shares Maya's last name — commits an act of terror, and suddenly the anti-Muslim backlash seems to change everything. Maya must grapple with her Indian Muslim

identity and the dreams she feels slipping away. This book explores fear, bigotry, and the experiences of second-generation immigrants with gentleness and heart.

**Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir**

**Written by:** [Robin Ha](#), **Illustrated by:** [Robin Ha](#)

**Recommended Age:** 14 and up

Chuna and her mother have always been as close as could be, even if it's difficult living as the only child of a single mother in Seoul, Korea. But her life is turned upside down when the pair visit Huntsville, Alabama, and her mother suddenly announces that the relocation is permanent — and she's getting married. Chuna struggles with learning a new language, bullying both at school and by her stepfamily, and perhaps worst, feeling isolated from the mother who used to be the one person she could count on. Then one day, her mother enrolls the comics-loving girl in a drawing class — and Chuna, now going by Robin, discovers a future she never expected. This moving graphic memoir explores the challenges of immigration, the power of art, and the resilience of a strong mother-daughter bond.

Downloaded May, 1, 2021 from A Mighty girl website: <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=33613>.