

# Chapter Books Centering Diverse Asian and Asian American Characters

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# Chapter Books Centering Diverse Asian and Asian American Characters

Are you looking for “mirror” books that reflect your Asian American children’s own experiences and identities? Or are you looking for “window” books that can show children other identities, experiences, and cultures that are different from their own?

## **EmbraceRace has got you covered!**

Check out this list of chapter books celebrating a wide diversity of Asian and Asian American characters, cultures, and experiences.

Please know that this a long, but not comprehensive list: there may be great books out there that we haven’t included here (yet!). It’s also an evolving list. We will add more books over time, and may also remove books if it comes to our attention that a particular book is not one we would endorse. Please send us any feedback you have about books you’d like to see added or removed at [hugs@embracerace.org](mailto:hugs@embracerace.org). And check our website for the most up-to-date version of this list.

EmbraceRace is grateful to Dr. Anna Kimura, Amaesha Durazi, Dr. Abby Saavedra, and the research team of the Asian American Families Study for their partnership in creating this book list and other resources for caregivers to Asian American children.

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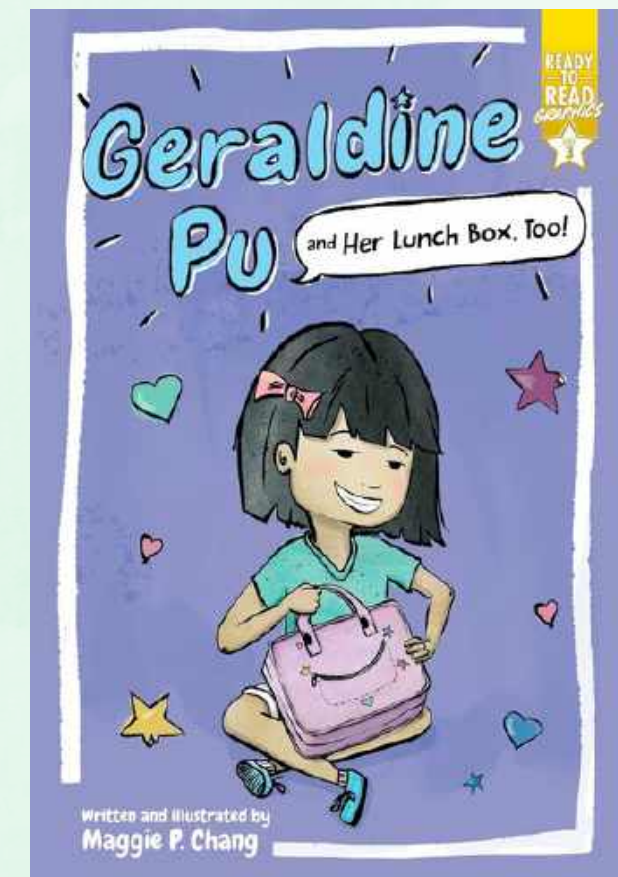
# Featured Topic: Chinese Identity

## **Geraldine Pu Series**

Author & Illustrator: Maggie P. Chang

Geraldine Pu's favorite part of school is lunch. She loves her lunch box, which she calls Biandang. She can't wait to see what her grandmother, Amah, has packed inside it each day. Then one day, Geraldine gets stinky tofu...and an unexpected surprise. What will she do?

*Simon Spotlight; Ages 6+*

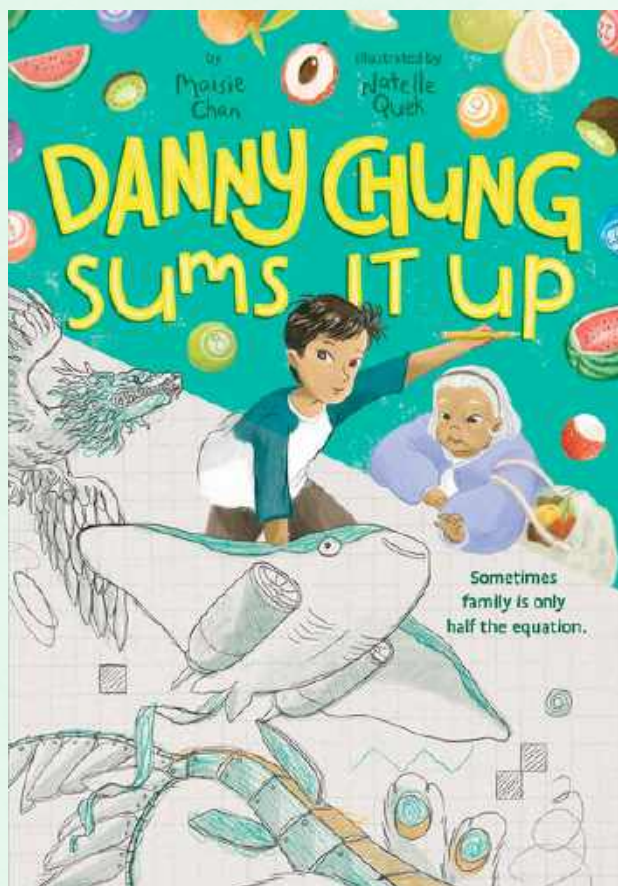


## **Danny Chung Sums It Up**

Author: Maisie Chen | Illustrator: Natelle Quek

A touching and funny middle-grade story about a boy whose life is unraveled when his Chinese grandmother moves in. Filled with heart and humor, *Danny Chung Sums It Up* shows that traversing two cultures is possible and worth the effort, even if it's not always easy.

*Harry N. Abrams; Ages 8+*



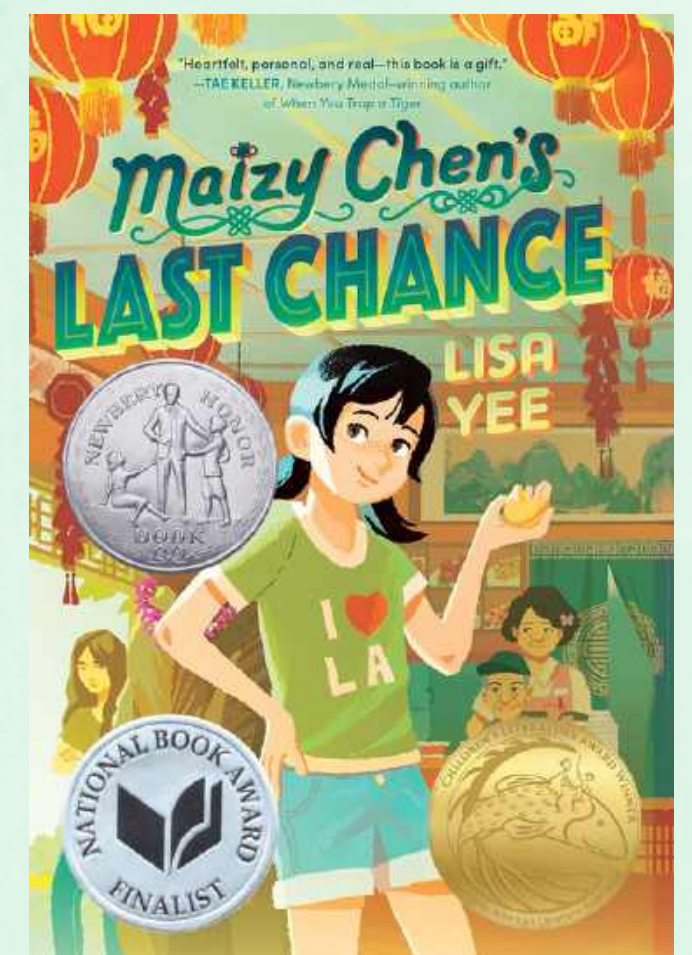
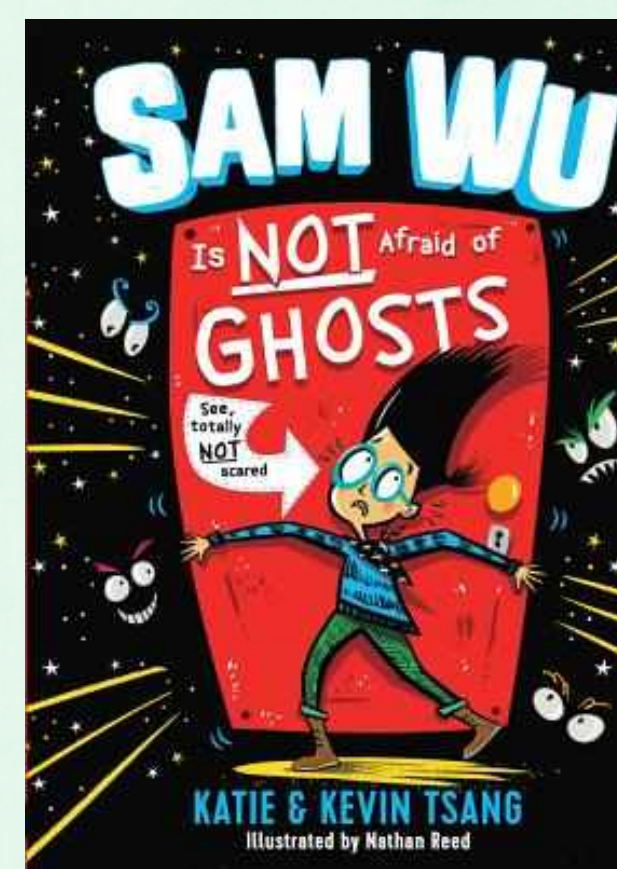
## **Sam Wu Is Not Afraid of Ghosts**

Authors: Katie Tsang & Kevin Tsang

Illustrator: Nathan Reed

After an unfortunate (and very embarrassing) incident in the Space Museum, Sam goes on a mission to prove to the school bully, and all his friends, that he's not afraid of anything. And when it looks like his house is haunted, Sam gets the chance to prove how brave he can be.

*Publisher; Ages 7+*

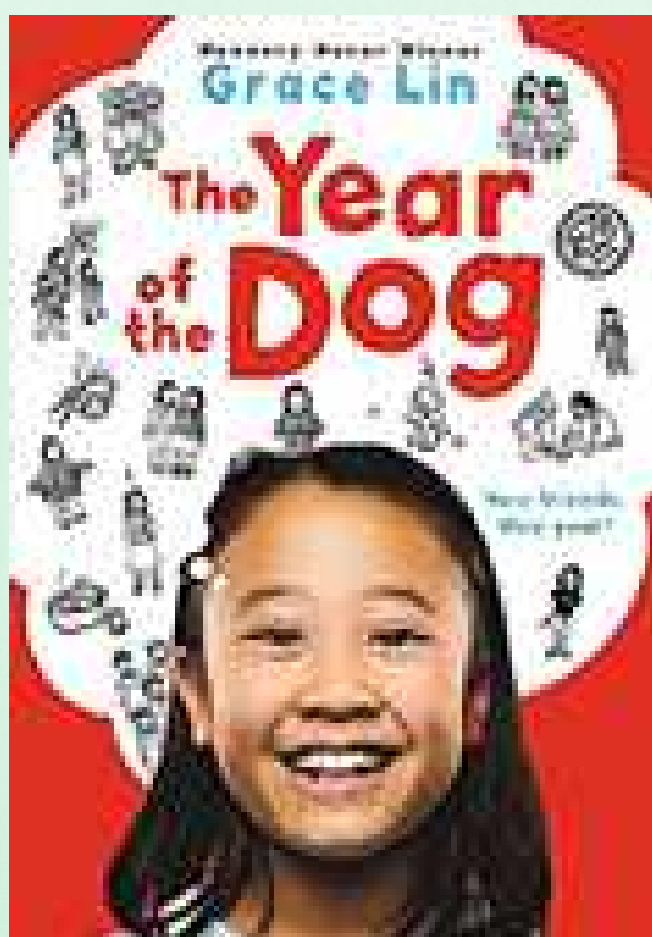


## **Maizy Chen's Last Chance**

Author: Lisa Yee

Twelve year-old Maizy discovers her family's Chinese restaurant is full of secrets in this irresistible novel that celebrates food, fortune, and family.

*Random House Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*



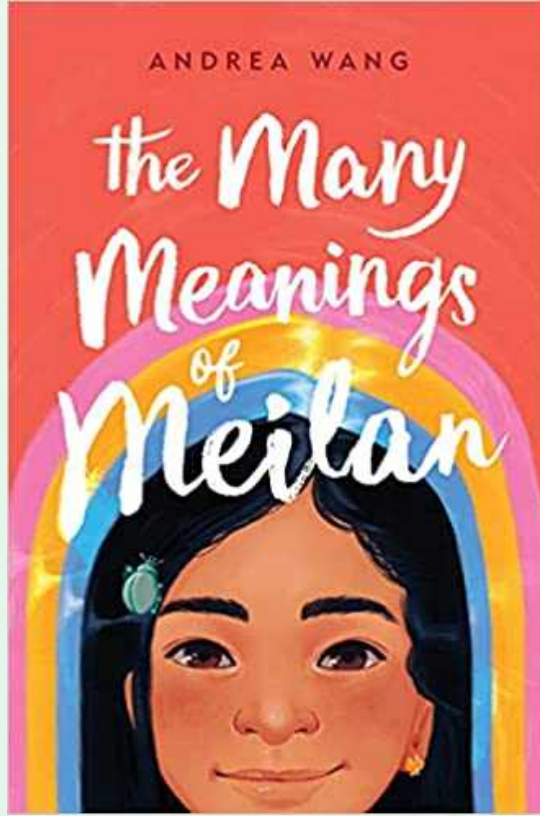
## **Year of the Dog (Pacy Lin series)**

Author: Grace Lin

When Pacy's mom tells her that this is a good year for friends, family, and "finding herself," Pacy begins searching right away. As the year goes on, she struggles to find her talent, deals with disappointment, makes a new best friend, and discovers just why the Year of the Dog is a lucky one for her after all.

*Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*

## Featured Topic: **Chinese Identity**

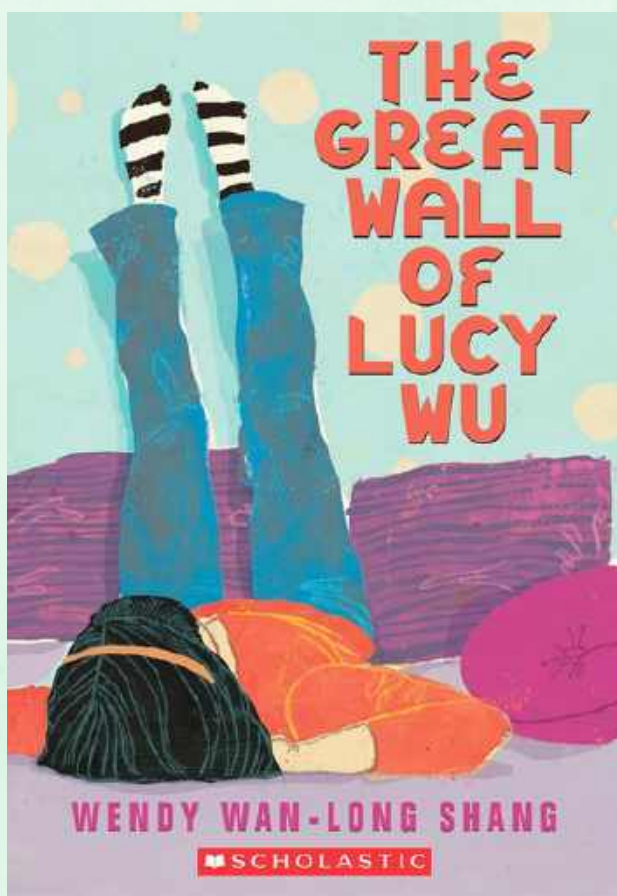


### ***The Many Meanings of Meilan***

Author: Andrea Wang

Meilan Hua's world is made up of a few key ingredients: her family's beloved matriarch, Nai Nai; the bakery her parents, aunts, and uncles own and run in Boston's Chinatown; and her favorite Chinese fairy tales. After Nai Nai passes, the family has a falling-out that sends Meilan, her parents, and her grieving grandfather on the road in search of a new home. They take a winding path across the country before landing in Redbud, Ohio. Everything in Redbud is the opposite of Chinatown, and Meilan's not quite sure who she is—being renamed at school only makes it worse. She decides she is many Meilans, each inspired by a different Chinese character with the same pronunciation as her name... Meilan keeps her facets separate until an injustice at school shows her the power of bringing her many selves together.

*Penguin Random House; Ages 9+*



### ***The Great Wall of Lucy Wu***

Author: Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Lucy Wu, aspiring basketball star and interior designer, is on the verge of having the best year of her life... In an instant, though, her plans are shattered when she finds out that Yi Po, her beloved grandmother's sister, is coming to visit for several months — and is staying in Lucy's room. Lucy's vision of a perfect year begins to crumble, and in its

place come an unwelcome roommate, foiled birthday plans, a bully who tries to scare Lucy off the basketball team, and Chinese school with the annoying know-it-all Talent Chang. Lucy's year is ruined — or is it?

*Scholastic Paperbacks; Ages 7+*



### ***It's Boba Time for Pearl Li!***

Author: Nicole Chen

This joyful, moving middle grade contemporary follows a big-hearted Taiwanese American girl as she aims to gain her family's acceptance and save her favorite boba tea shop by selling her handcrafted amigurumi dolls.

*Quill Tree Books; Ages 8+*

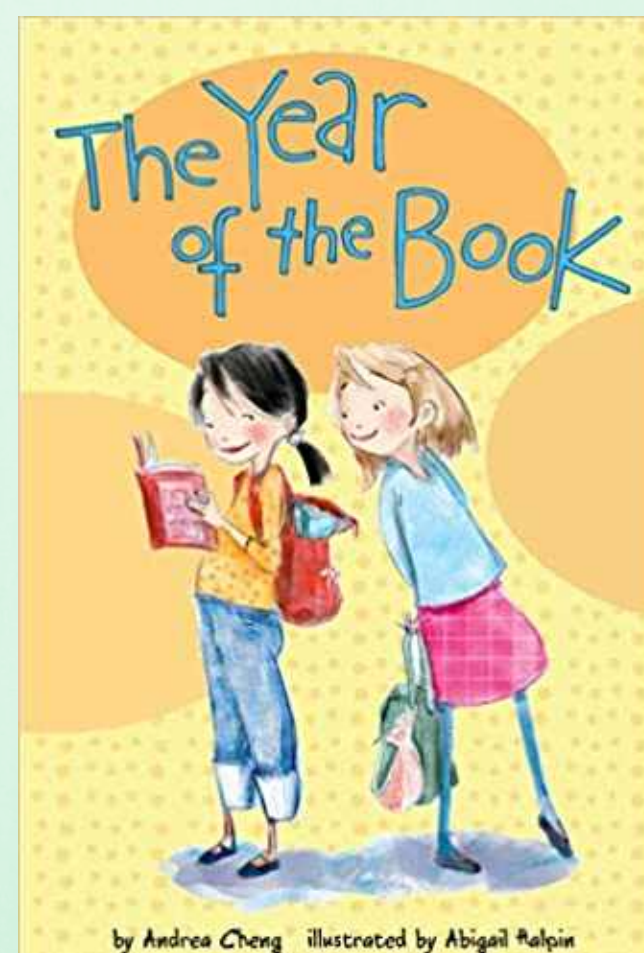
### ***The Year of the Book***

Author: Andrea Cheng

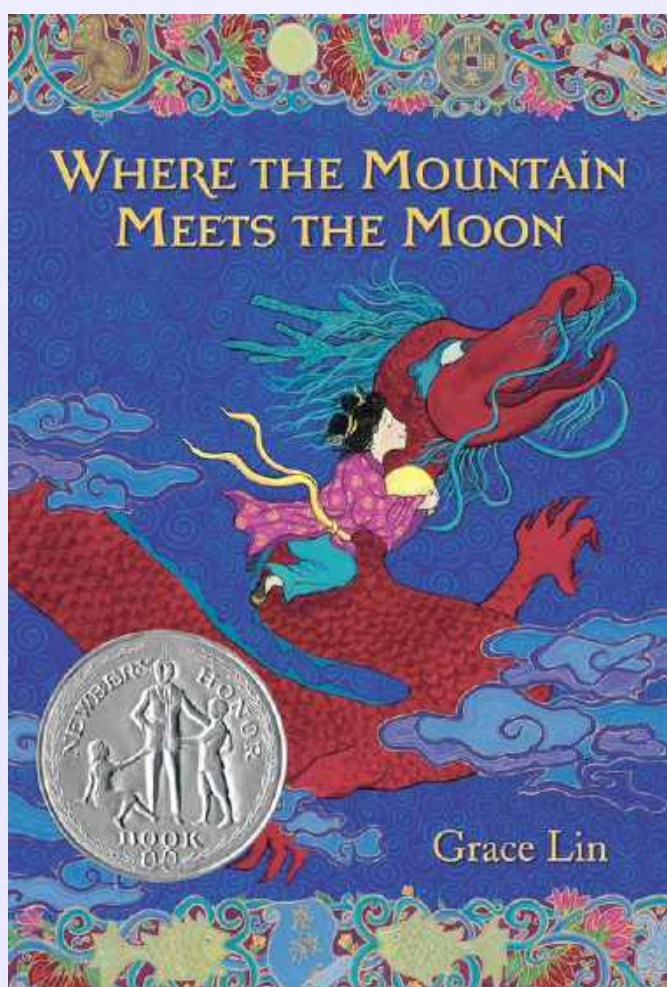
Illustrator: Abigail Halpin

When Anna needs company, she turns to her books. Books, however, can't tell Anna how to find a true friend. She'll have to discover that on her own.

*Clarion Books; Ages 6+*



## Featured Topic: **Fantasy Stories**



### ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***

Author & Illustrator: Grace Lin

In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

*Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Ages 7+*



### ***Dragon Pearl***

Author: Yoon Ha Lee

13-year-old Min comes from a long line of fox spirits, but you'd never know it by looking at her. To keep the family safe, Min's mother insists that none of them use any fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Min is counting the days until she can follow her older brother, Jun, into the Space Forces. When she finally gets her wish, her quest she must fox-magic and rely on all her cleverness and bravery.

*Rick Riordan Presents; Ages 8+*



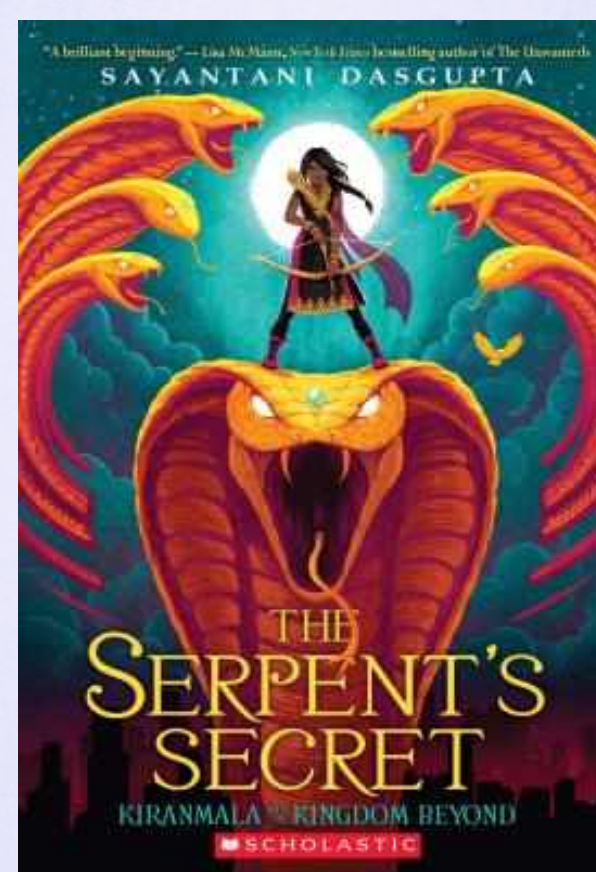
### ***Mihi Ever After Series***

Author: Tae Keller

Illustrator: Geraldine Rodriguez

In the first book, Korean-American middle-grader Mihi Whan Park and her two friends fall into a storybook-land princess school—and quickly realize that escaping a storybook is a lot harder than falling into one.

*Henry Holt & Co; Ages 8+*



### ***The Serpent's Secret***

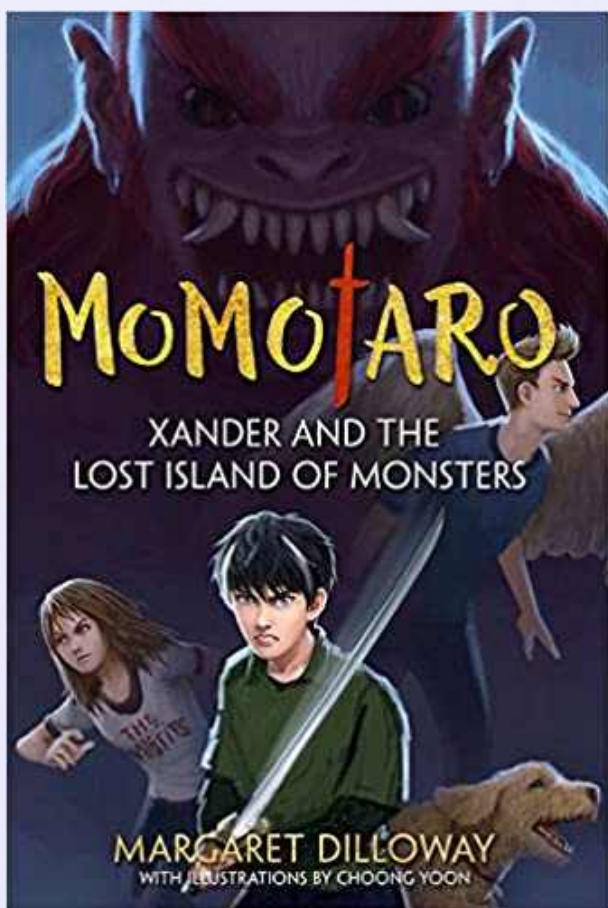
By: Sayantani DasGupta

On the morning of her 12th birthday, Kiranmala is just a regular sixth grader living in Parsippany, New Jersey... until her parents mysteriously vanish and a drooling rakkhosh demon slams

through her kitchen, determined to eat her alive. Turns out there might be some truth to her parents' fantastical stories -- like how Kiranmala is a real Indian princess and how she comes from a secret place not of this world.

*Scholastic Press; Ages 8+*

## Featured Topic: **Fantasy Stories**

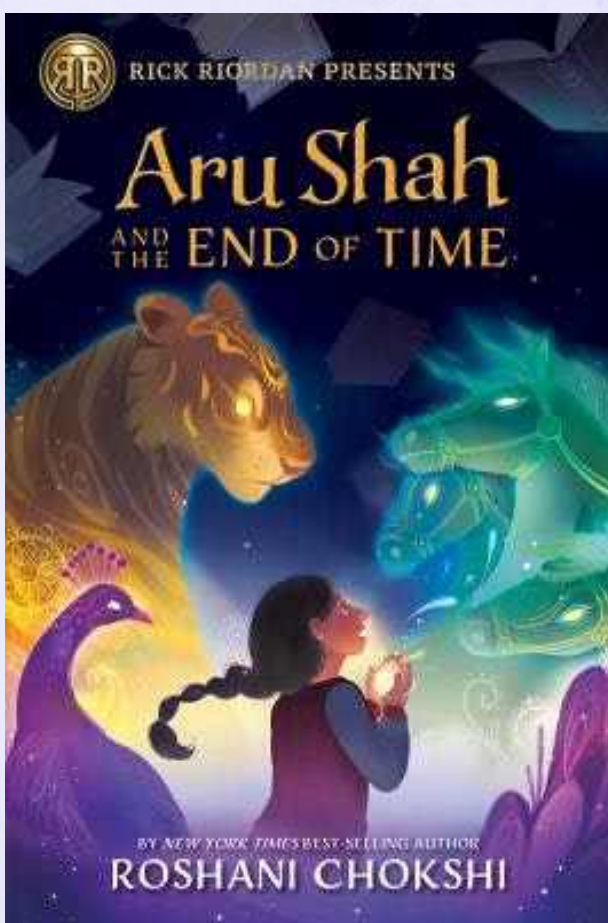


### **Momotaro: Xander and the Lost Island of Monsters**

Author: Margaret Dilloway | Illustrator: Choong Yoon

Xander Miyamoto would rather do almost anything than listen to his sixth grade teacher, Mr. Stedman, drone on about weather disasters happening around the globe. He wished Lovey would stop harassing him for being half Asian. When spring break begins at last, Xander plans to spend it playing computer games with his best friend, Peyton. Little did they know, they are about to be thrust into the biggest adventure of their lives...

*Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*

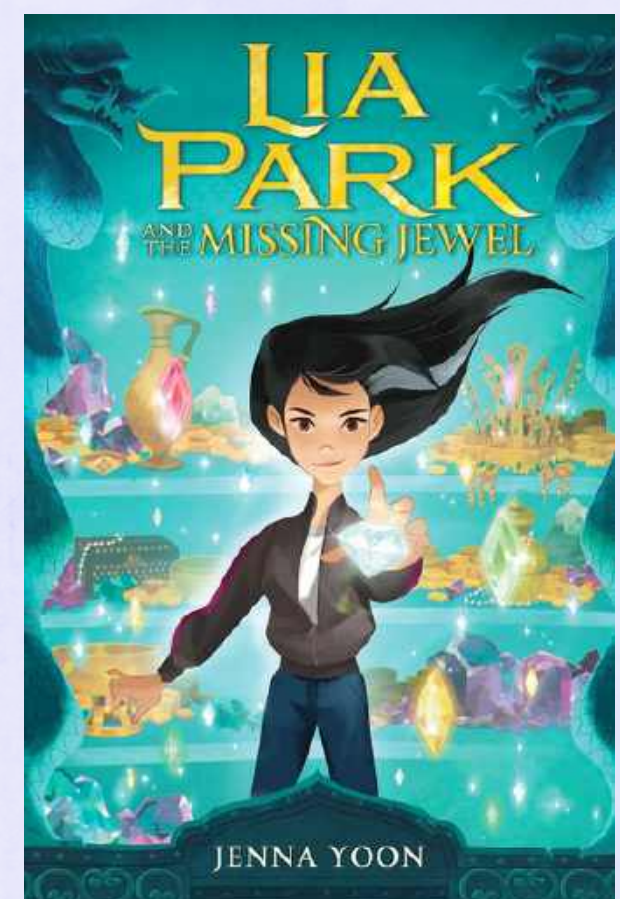


### **Aru Shah and the End of Time**

Author: Roshani Chokshi

12-year-old Aru Shah has a tendency to stretch the truth. One day, three schoolmates show up at Aru's doorstep to catch her in a lie. They don't believe her claim that the museum's Lamp of Bharata is cursed, and they dare Aru to prove it. Just a quick light, Aru thinks. Then she can get herself out of this mess and never ever fib again. But lighting the lamp has dire consequences...

*Rick Riordan Presents; Ages 8+*



### **Lia Park Series**

Author: Jenna Yoon

Twelve-year old Lia Park just wants to fit in. Her parents work with a mysterious organization that makes them ridiculously overprotective... Her first act of rebellion not only breaks her parents' rules, but also an ancient protection spell, allowing an evil diviner spirit to kidnap and ransom her parents for a powerful jewel that her family has guarded for years... Along with her friend, Joon, Lia must dig deep and find courage to stand up for those who are weak—and become the hero her parents need.

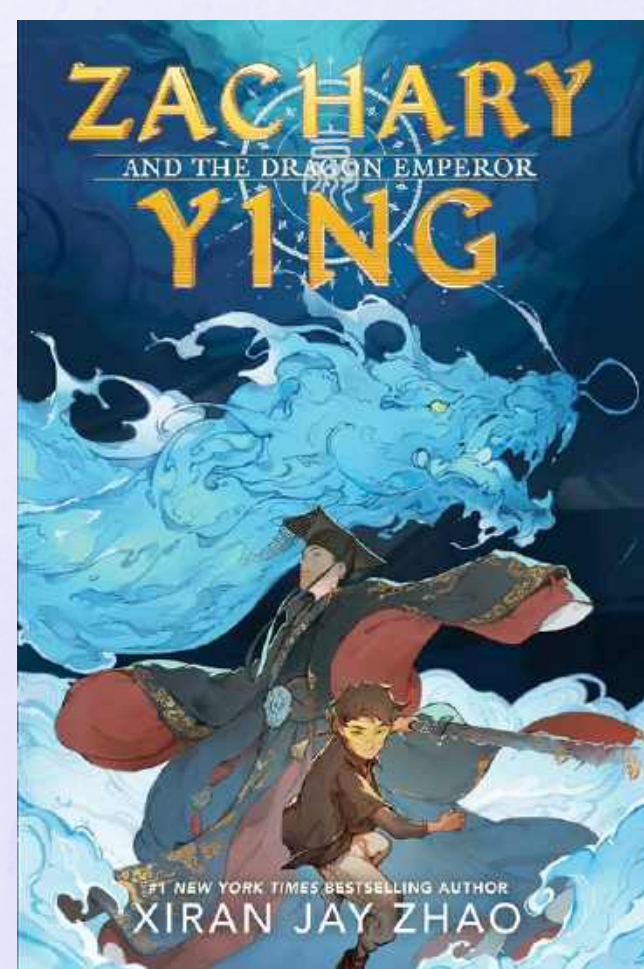
*Aladdin; Ages 9+*

### **Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor**

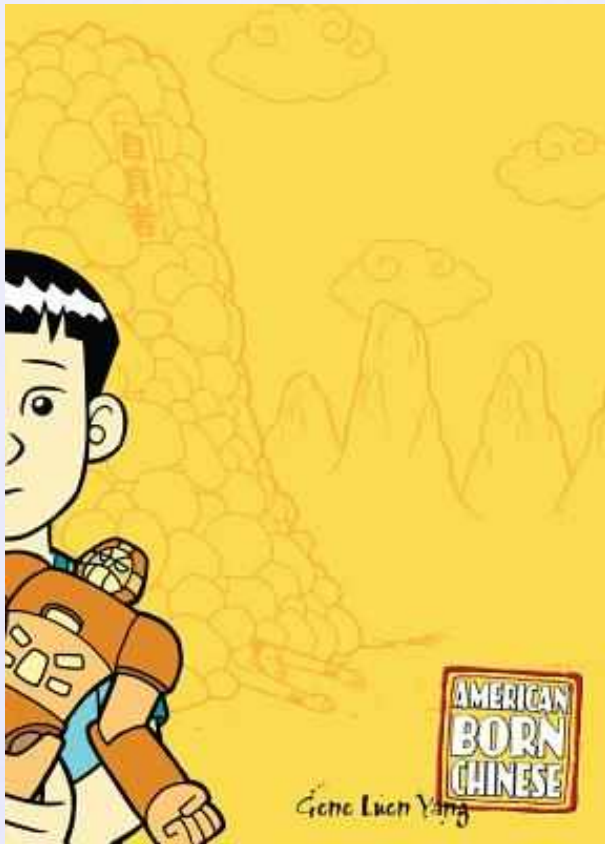
Author: Xiran Jay Zhao

Zachary Ying never had many opportunities to learn about his Chinese heritage... Now, with one of history's most infamous tyrants yapping in his headset, Zack must journey across China to heist magical artifacts and defeat figures from history and myth, all while learning to wield the emperor's incredible water dragon powers.

*Margaret K. McElderry Books; Ages 8+*



## Featured Topic: **Fantasy Stories**



### ***American Born Chinese***

Author: Gene Luen Yang

This graphic novel tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits.

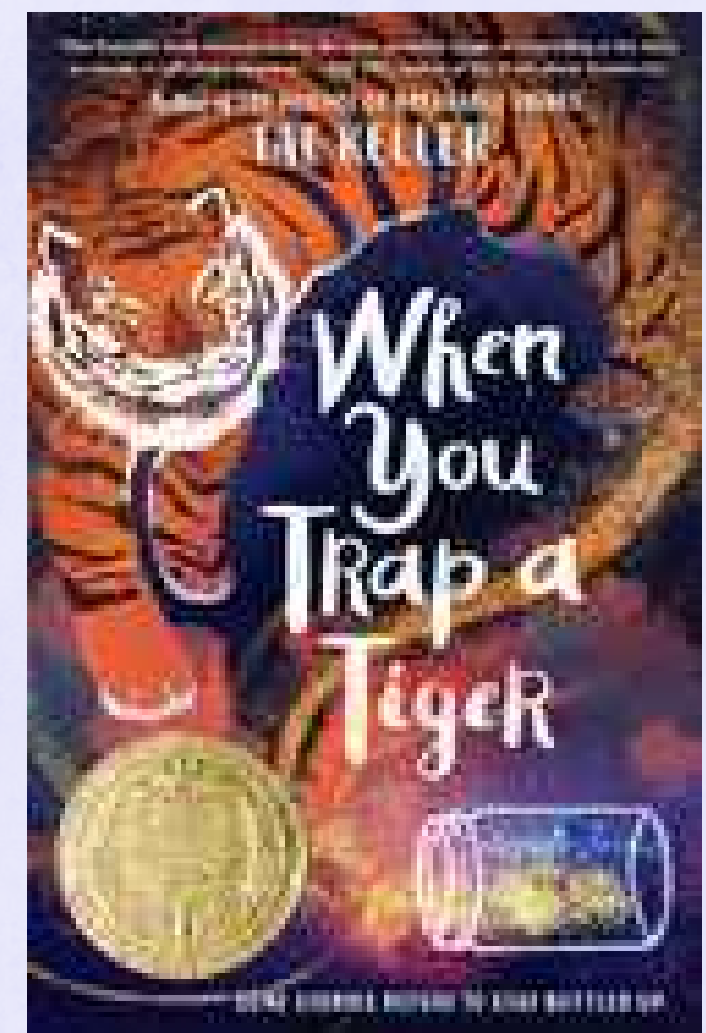
*First Second*; Ages 12+

### ***When You Trap a Tiger***

Author: Tae Keller

When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal—return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health—Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice... and the courage to face a tiger.

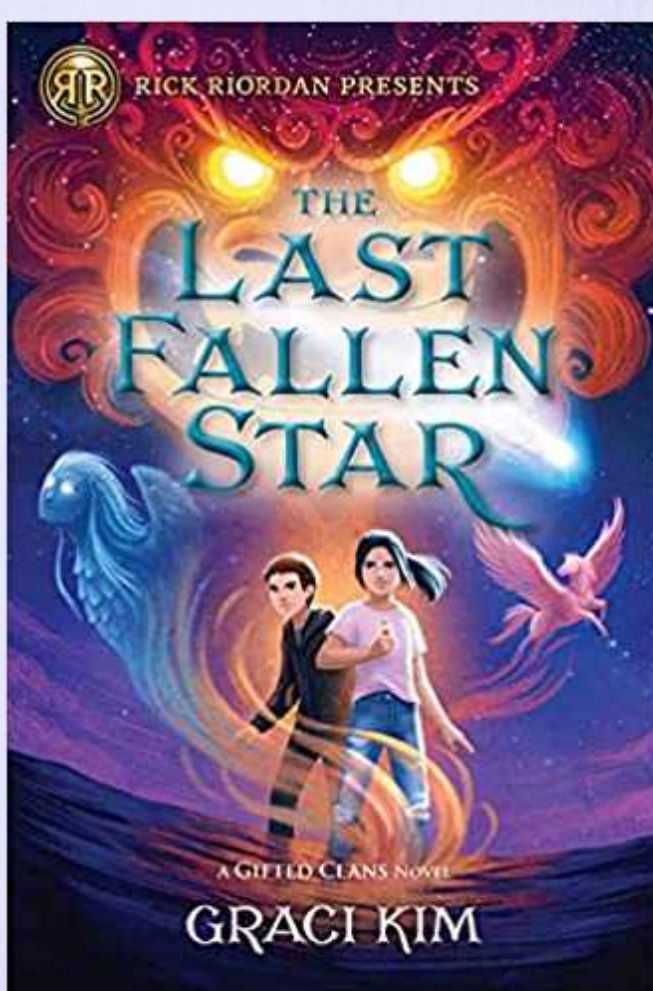
*Yearling*; Ages 8+



### ***The Last Fallen Star***

Author: Graci Kim

Riley Oh can't wait to see her sister, Hattie, get initiated into the Gom clan, a powerful lineage of Korean healing witches their family has belonged to for generations. But when Riley and Hattie attempt to violate the laws of the Godrealm, Hattie's life ends up hanging in the



balance, and to save her Riley has to fulfill an impossible task: find the last fallen star. But what even is the star, and how can she find it?

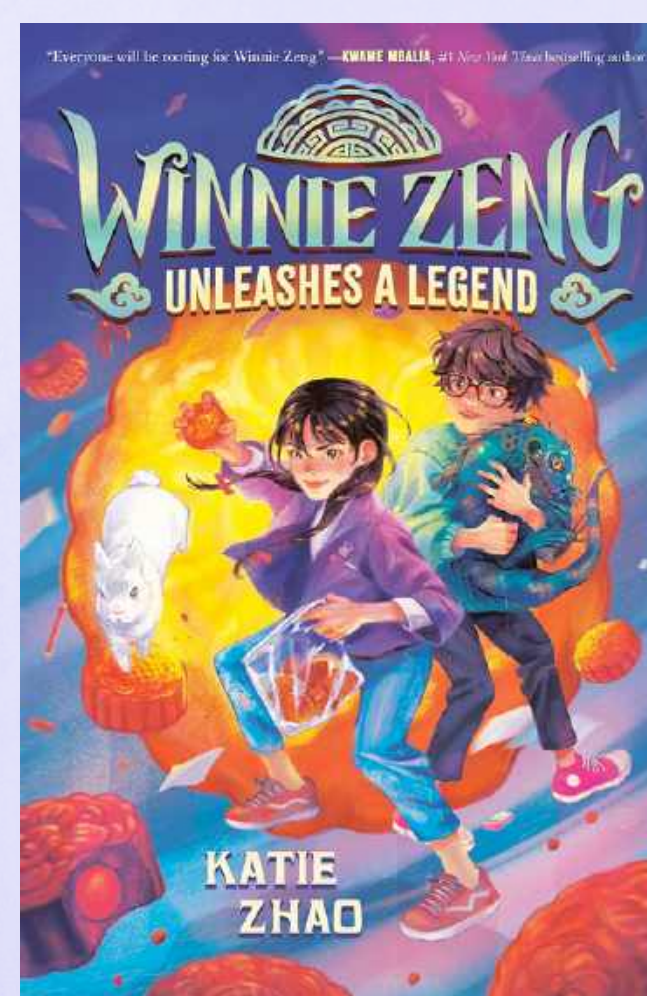
*Rick Riordan Presents*; Ages 8+

### ***Winnie Zeng Unleashes a Legend (Series)***

Author: Katie Zhao

When a girl awakens the stuff of legends from an old family recipe, she must embrace her extraordinary heritage to save the world.

*Random House Books for Young Readers* ; Ages 8+



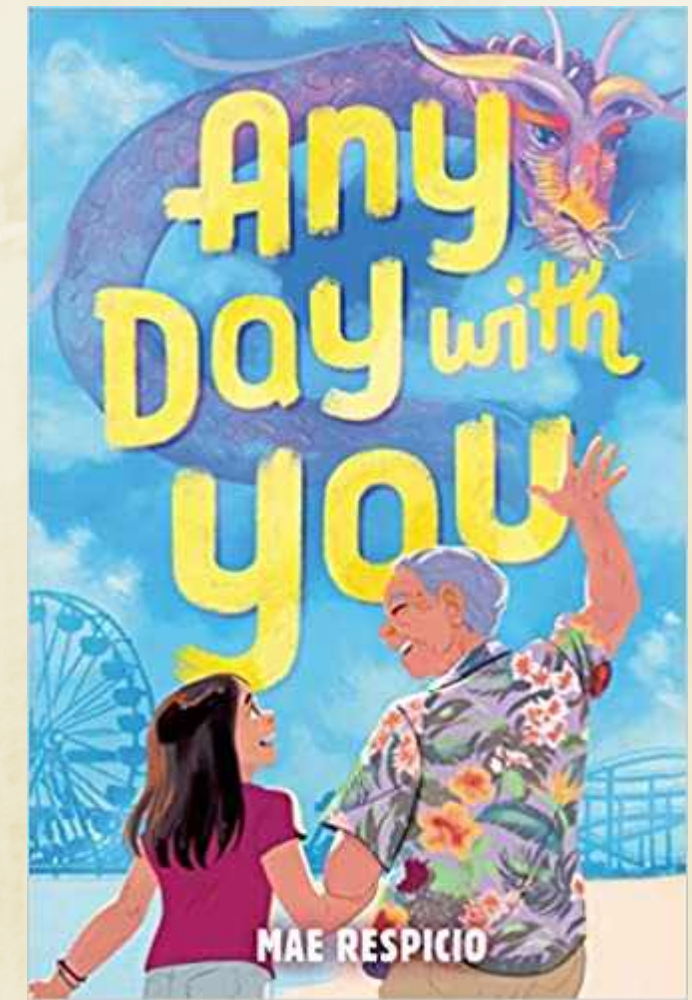
# Featured Topic: **Filipino Identity**

## ***Any Day with You***

Author: Mae Respicio

This summer, Kaia and her friends are part of a creative arts camp, where they're working on a short movie to enter in a contest. The movie is inspired by the Filipino folktales that her beloved Tatang, her great-grandfather, tells. Tatang lives with her family, but when Tatang decides that it is time to return to his homeland in the Philippines, Kaia will do anything to convince him not to go.

*Yearling; Ages 8+*



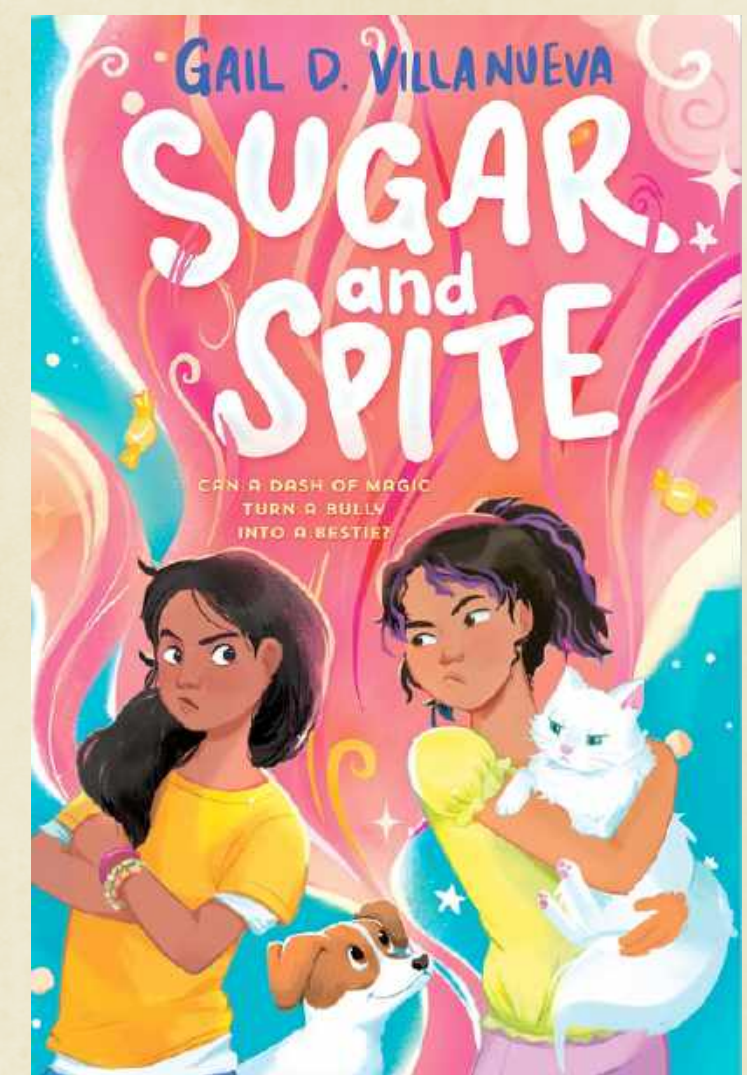
## ***See You in the Cosmos***

Author: Jack Cheng

11-year-old Alex Petroski loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog Carl Sagan—named for his hero, the real-life astronomer. All he wants is to launch his golden iPod into space the way. From Colorado to New Mexico, Las Vegas to L.A., he meets many funny, lost, remarkable people, but they can only partially prepare him for the secrets he'll uncover—from the

truth about his long-dead dad to the fact that, for a kid with a troubled mom and a mostly not-around brother, he has way more family than he ever knew.

*Dial Books for Young Readers; Ages 10+*



## ***Sugar and Spite***

Author: Gail D. Villanueva

Jolina can't take Claudine's bullying any longer! The taunts and teasing are too much. Though Jolina knows she's still in training to use her grandfather's arbularyo magic, she sneaks into his potions lab to get her revenge. Jolina brews a batch of gayuma, a powerful love potion. But magic comes with a cost, and bad intentions beget bad returns.

*Scholastic Press; Ages 8+*

## ***The House That Lou Built***

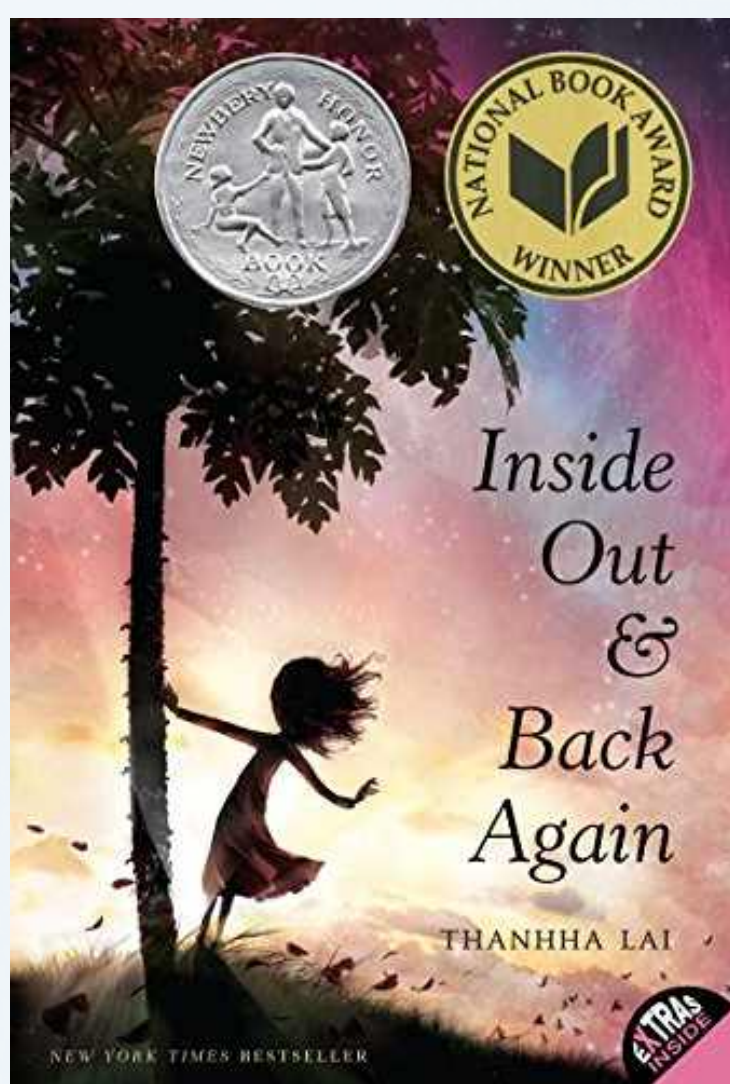
Author: Mae Respicio

Lou Bulosan-Nelson has the ultimate summer DIY project. She's going to build her own tiny house, 100 square feet all her own. She shares a room with her mom in her grandmother's house, and longs for a place where she can escape her crazy but lovable extended Filipino family. It's not as easy as she hopes, but she won't give up!

*Yearling; Ages 8+*



## Featured Topic: Immigration Stories



### ***Inside Out and Back Again***

Author: Thanhha Lai

Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee Saigon falls, and they board a ship toward hope—toward America.

*HarperCollins; Ages 8+*

### ***Front Desk Series***

Author: Kelly Yang

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer! It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year.

*Scholastic Press; Ages 8+*

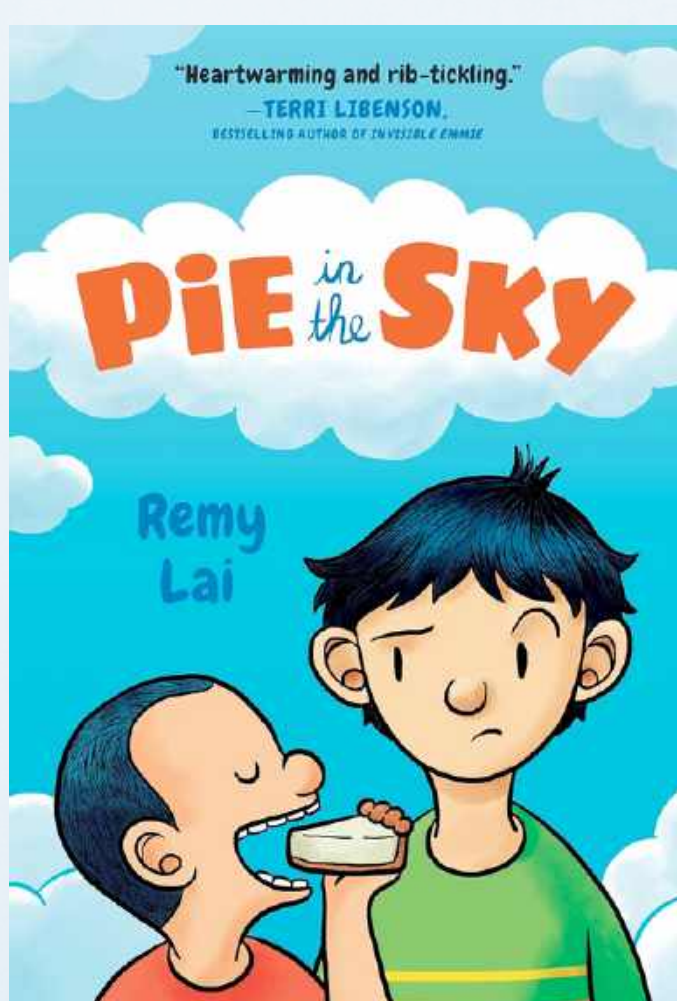


### ***Pie in the Sky***

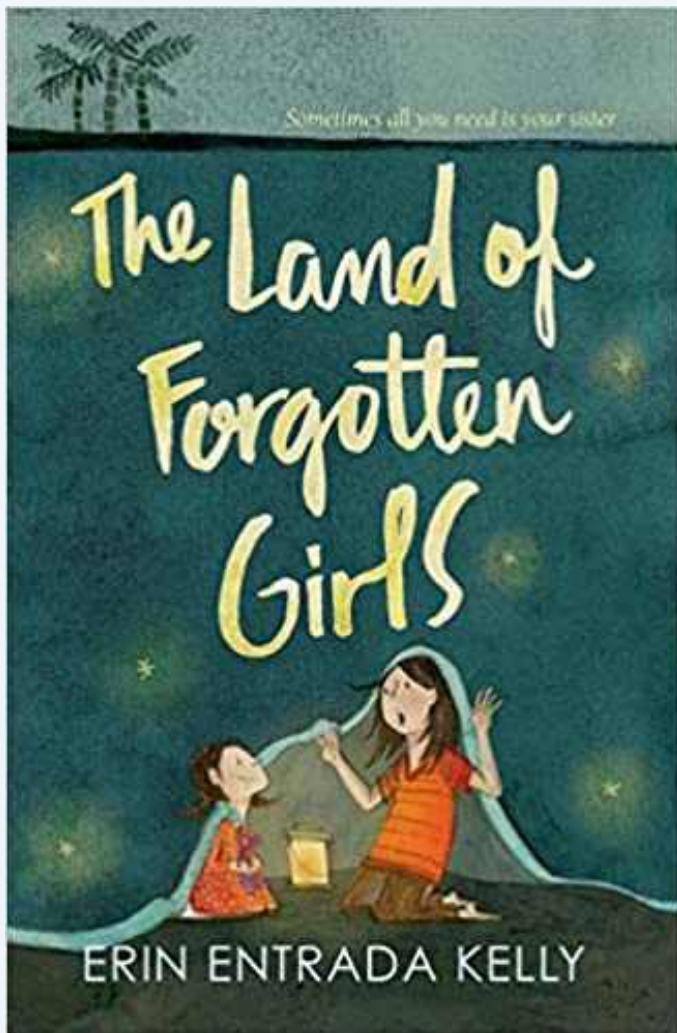
Author: Remy Lai

When Jingwen moves to a new country, he feels like he's landed on Mars. School is torture, making friends is impossible since he doesn't speak English, and he's often stuck looking after his (extremely irritating) little brother, Yanghao. To distract himself from the loneliness, Jingwen daydreams about making all the cakes on the menu of Pie in the Sky, the bakery his father had planned to open before he unexpectedly passed away. The only problem is his mother has laid down one major rule: the brothers are not to use the oven while she's at work. As Jingwen and Yanghao bake elaborate cakes, they'll have to cook up elaborate excuses to keep the cake making a secret from Mama.

*Henry Holt and Co.; Ages 7+*



## Featured Topic: **Immigration Stories**

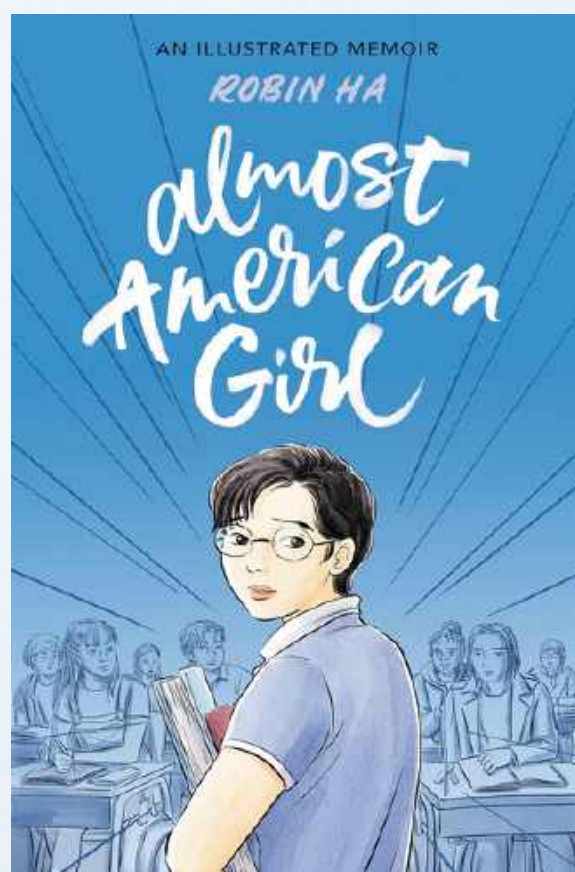


### ***The Land of Forgotten Girls***

Author: Erin Entrada Kelly

Soledad has always been able to escape into the stories she creates. Just like her mother always could. And Soledad has needed that escape more than ever in the five years since her mother and sister died, and her father moved Sol and her youngest sister from the Philippines to Louisiana. After her father leaves, all Sol and Ming have is their evil stepmother, Vea. Sol has protected Ming all this time, but then Ming begins to believe that Auntie Jove—their mythical, world-traveling aunt—is really going to come rescue them. Can Sol protect Ming from this impossible hope?

*Greenwillow Books; Ages 8+*



### ***Almost American Girl***

Author & Illustrator: Robin Ha

A powerful and moving teen graphic novel memoir about immigration, belonging, and how arts can save a life.

*Balzer & Bray;  
Ages 13+*



### ***The Magic Fish (A Graphic Novel)***

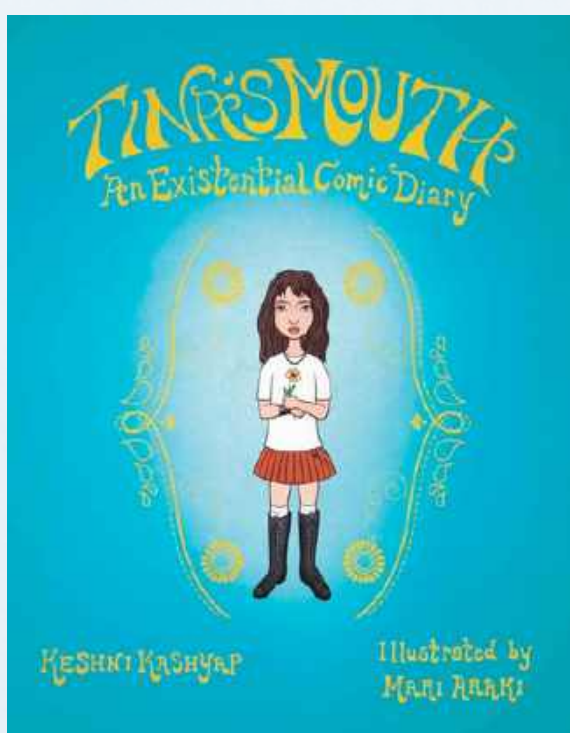
Author: Trung Le Nguyen

Real life isn't a fairytale. But Tiến still enjoys reading his favorite stories with his parents from the books he borrows from the local library. It's hard enough trying to communicate with your parents as a kid, but for Tiến, he doesn't even have the right words because his parents are struggling with their English. Is there a Vietnamese word for what he's going through? Is there a way to tell them he's gay?

*Random House Graphic; Ages 12+*

### ***Tina's Mouth: An Existential Comic Diary***

Author: Keshni Kashyap | Illustrator: Mari Araki



Tina M., sophomore, is a wry observer of the cliques and mores of Yarborough Academy, and of the foibles of her Southern California intellectual Indian family. She's on a first-name basis with Jean-Paul Sartre, the result of an English

honors class assignment to keep an "existential diary."  
*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; 13+*

## Featured Topic: **Indian Identity**

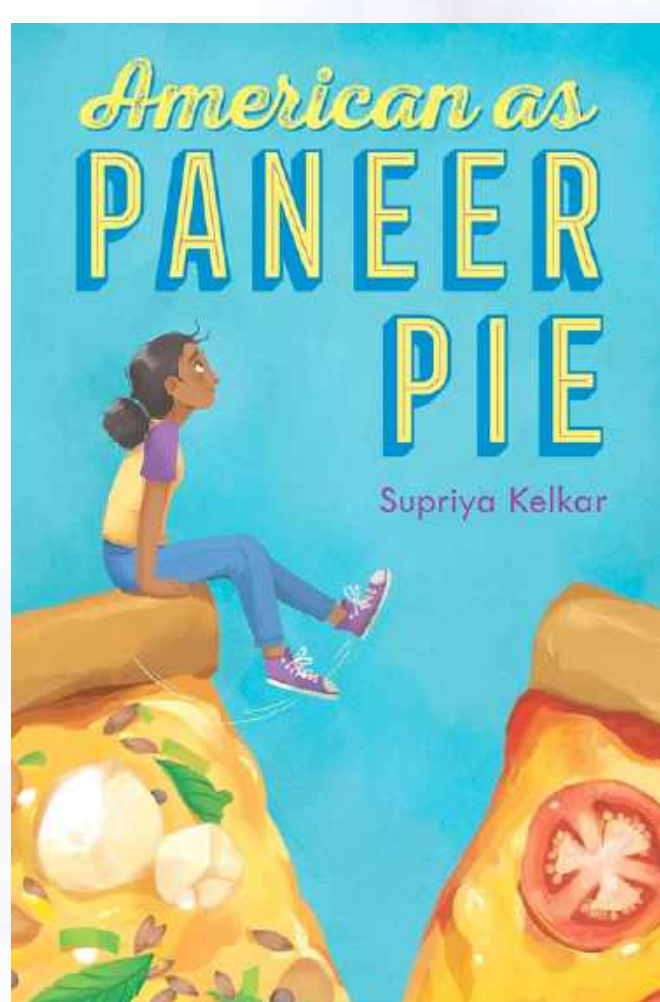
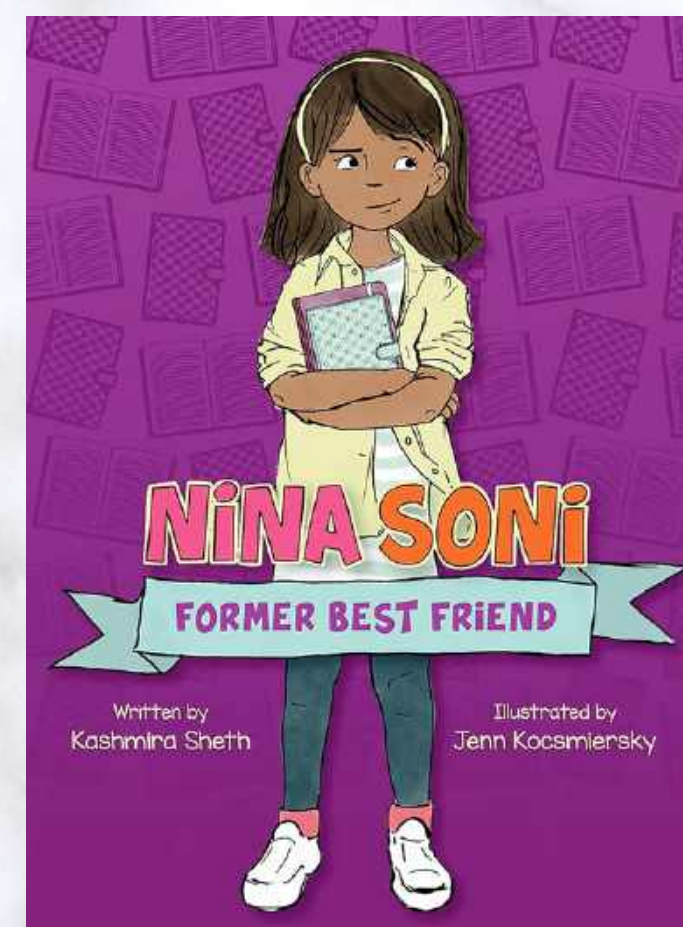
### ***Nina Soni Series***

Author: Kashmira Sheth

Illustrator: Jann Kocsmiersky

Nina Soni is a lovable, distractible Indian American girl with big plans and cast of family and friends to help her make her realize her dreams—or resolve the chaos that often results. Middle grade readers are sure to relate to Nina Soni and her entertaining efforts to manage her life with lists, definitions, and real-life math problems.

*Peachtree; Ages 7+*

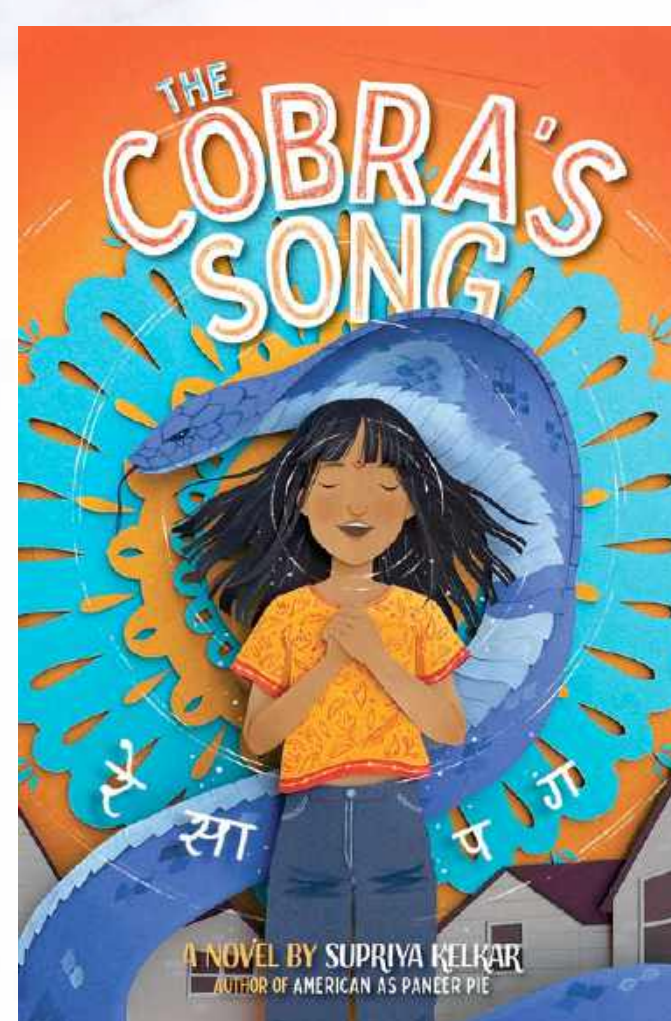


### ***American as Paneer Pie***

Author: Supriya Kelkar

An Indian American girl navigates prejudice in her small town and learns the power of her own voice in this brilliant gem of a middle grade novel full of humor and heart.

*Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*



### ***The Cobra's Song***

Author: Supriya Kelkar

A middle grade adventure steeped in Indian folklore following a girl who learns how to find her voice and face her fears.

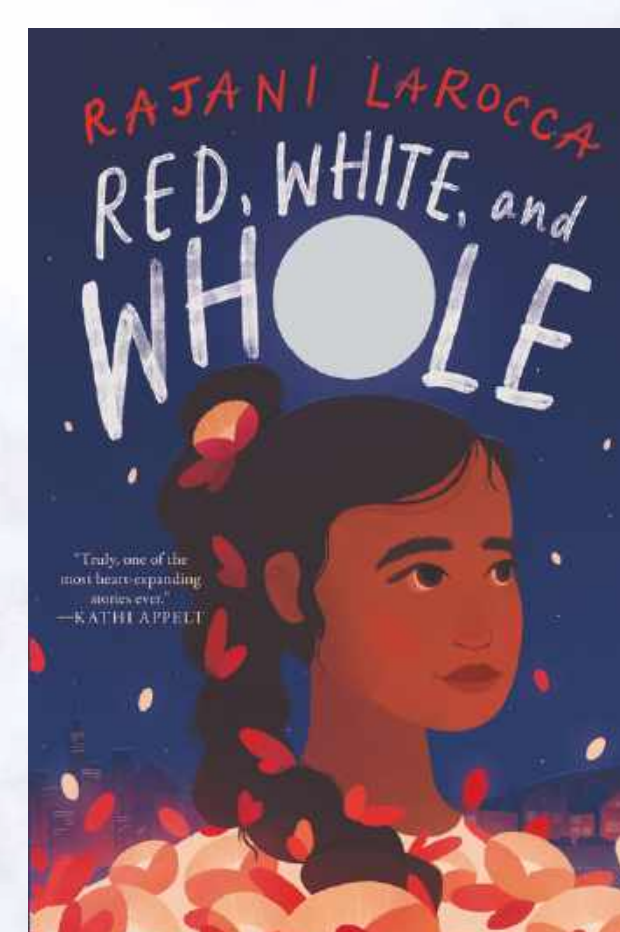
*Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*

### ***Red, White, and Whole***

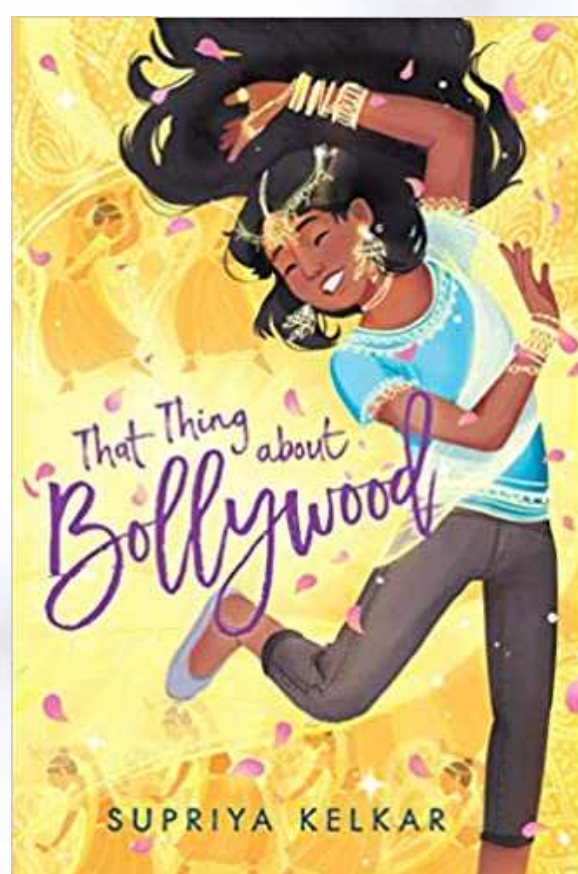
Author: Rajani Larocca

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again.

*Quill Tree Books; Ages 8+*



## Featured Topic: **Indian Identity**

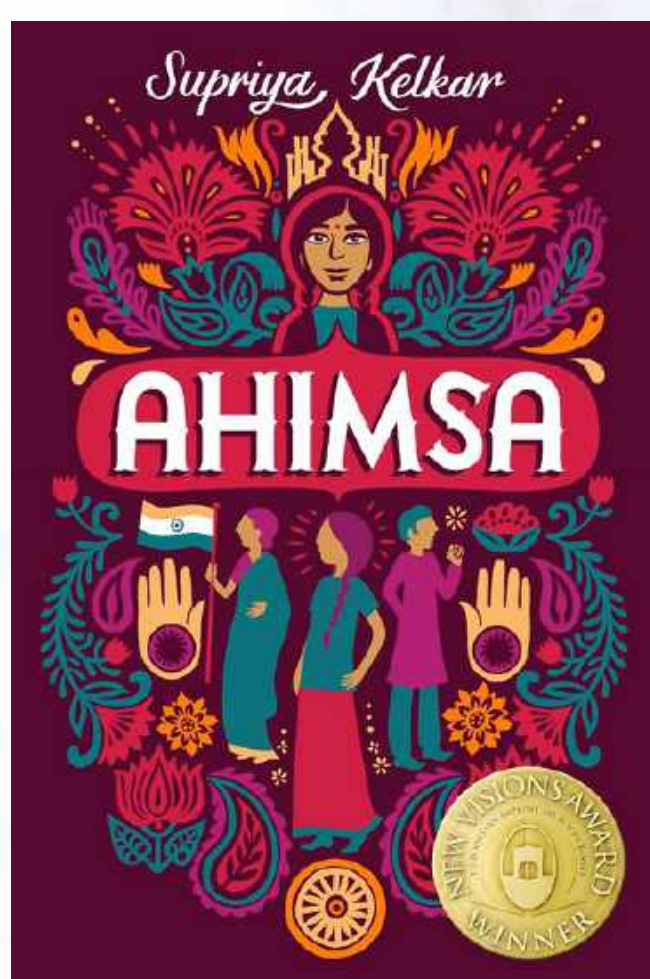


### ***That Thing about Bollywood***

Author: Supriya Kelkar

You know how in Bollywood when people are in love, they sing and dance from the mountaintops? 11-year-old Sonali wonders if they do the same when they're breaking up. The truth is, Sonali's parents don't get along, and it looks like they might be separating. But then something strange happens. When Sonali gets upset during a field trip, she suddenly bursts into a Bollywood song-and-dance routine about why she's upset! Sonali knows something has gone wrong, but can she figure it out before it's too late?

*Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*

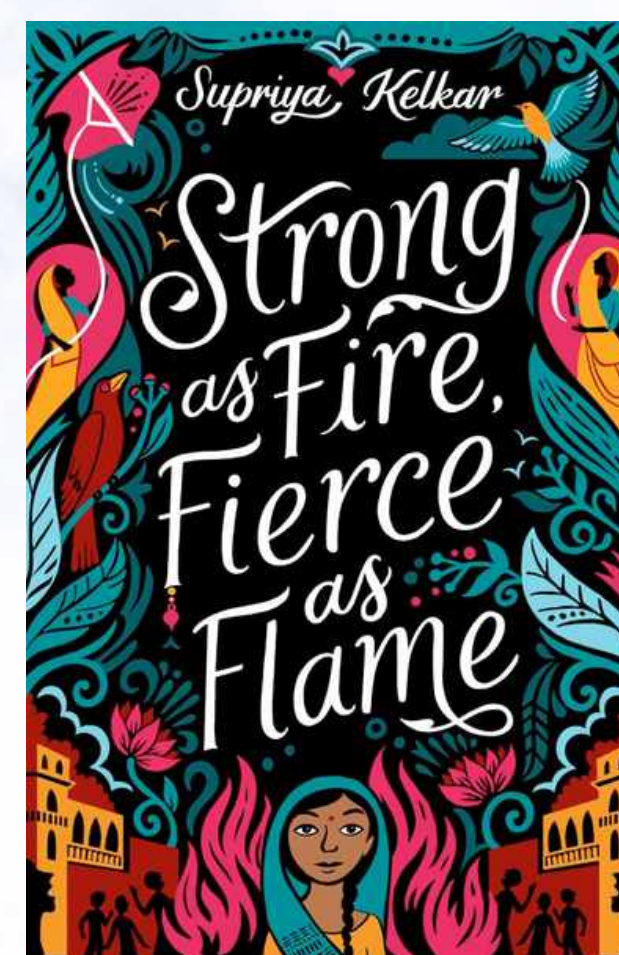


### ***Ahimsa***

Author: Supriya Kelkar

In this historical middle-grade novel, Gandhi asks for one member of each family to join the fight for independence from the British, and when Anjali's mother is jailed for doing so, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work.

*Lee & Low Books; Ages 9+*



### ***Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame***

Author: Supriya Kelkar

In 1857 India, 13-year-old Meera escapes a life she has no say in--and certain death on her husband's funeral pyre--only to end up a servant to a British general in the East India Company. When a rebellion against British colonizers spreads, she must choose between relative safety in a British household or standing up for herself and her people.

*Lee & Low Books; Ages 8+*

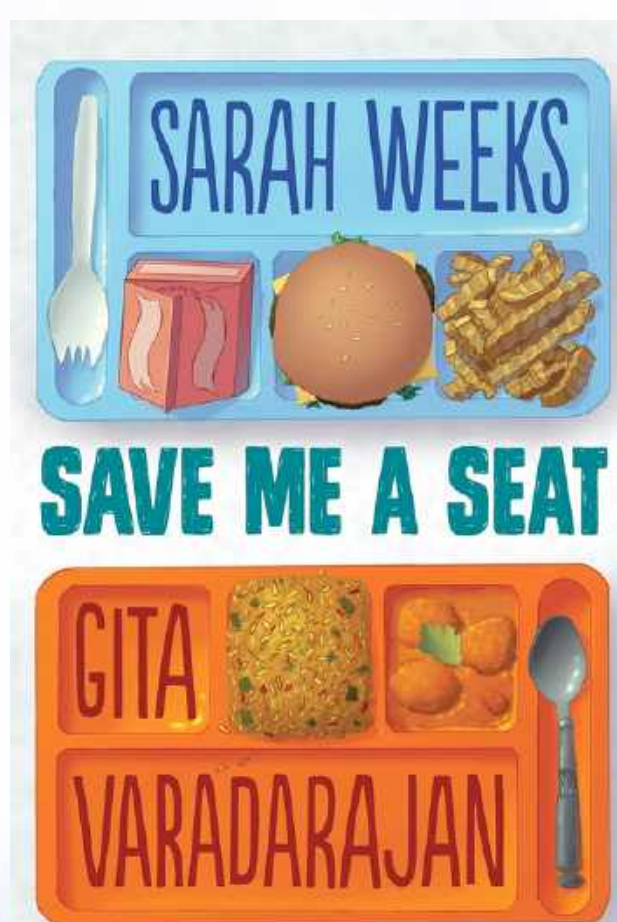
### ***Save Me a Seat***

Authors: Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan

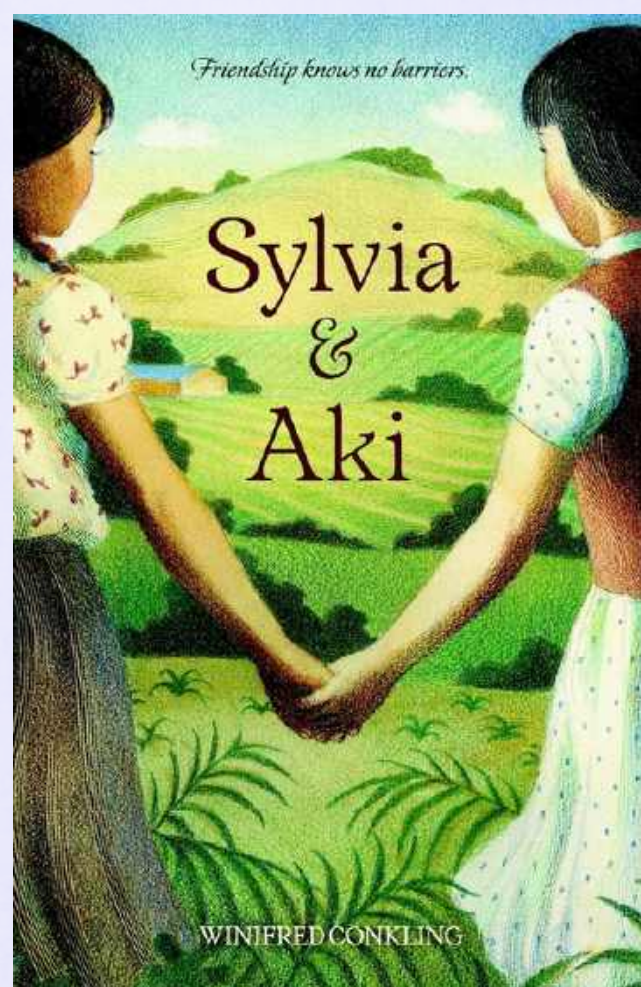
Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in.

Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common -- but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

*Scholastic Press; Ages 8+*



## Featured Topic: Japanese Identity



### ***Sylvia & Aki***

Author: Winifred Conkling

Young Sylvia Mendez never expected to be at the center of a landmark legal battle. Young Aki Munemitsu never expected to be sent away from her home and her life as she knew it. The two girls definitely never expected to know each other, until their lives intersected on a Southern California farm in a way that changed the country forever. Who are Sylvia and Aki? And why did their family stories matter then and still matter today?

*Yearling*; Ages 9+



### ***Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen***

Author: Debbi Michiko Florence

Illustrator: Elizabet Vukovic

8-year-old Jasmine Toguchi is a flamingo fan, tree climber, and top-notch mess-maker! She's also tired of her big sister, Sophie, always getting to do things first. For once, Jasmine wishes SHE could do something

before Sophie—something special, something different...

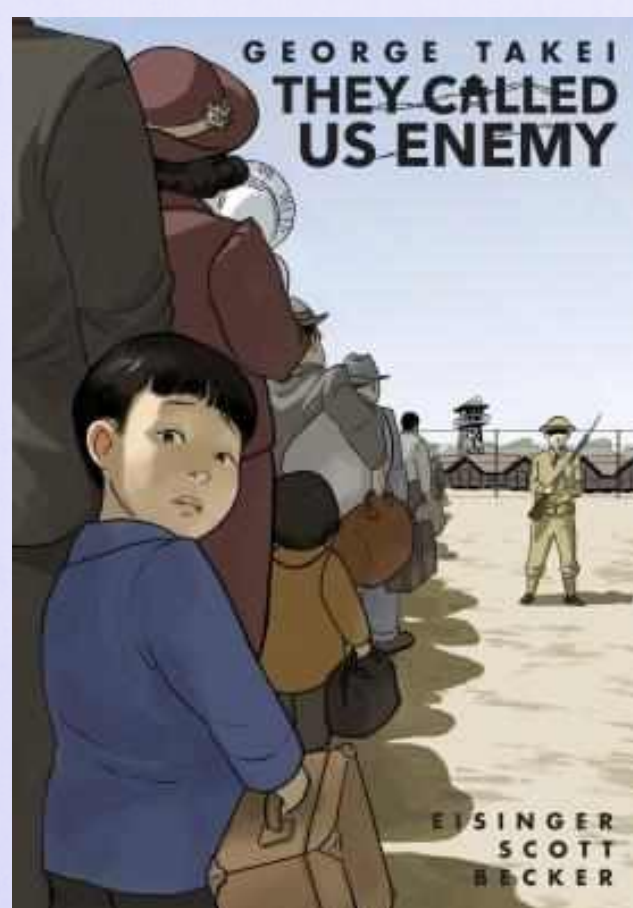
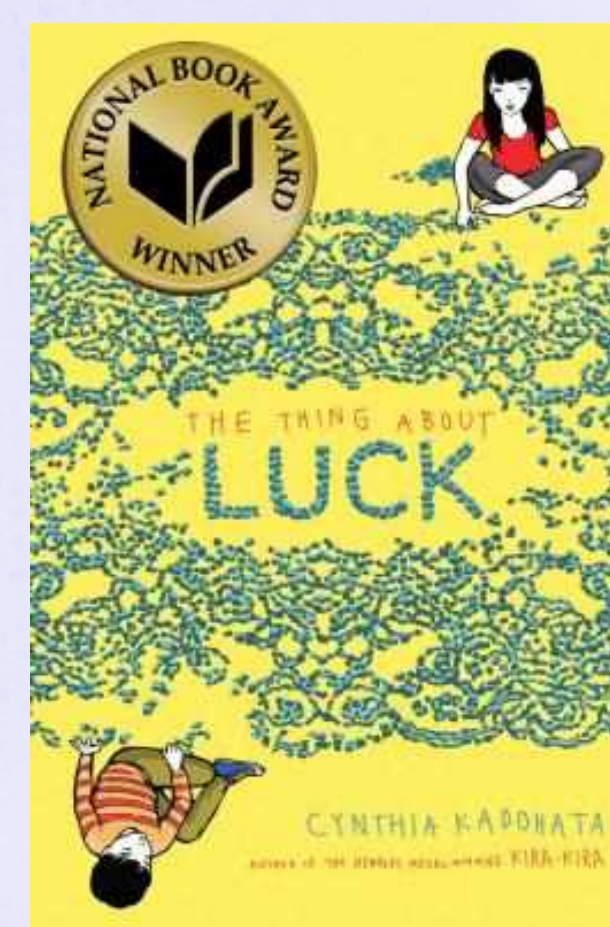
*Farrar, Straus and Giroux*; Ages 6+

### ***The Thing About Luck***

Author: Cynthia Kadohata

Summer knows that *kouun* means "good luck" in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan. Summer and her little brother, Jaz, are left in the care of their grandparents, who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills.

*Atheneum Books for Young Readers*; Ages 10+



### ***They Called Us Enemy***

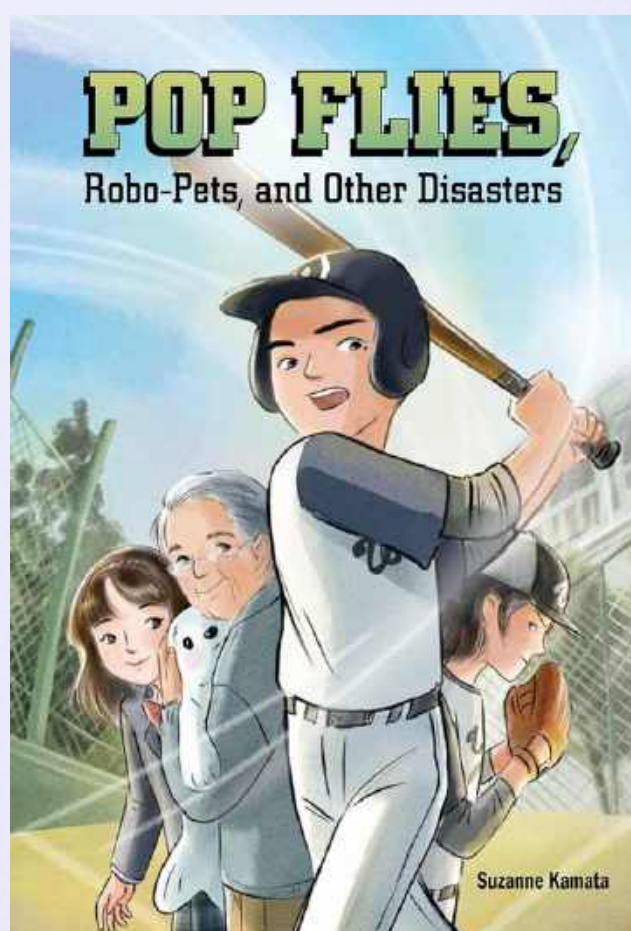
Authors: George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott

Illustrator: Harmony Becker

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

*Top Shelf Productions*; Ages 12+

## Featured Topic: Japanese Identity

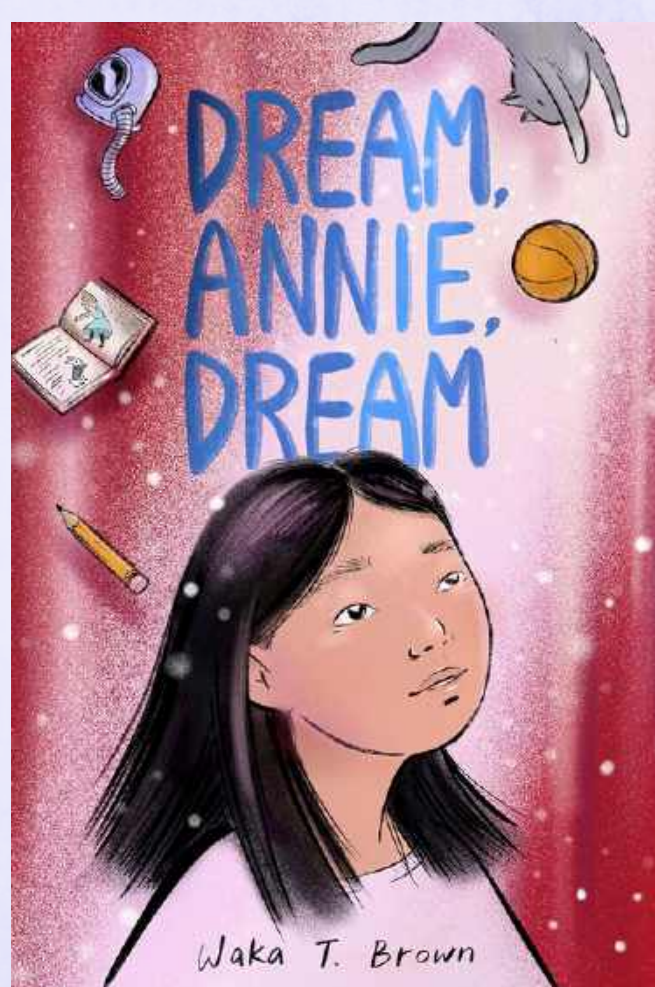


### ***Pop Flies, Robo-Pets, and Other Disasters***

Author: Suzanne Kamata | Illustrator: Tracy Bishop

Thirteen-year-old Satoshi Matsumoto spent the last three years living in Atlanta where he was the star of his middle-school baseball team—a slugger with pro potential, according to his coach. Now that his father's work in the US has come to an end, he's moved back to his hometown in rural Japan. Living abroad has changed him, and now his old friends in Japan are suspicious of his new foreign ways. Even worse, his childhood foe Shintaro, whose dad has ties to gangsters, is in his homeroom. After he joins his new school's baseball team, Satoshi has a chance to be a hero until he makes a major-league error.

*Red Chair Press; Ages 9+*



### ***Dream, Annie, Dream***

Author: Waka T. Brown

In this empowering deconstruction of the so-called American Dream, a twelve-year-old Japanese American girl grapples with, and ultimately rises above, the racism and trials of middle school she experiences while chasing her dreams.

*Quill Tree Books; Ages 8+*

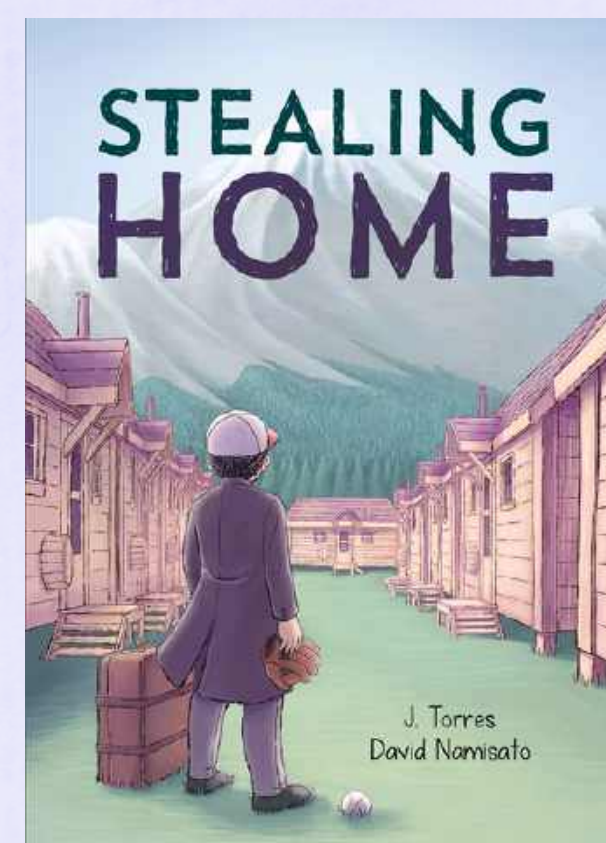
### ***Stealing Home (A Graphic Novel)***

Author: J. Torres

Illustrator: David Namisato

When a boy struggles after moving to a Japanese internment camp during WWII, baseball shows him another way to approach life.

*Kids Can Press; Ages 9+*



### ***Displacement***

Author: Kiku Hughes

Kiku is on vacation in San Francisco when suddenly she finds herself displaced to the 1940s Japanese-American internment camp that her late grandmother, Ernestina, was forcibly relocated to during World War II. These displacements keep occurring until Kiku finds herself stuck back in time. Living alongside her young grandmother, Kiku witnesses the lives of Japanese-Americans

who were denied their civil liberties and suffered greatly, but managed to cultivate community and commit acts of resistance in order to survive.

*First Second; Ages 12+*

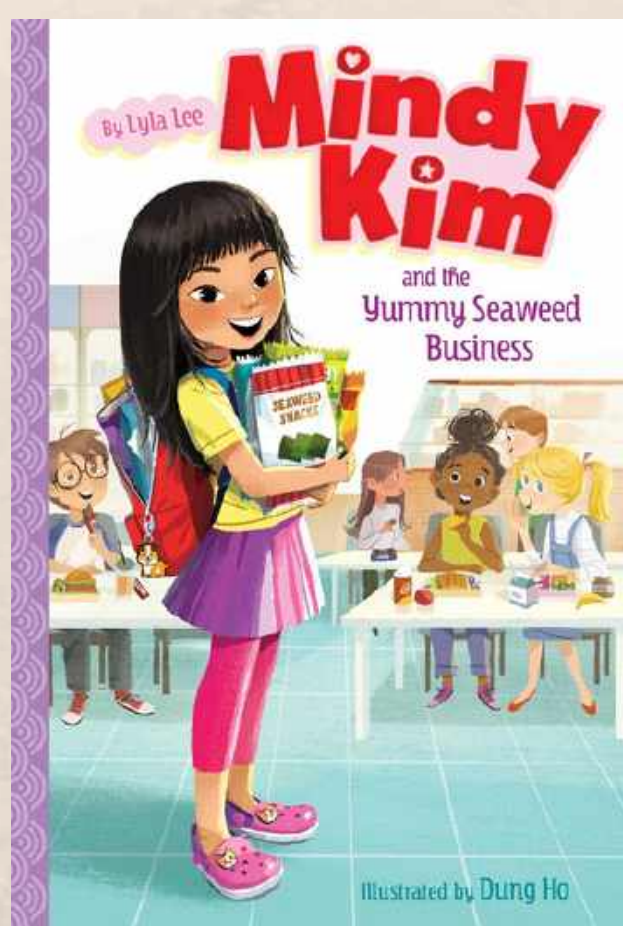
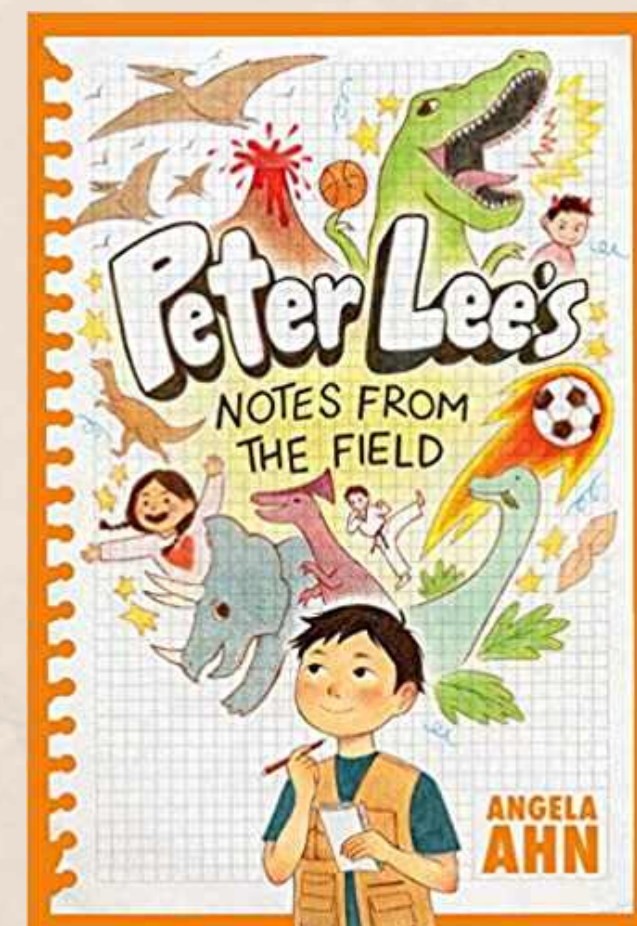
## Featured Topic: Korean Identity

### ***Peter Lee's Notes from the Field***

Author: Angela Ahn | Illustrator: Julie Kwon

Peter Lee has one goal in life: to become a paleontologist. But his summer falls apart when his real-life dinosaur expedition falls through. Even worse, his grandmother, Hammy, is sick. Perhaps his days as a scientist aren't quite behind him yet. Armed with notebooks and pens, Peter puts his skills to the test to see what he can do for Hammy.

*Tundra Books; Ages 9+*



### ***Mindy Kim Series***

Author: Lyla Lee

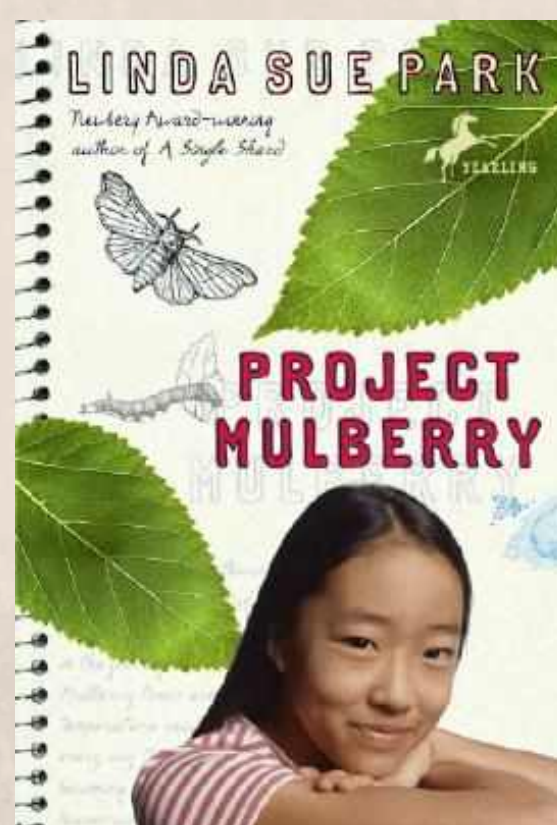
Illustrator: Dung Ho

Mindy Kim just wants three things:

1. A puppy!
2. To fit in at her new school
3. For her dad to be happy again

But, getting all three of the things on her list is a lot trickier than she thought it would be. On her first day of school, Mindy's school snack of dried seaweed isn't exactly popular at the lunch table. Luckily, her new friend, Sally, makes the snacks seem totally delicious to Mindy's new classmates, so they decide to start the Yummy Seaweed Business to try and raise money for that puppy!

*Aladdin; Ages 6+*



silkworms just doesn't fit in. As a member of the only Korean family in town, she's uncomfortable drawing attention to her ethnicity.

*Clarion Books; Ages 8+*

### ***Project Mulberry***

Author: Linda Sue Park

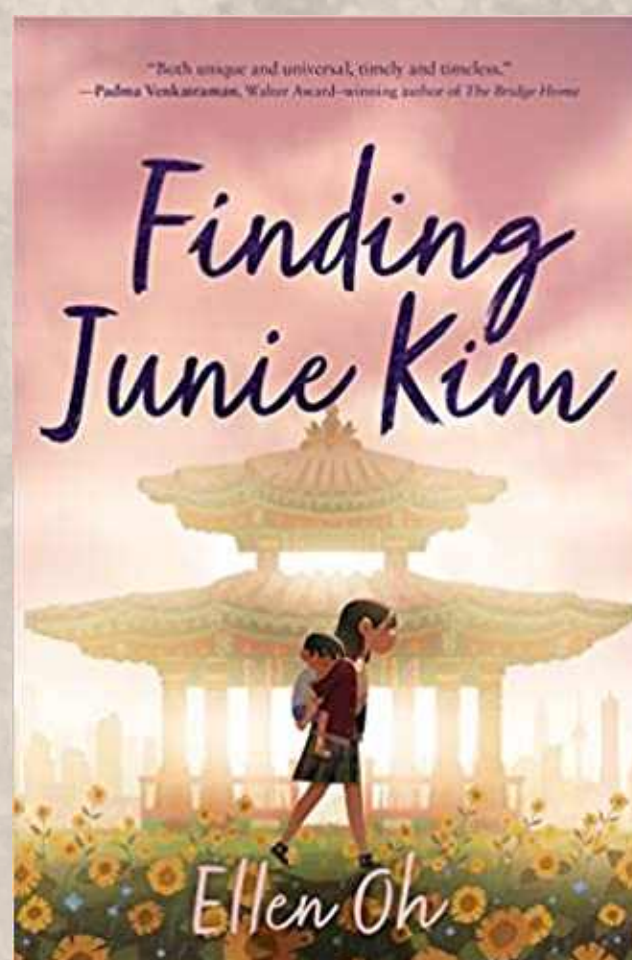
Julia Song and her friend Patrick would love to win a blue ribbon at the state fair. They've always done projects together. Julia's mother suggests that they can raise silkworms, as she did when she was a girl in Korea. Patrick thinks it's a great idea. Julia isn't so sure. The club where kids do their projects is all about traditional American stuff, and raising

### ***Finding Junie Kim***

Author: Ellen Oh

Junie Kim just wants to fit in. So she keeps her head down. But when racist graffiti appears at her middle school, Junie must decide between staying silent or speaking out. Then for a history project, Junie decides to interview her grandparents, learning about their experiences during the Korean War. As racism increases at school, Junie taps into the strength of her ancestors and finds the courage to do what is right.

*HarperCollins; Ages 8+*



## Featured Topic: Korean Identity

### **Krista Kim-Bap**

Author: Angela Ahn

Krista and Jason have been best friends since preschool. It never mattered that he was a boy with reddish-brown hair and she was the “Korean girl” at school. Now in fifth grade, everyone in their class is preparing their Heritage Month projects. Jason has always loved Krista’s Korean family, and particularly their cooking, but Krista is conflicted about being her school’s “Korean Ambassador.” She’s also worried about asking her intimidating grandma to teach the class how to make their traditional kimbap dish. Combine that with her new friends pulling her away from Jason, and Krista has a lot to deal with this year!

Second Story Press; Ages 9+

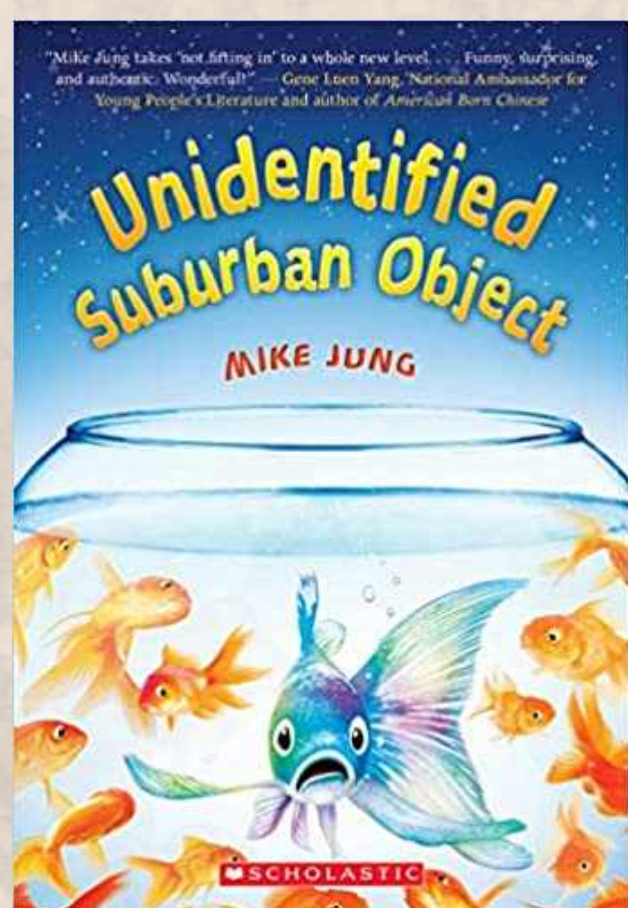


### **Stand Up, Yumi Chung!**

Author: Jessica Kim

On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm-gone-wrong, and kids calling her “Yu-MEAT” because she smells like her family’s Korean barbecue restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying memories that she’s reworked into comedy gold. All she needs is a stage and courage. Instead of spending the summer studying her favorite YouTube comedians, Yumi is enrolled in test-prep tutoring to qualify for a private school scholarship, which will help in a time of hardship at the restaurant. One day after class, Yumi stumbles on an opportunity that will change her life!

Puffin Books; Ages 9+



### **Unidentified Suburban Object**

Author: Mike Jung

Chloe Cho has just about had it with people not knowing the difference between someone who’s Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. Then a new teacher comes to town: Ms. Lee. For the first time Chloe has a person to talk to who seems to understand completely. For Ms. Lee’s class, Chloe finally gets to explore her family history.

But what she unearths is light-years away from what she expected.

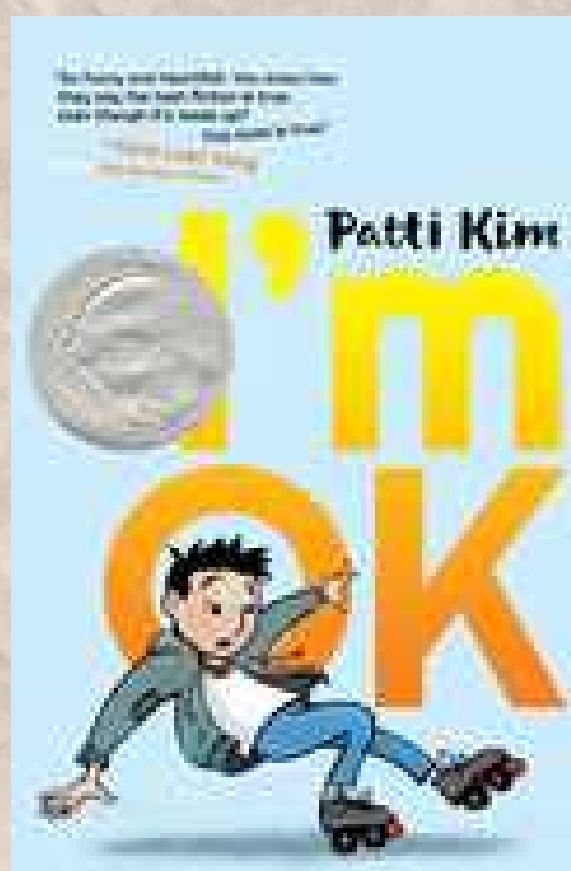
Scholastic, Inc; Ages 8+

### **I'm Ok**

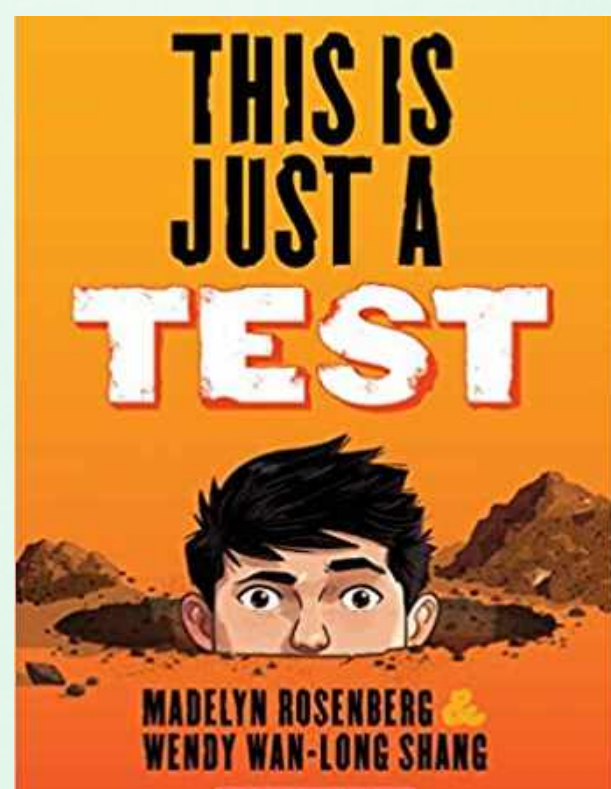
Author: Patti Kim

Ok Lee knows it’s his responsibility to help pay the bills. With his father gone and his mother working three jobs and still barely making ends meet, there’s really no other choice. If only he could win the cash prize at the school talent contest! But he can’t sing or dance, and has no magic up his sleeves, so he tries the next best thing: a hair braiding business!

Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Ages 10+



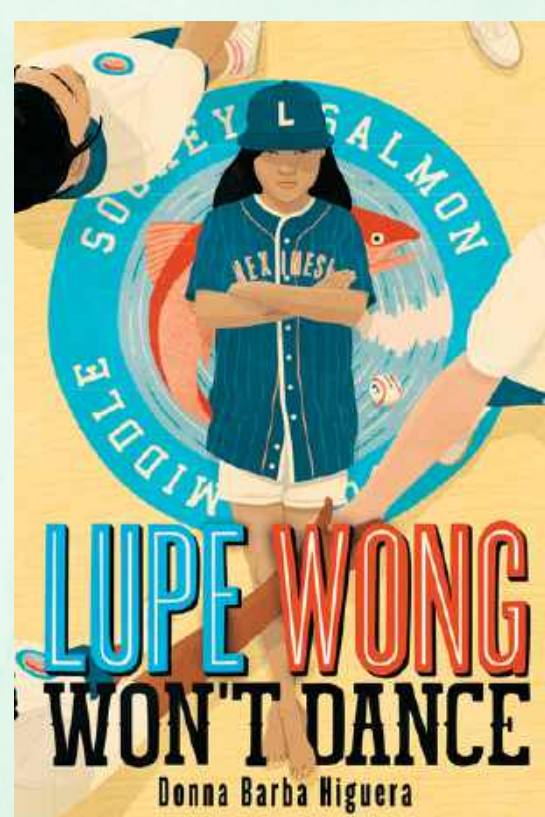
## Featured Topic: **Multiracial Identity**



### ***This is Just a Test***

Authors: Madelyn Rosenberg & Wendy Wan-Long Shang

David Da-Wei Horowitz has a lot on his plate. Preparing for his upcoming bar mitzvah would be enough work even if it didn't involve trying to please his Jewish and Chinese grandmothers, who argue about everything. But David just wants everyone to be happy. His friends and trivia teammates just can't seem to get along and there's all this Cold War stuff going on with the Soviets...  
*Scholastic Press; Ages 9+*



### ***Lupe Wong Won't Dance***

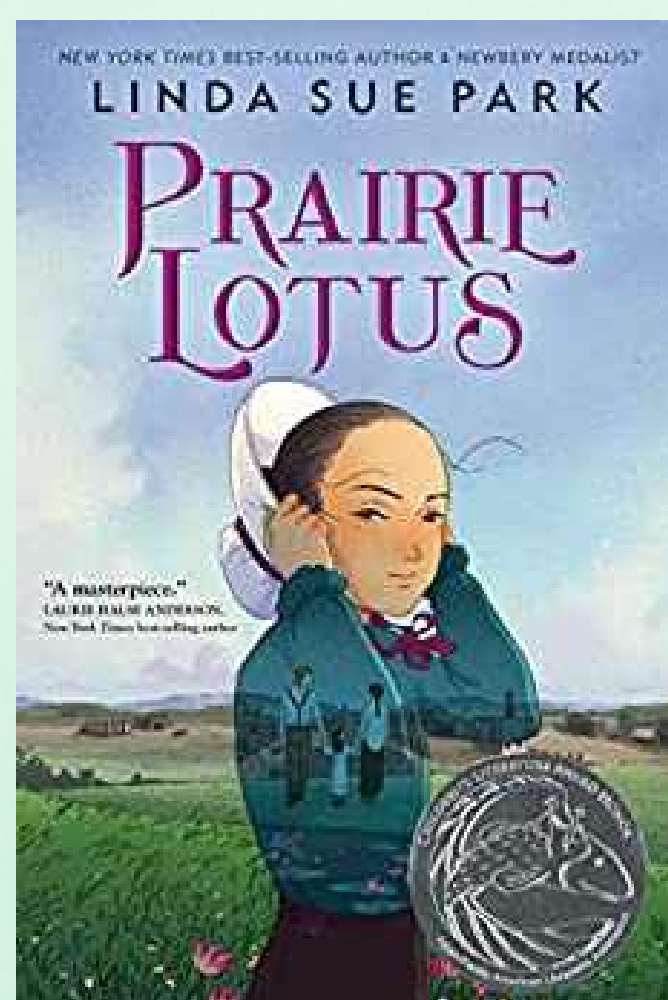
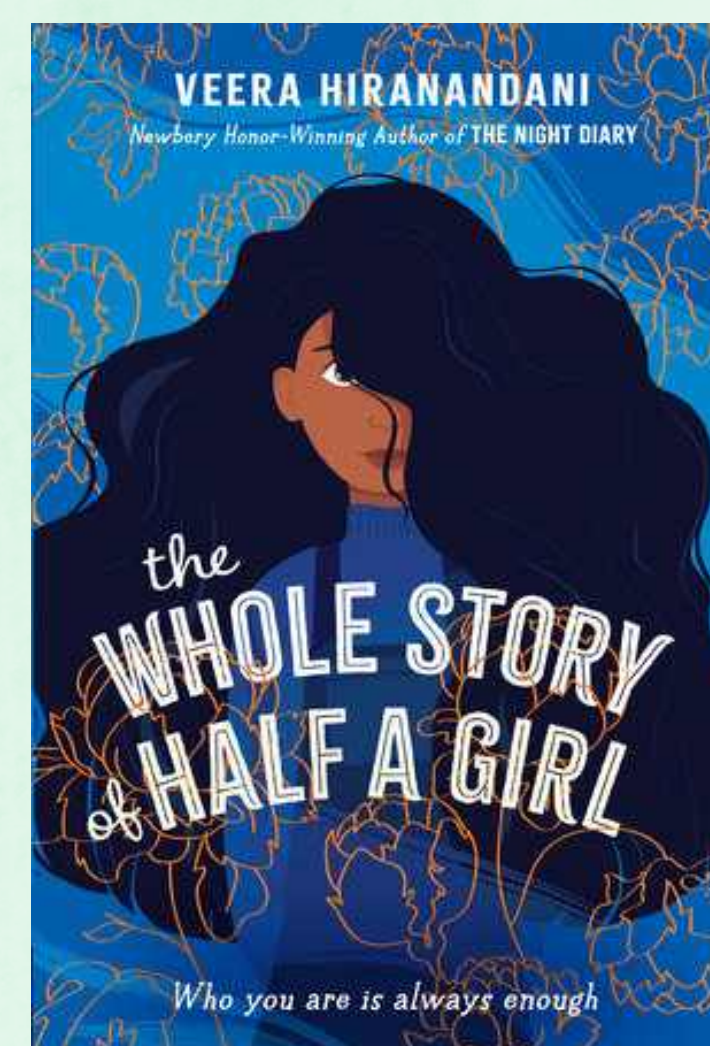
Author: Donna Barba Higuera

Lupe Wong is going to be the first female pitcher in the Major Leagues. Lupe needs an A in all her classes in order to meet her favorite pitcher, Fu Li Hernandez, who's Chinacan/Mexinese just like her. So when the horror that is square dancing rears its head in gym? Obviously she's not gonna let that slide.  
*Levine Querido; Ages 8+*

### ***The Whole Story of Half a Girl***

Author: Veera Hiranandani

After her father loses his job, Sonia Nadhamuni, half Indian and half Jewish American, finds herself yanked out of private school and thrown into the unfamiliar world of public education. At the same time that Sonia is trying to make new friends, she's dealing with what it means to have an out-of-work parent. And then, one day, Sonia's father goes missing...  
*Yearling; Ages 8+*



### ***Prairie Lotus***

Author: Linda Sue Park

A powerful, touching, multilayered book about a young half-Asian girl, Hanna, determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend.  
*Clarion Books; Ages 10+*

### ***Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire***

Author: Susan Tan | Illustrator: Dana Wulfekotte



Cilla Lee-Jenkins is 50% Chinese, 50% Caucasian, and 100% destined for literary greatness! In this middle grade novel, she shares stories about a new sibling, being biracial, and her destiny as a future author extraordinaire.  
*Square Fish; Ages 8+*

## Featured Topic: **Multiracial Identity**



### ***Not Your All-American Girl***

Authors: Madelyn Rosenberg & Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Lauren, who loves to sing, wonders if maybe, just maybe, she will be the star instead of Tara this time. But when the show is cast, Lauren lands in the ensemble, while Tara scores the lead role. Their teacher explains: Lauren just doesn't look the part of the all-American girl. What audience would believe that she, half-Jewish, half-Chinese Lauren, was the everygirl star from Pleasant Valley, USA? From amidst the ensemble, Lauren tries to support her best friend. But when she can't bring herself to sing anymore, her spot in the play and her friendship are in jeopardy. With the help of a button-making business, the music of Patsy Cline, and her two bickering grandmothers, can Lauren find her voice again?

*Scholastic Press; Ages 8+*



### ***Double O Stephen and the Ghostly Realm***

Author: Angela Ahn

Ghosts, pirates and family secrets — Stephen gets more than he bargained for when he seeks out adventure in the ghostly realm.

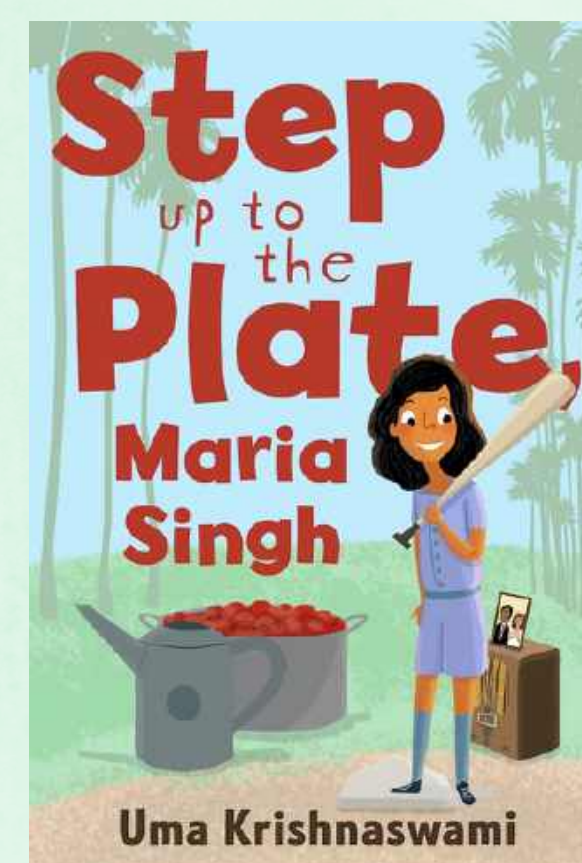
*Tundra Books; Ages 9+*

### ***Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh***

Author: Uma Krishnaswami

Nine-year-old Maria Singh longs to play softball in the first-ever girls' team forming in Yuba City, California. It's the spring of 1945, and World War II is dragging on. Miss Newman, Maria's teacher, is inspired by Babe Ruth and the All-American Girls' League to start a girls' softball team at their school. Meanwhile, Maria's parents—Papi from India and Mama from Mexico—can no longer protect their children from prejudice and from the discriminatory laws of the land. When the family is on the brink of losing their farm, Maria must decide if she has what it takes to step up and find her voice in an unfair world.

*Tu Books; Ages 8+*

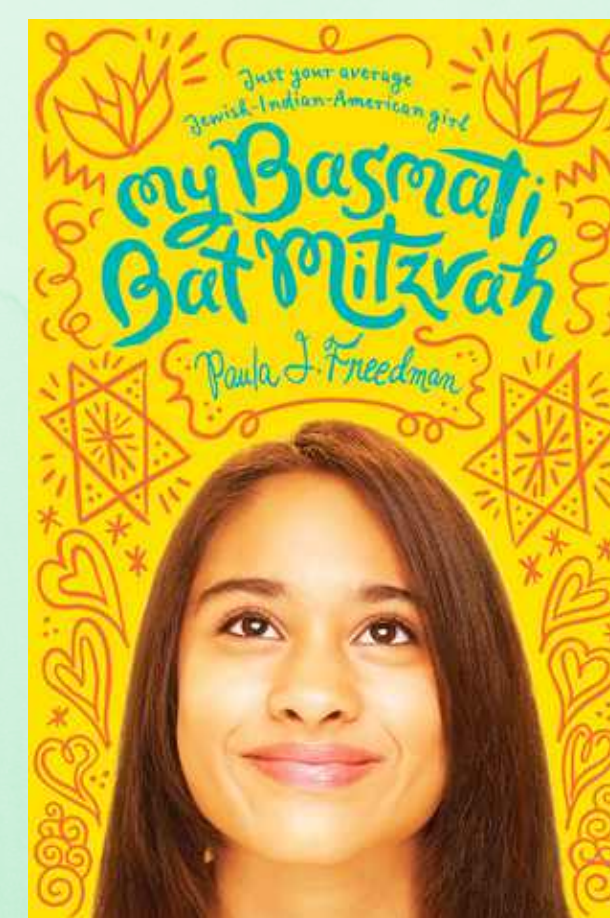


### ***My Basmati Bat Mitzvah***

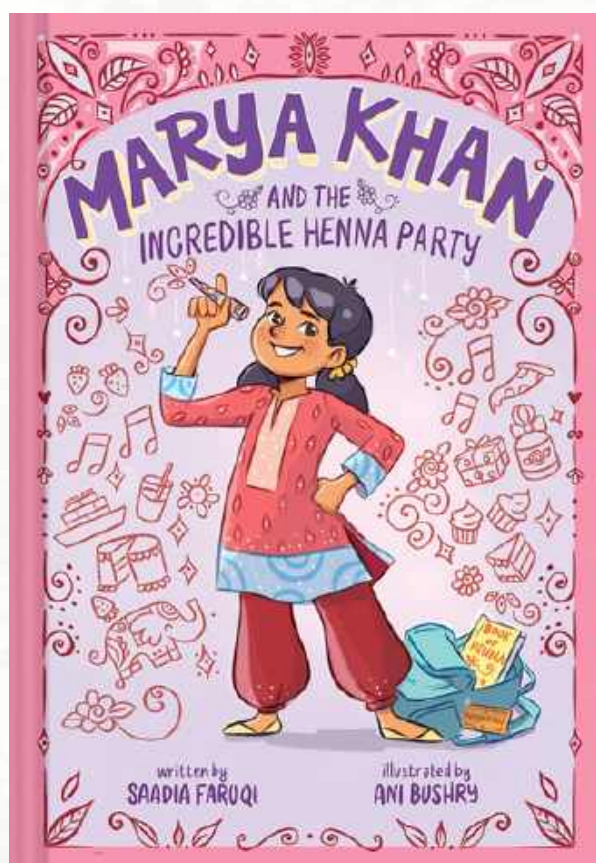
Author: Paula J. Freedman

During the fall leading up to her bat mitzvah, Tara (Hindi for star) Feinstein has a lot more than her Torah portion on her mind. Amid all this drama, Tara considers how to balance her Indian and Jewish identities and what it means to have a bat mitzvah while questioning her faith.

*Amulet Books; Ages 8+*



# Featured Topic: **Pakistani Identity**



## **Marya Khan Series**

Author: Saadia Faruqi  
Illustrator: Ani Bushry

This charming chapter book series follows a Pakistani American third-grader whose plans may backfire but whose persistence and heart are inspiring.

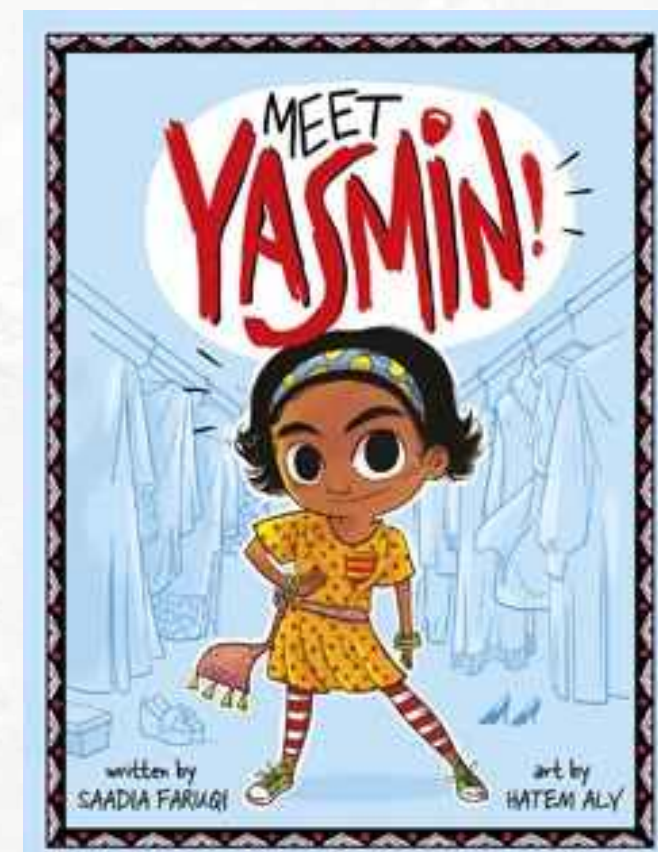
*Amulet Books; Ages 6+*

## **Yasmin Series**

Author: Saadia Faruqi  
Illustrator: Hatem Aly

Meet Yasmin! Yasmin is a spirited Pakistani American second-grader who's always on the lookout for those "aha" moments to help her solve life's little problems.

*Capstone; Ages 6+*

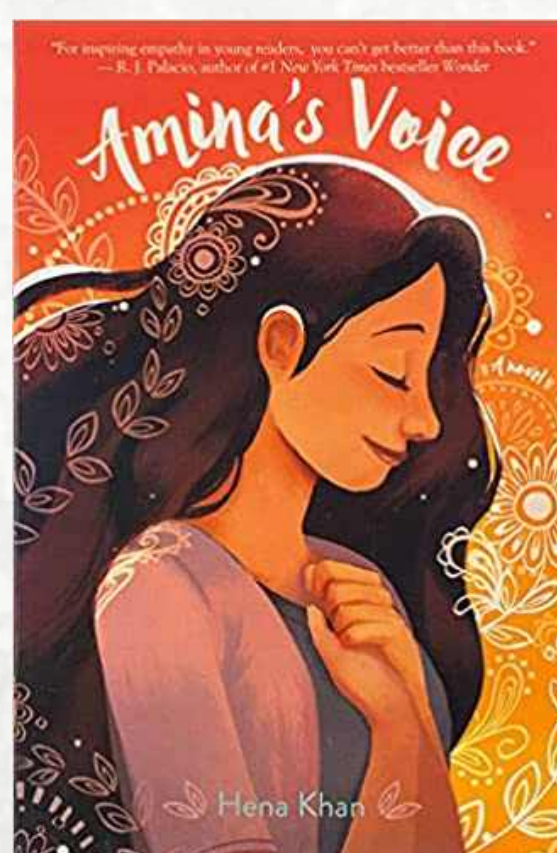


## **Amina's Voice**

Author: Hena Khan

Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too?

*Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*



## **Unsettled**

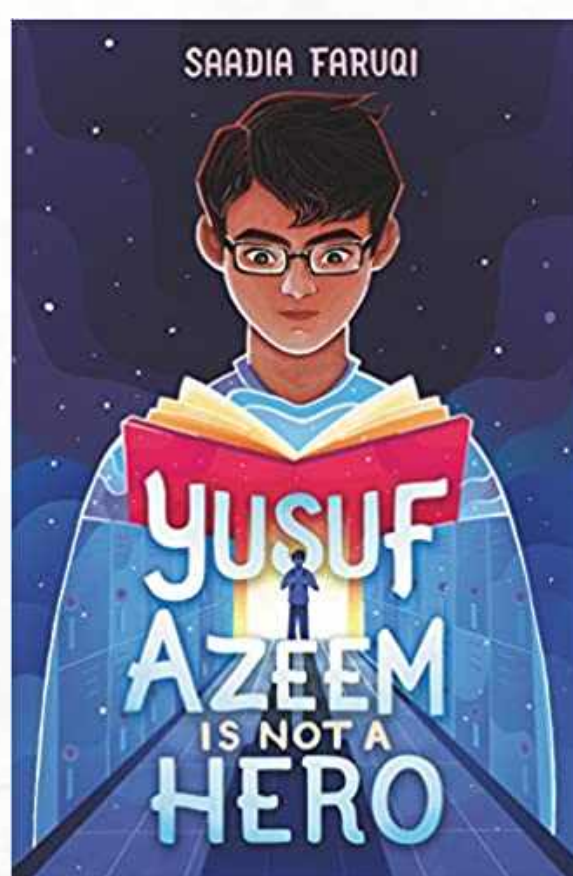
Author: Reem Faruqi

When her family moves from Pakistan to Peachtree City, all Nurah wants is to blend in, yet she stands out for all the wrong reasons. Nurah's accent, floral-print kurtas, and tea-colored skin make her feel excluded, until she meets Stahr at swimming tryouts. And in the water Nurah doesn't want to blend in. She wants to win medals like her star athlete brother, Owais—who is going through struggles of his own in the U.S. Yet when sibling rivalry gets in the way, she makes a split-second decision of betrayal that changes their fates. Ultimately Nurah slowly gains confidence in the form of strong swimming arms, and also gains the courage to stand up to bullies, fight for what she believes in, and find her place.

*HarperCollins; Ages 8+*



## Featured Topic: **Pakistani Identity**



### ***Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero***

Author: Saadia Faruqi

Yusuf Azeem has spent all his life in the small town of Frey, Texas—and nearly that long waiting for the chance to participate in the regional robotics competition, which he just knows he can win. Only, this year is going to be more difficult than he thought. Because this year is the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, an anniversary that has everyone in his Muslim community on edge. Can he hold onto his joy—and his friendships—in the face of heartache and prejudice?

*Quill Tree Books; Ages 8+*



### ***The Partition Project***

Author: Saadia Faruqi

In this engaging and moving middle grade novel, Saadia Faruqi writes about a contemporary Pakistani American girl whose passion for journalism starts a conversation about her grandmother's experience of the Partition of India and Pakistan—and the bond that the two form as she helps Dadi tell her story.

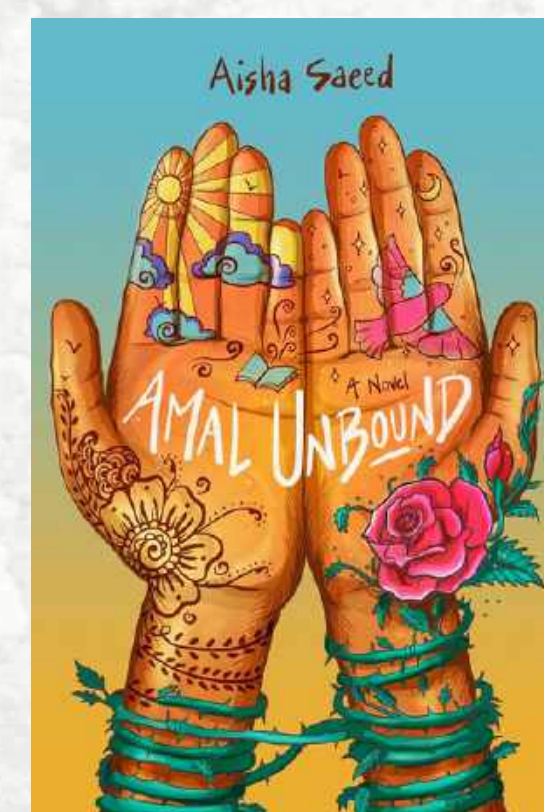
*Quill Tree Books; Ages 8+*

### ***Amal Unbound***

Author: Aisha Saeed

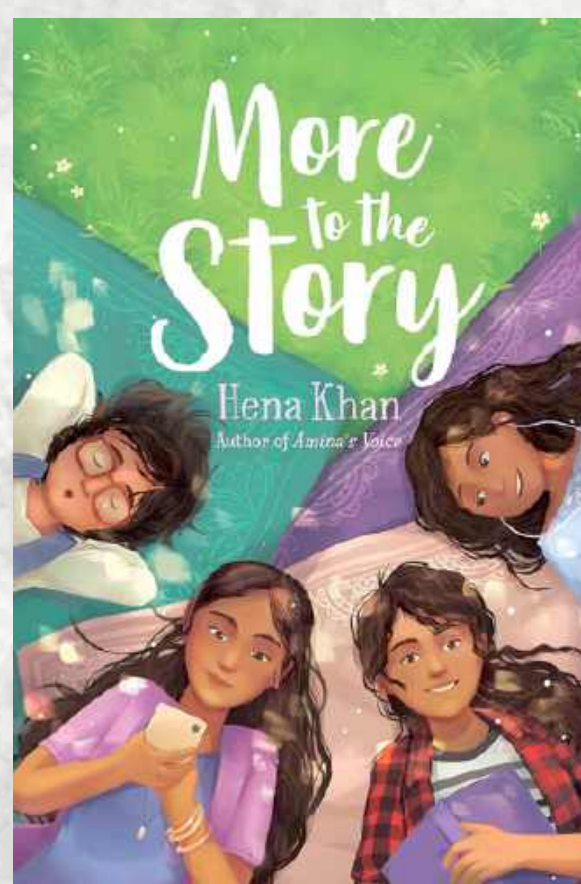
The compelling story of a girl's fight to regain her life and dreams after being forced into indentured servitude.

*Nancy Paulsen Books; Ages 9+*



### ***More to the Story***

Author: Hena Khan



When Jameela Mirza is picked to be feature editor of her middle school newspaper, she's one step closer to being an award-winning journalist like her late grandfather. Jameela, along with her three sisters, is devastated when their father needs to take a job overseas, away from their cozy Georgia home for six months.

Missing him makes Jameela determined to write an epic article—one to make her dad extra proud. But when her younger sister gets seriously ill, Jameela's world turns upside down. And as her hunger for fame looks like it might cost her a blossoming friendship, Jameela questions what matters most, and whether she's cut out to be a journalist at all...

*Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*

# Featured Topic: **Vietnamese Identity**



## **The Nguyen Kids Series**

Author: Linda Trinh

Illustrator: Clayton Nguyen

A charming early chapter book series that explores Vietnamese culture and identity through the eyes of the Nguyen siblings, with elements of the supernatural, spirituality, and social justice woven in.

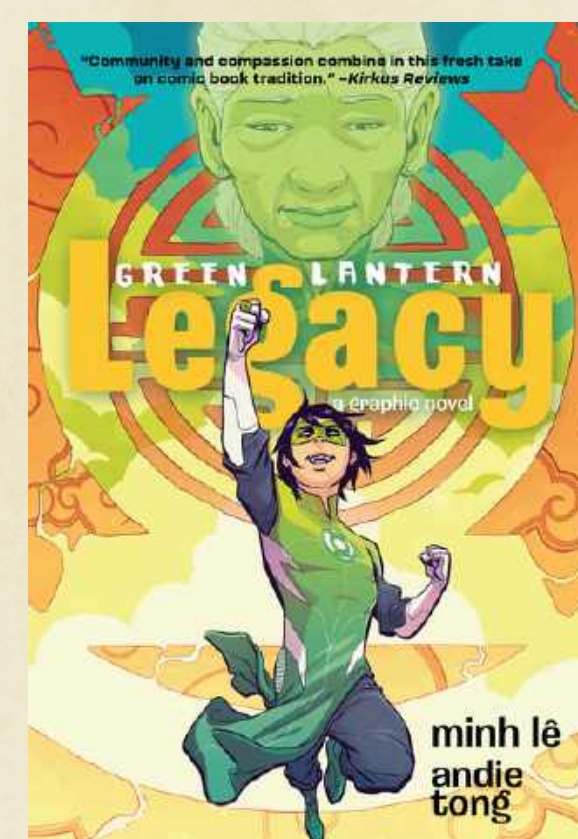
Annick Press; Ages 6+

## **A Two-Placed Heart**

Author: Doan Phuong Nguyen

Afraid her sister (and maybe even herself) could lose sight of their Vietnamese identity, twelve-year-old Bom writes a poetic memoir to help them both remember—a love letter in verse to sisterhood and the places we leave behind.

Tu Books; Ages 10+



## **Green Lantern: Legacy**

Author: Minh Lê

Illustrator: Andie Tong

13-year-old Tai Pham lives in the apartment above his grandmother's store, where his bedroom is crammed with sketchpads and comic books. When Tai inherits his grandmother's jade ring, he soon finds out it's more than just a piece of jewelry. Suddenly he's inducted into a group of space cops known as the Green Lanterns. He's about to learn what it means to be a superhero!

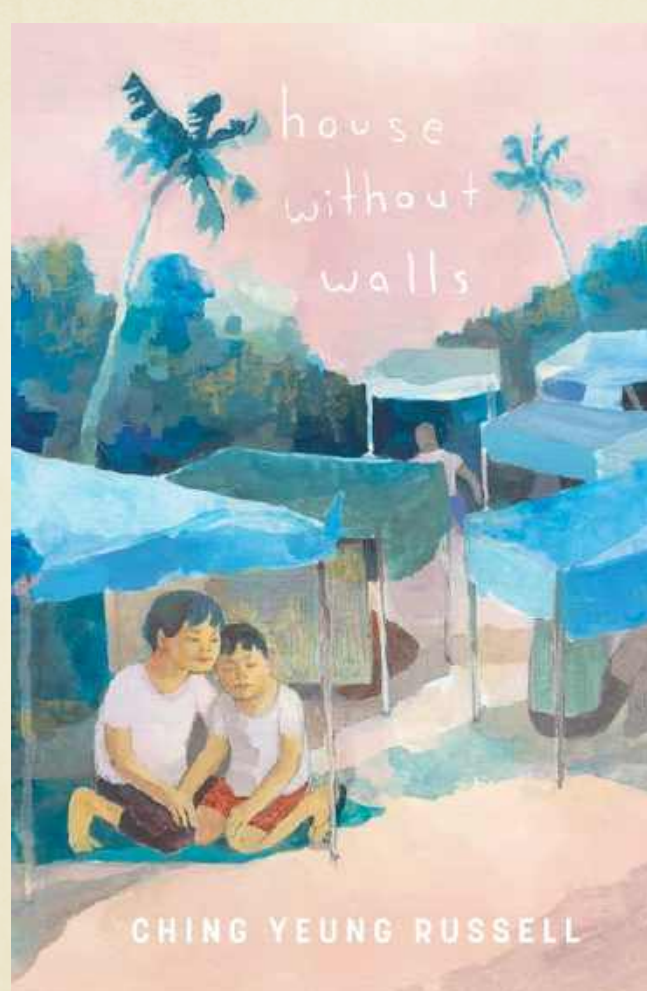
Penguin Random House; Ages 8+

## **House Without Walls**

Author: Ching Yeung Russell

Eleven-year-old Lam escapes from Vietnam with Dee Dee during the Vietnamese Boat People Exodus in 1979, when people from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia fled their homelands for safety. When they finally arrive at a refugee camp, Lam befriends Dao, a girl her age who becomes like a sister — a welcome glimmer of happiness after a terrifying journey. Written in verse, this is a heartfelt story that is sure to build empathy and compassion for refugees around the world escaping oppression.

Yellow Jacket; Ages 8+



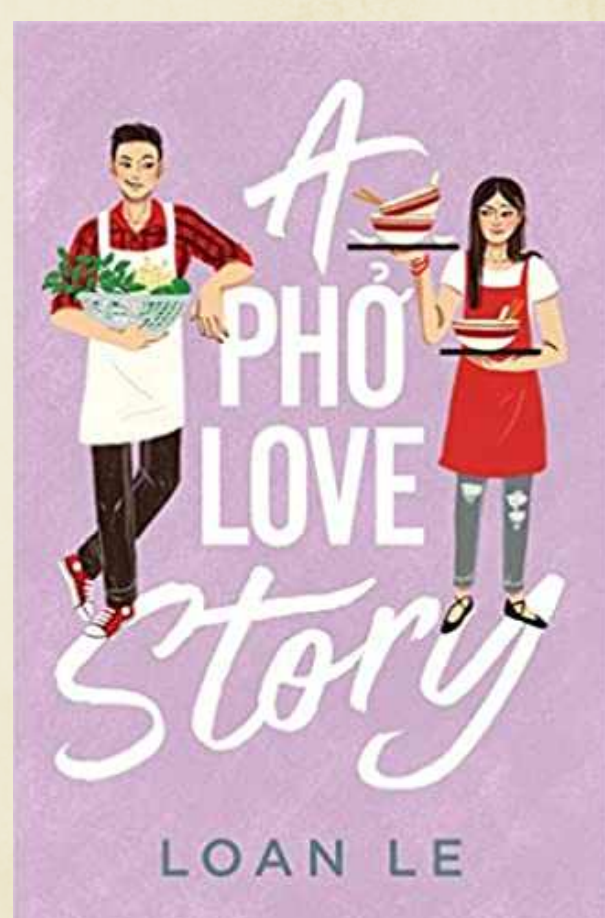
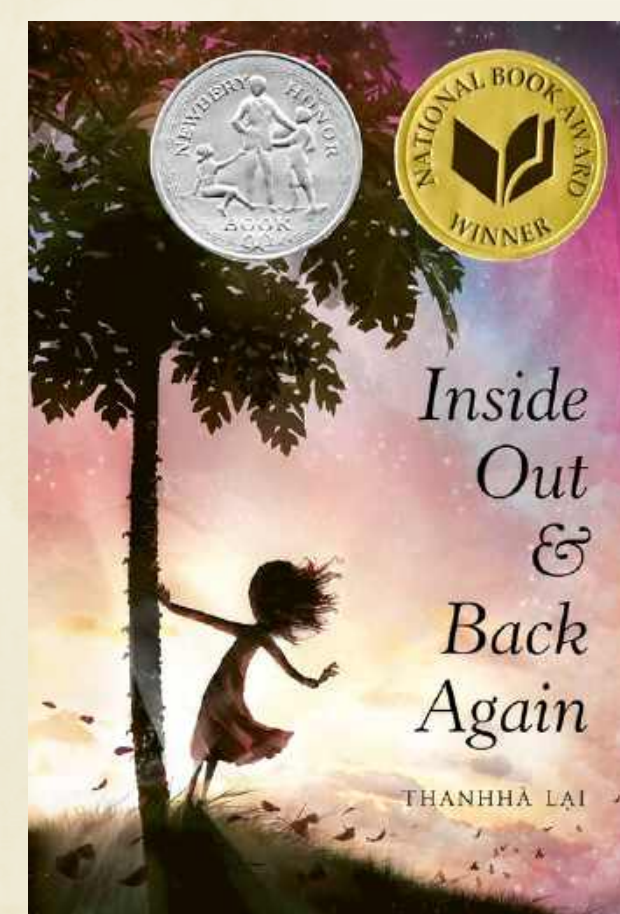
## Featured Topic: **Vietnamese Identity**

### ***Inside Out and Back Again***

Author: Thanh Hà Lai

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.

HarperCollins; Ages 9+

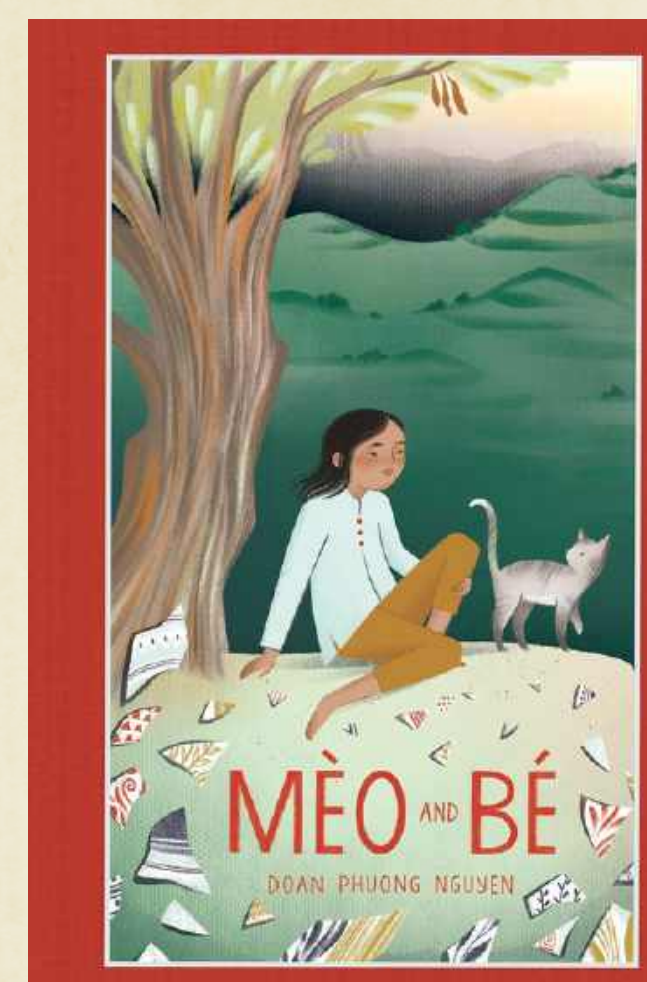


### ***A Pho Love Story***

Author: Loan Le

A funny, smart romantic comedy, in which two Vietnamese American teens fall in love and must navigate their newfound relationship amid their families' age-old feud about their competing, neighboring restaurants.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 12+

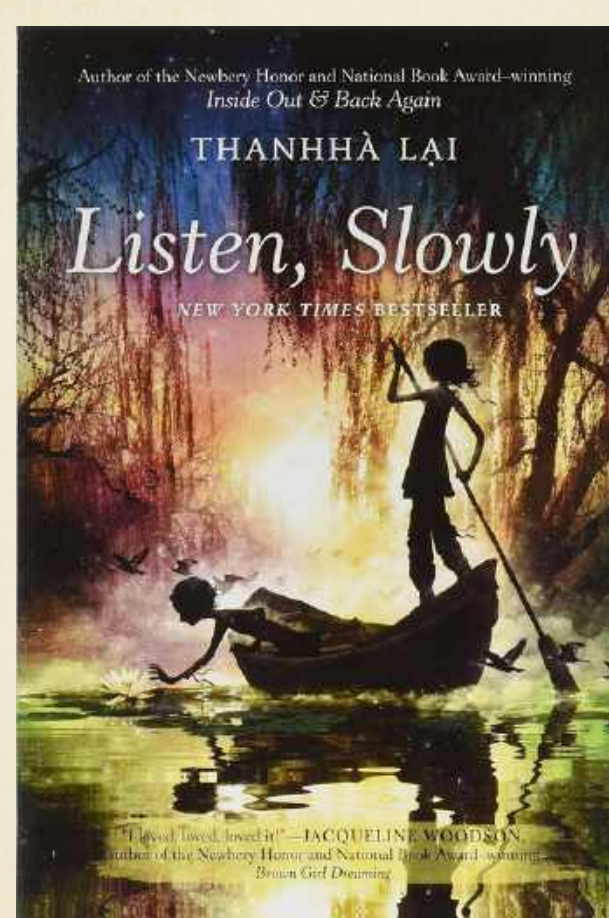


### ***Listen, Slowly***

Author: Thanh Hà Lai

A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the Vietnam War. Mai's parents think this trip will be a great opportunity for their out-of-touch daughter to learn more about her culture. But to Mai, those are their roots, not her own. Vietnam is hot, smelly, and the last place she wants to be. Besides barely speaking the language, she doesn't know the geography, the local customs, or even her distant relatives. To survive her trip, Mai must find a balance between her two completely different worlds.

HarperCollins; Ages 9+



### ***Mèo and Bé***

Author: Doan Phuong Nguyen

Just before the United States enters the Vietnam War, eleven-year-old Bé and her three-footed kitten Mèo must rise above the injustices of war to find the comfort, safety, and love of a found family.

Lee & Low Books; Ages 10+

## More to Explore

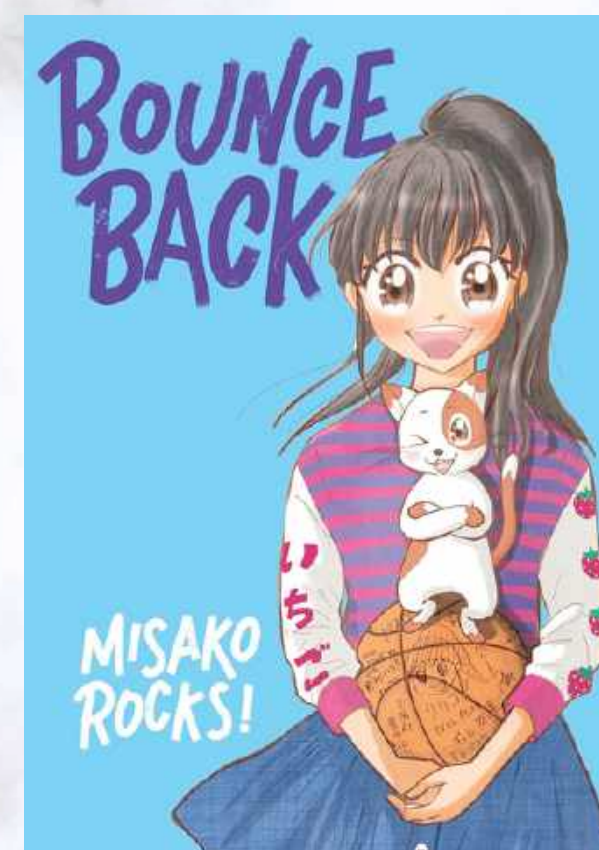
A to Z Listing

## **Bounce Back Series**

Author: Misako Rocks!

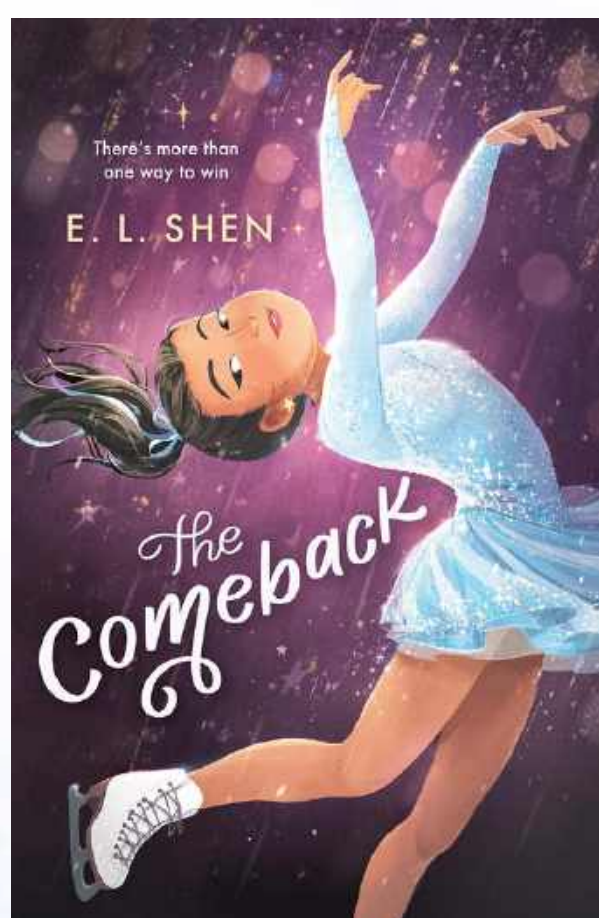
Lilico's life in Japan is going well. She has great friends and is the captain of the school's basketball team. She's happy! Then comes her parents' news: they're moving to America! Before she knows it, Lilico finds herself in Brooklyn, New York, forced to start all over. And that won't be easy with her closest friends thousands of miles away or a school bully who immediately dislikes her. Luckily, anime-loving Nala and Henry eventually befriend Lilico and with help from them—along with her guardian spirit who looks a lot like her cat, Nicco—Lilico just might figure out where she fits in.

*Fiewel & Friends; Ages 8+*



## **The Comeback**

Author: E. L. Shen



Twelve-year-old Maxine Chen is just trying to nail that perfect landing: on the ice, in middle school, and at home, where her parents worry that competitive skating is too much pressure for a budding tween. Maxine isn't concerned, however—she's determined to glide to victory. But then a bully at school starts teasing Maxine for her Chinese heritage, leaving her stunned and speechless. And at the rink, she finds herself up against a stellar new skater named Hollie, whose grace and skill threaten to edge Maxine out of the competition. With everything she knows on uneven ice, will Maxine crash under the pressure? Or can she power her way to a comeback?

*Farrar, Straus, and Giroux; Ages 8+*

## **The Dragon Warrior Series**

Author: Katie Zhao



As a member of the Jade Society, twelve-year-old Faryn Liu dreams of honoring her family and the gods by becoming a warrior. But the Society has shunned Faryn and her brother Alex ever since their father disappeared years ago, forcing them to train in secret. Then, during an errand into San Francisco, Faryn stumbles into a battle with a demon—

and helps defeat it. She just might be the fabled Heaven Breaker, a powerful warrior meant to work for the all-mighty deity, the Jade Emperor, by commanding an army of dragons to defeat the demons. That is, if she can prove her worth and find the island of the immortals before the Lunar New Year.

*Bloomsbury Children's Books; Ages 8+*



## **The Boy Who Met a Whale**

Author: Nizrana Farook

A Sri Lankan fisherboy is swept up in a thrilling seafaring adventure, complete with kidnapping, missing treasure, and a huge blue whale!

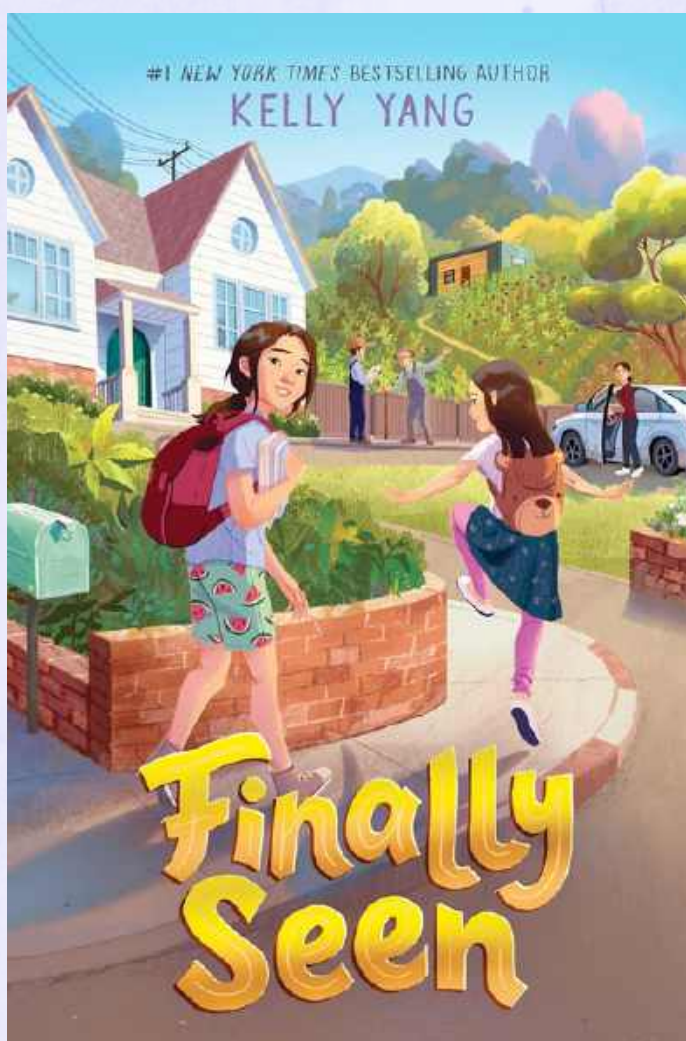
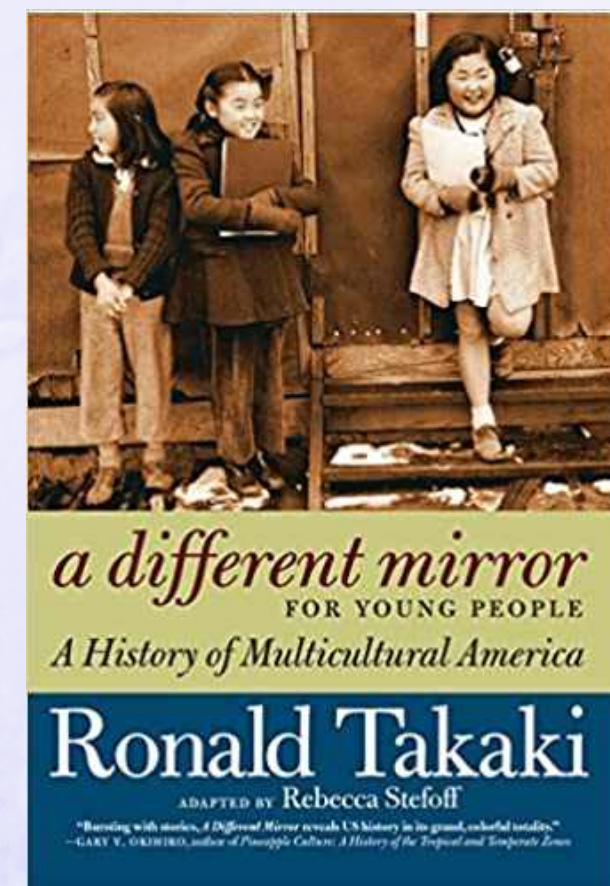
*Peachtree; Ages 8+*

## ***A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America***

Authors: Ronald Takaki and Rebecca Stefoff

This non-fiction book brings ethnic history alive through the words of people, including teenagers, who recorded their experiences in letters, diaries, and poems, and offers a rich and rewarding "people's view" perspective on the American story.

*Triangle Square; Ages 10+*



### ***Finally Seen***

Author: Kelly Yang

When ten-year-old Lina Gao steps off the plane in Los Angeles, it's her first time in America and the first time seeing her parents and her little sister in five years! She's been waiting for this moment every day while she lived with her grandmother in Beijing, getting teased by kids at school who called her "left behind girl." Finally, her parents are ready for her to join their fabulous life in America! Except, it's not exactly like in the postcards. As she reckons with her hurt, Lina tries to keep a lid on her feelings, both at home and at school. When her teacher starts facing challenges for her latest book selection, a book that deeply resonates with Lina, it will take all of Lina's courage and resilience to get over her fear and choose a future where she's finally seen.

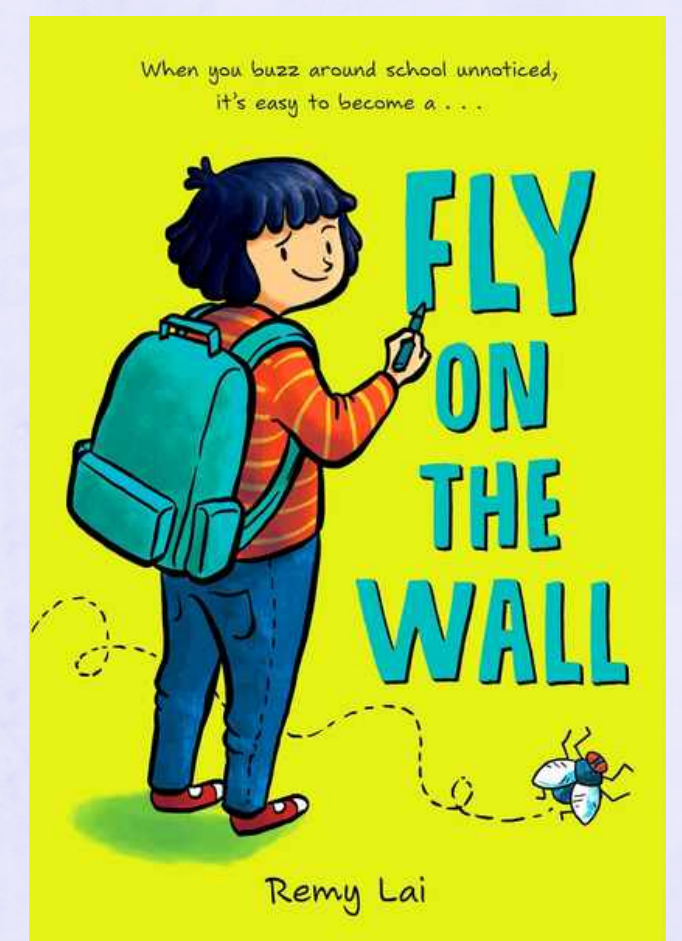
*Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*

### ***Fly on the Wall***

Author: Remy Lai

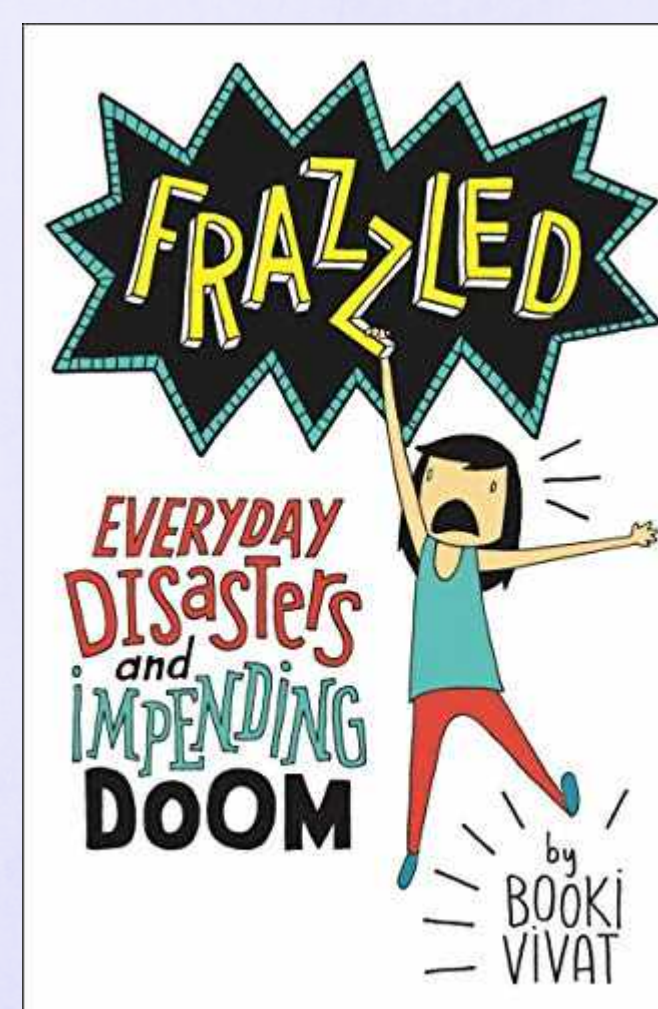
Henry Khoo's family treats him like a baby. He's not allowed to go *anywhere* without his sister/chaperone/bodyguard. And he definitely CAN'T take a journey halfway around the world all by himself! But that's exactly his plan...

*Henry Holt and Co.; Ages 8+*



### ***Frazzled***

Author: Booki Vivat



Meet Abbie Wu. Abbie is in crisis—and not just because she's starting middle school or because she's stuck in a family that doesn't quite get her or because everyone seems to have a Thing except her.

A story about a hilariously neurotic middle school girl as she tries to figure out who she is and where she belongs.

*HarperCollins; Ages 9+*

## **Gigi Shin Series**

Author: Lyla Lee

Jiyoung “Gigi” Shin loves to create, from her zany outfits to self-executed haircuts. When Gigi learns about an elite art camp on the east coast, she’s determined to go. But she knows her parents won’t let her, much less pay for it. After overhearing her little brother Tommy complain about how hard math is and how his teacher goes too fast for him, Gigi has a brilliant idea: forming a tutoring club with her friends to make enough money for the art camp. But the first few sessions with their classmates are a little chaotic, and Gigi wonders if she will end up sacrificing more than she bargained for to achieve her dreams.

*Aladdin; Ages 8+*



### **The Girl Who Stole an Elephant**

Author: Nizrana Farook

Inspired by the lush terrain of Sri Lanka, this fun tale of friendship, risk, and reward is just right for middle grade fans of fantasy and page-turning adventure.

*Peachtree; Ages 8+*



### **Girl Giant and the Monkey King**

Author: Van Hoang

Eleven-year-old Thom Ngho is keeping a secret: she’s strong. Like suuuuper strong. Freakishly strong. And it’s making it impossible for her to fit in at her new middle school. Soon Thom is swept up in an ancient and fantastical world in where demons, dragons, and Jade princesses actually exist. But she quickly discovers that magic can’t cure everything, and dealing with the trickster god might be more trouble than it’s worth.

*Roaring Brook Press; Ages 8+*

### **Hello, Universe**

Author: Erin Entrada Kelly

In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil, Valencia, Somerset, and Kaori aren’t friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil.

*Greenwillow Books; Ages 8+*



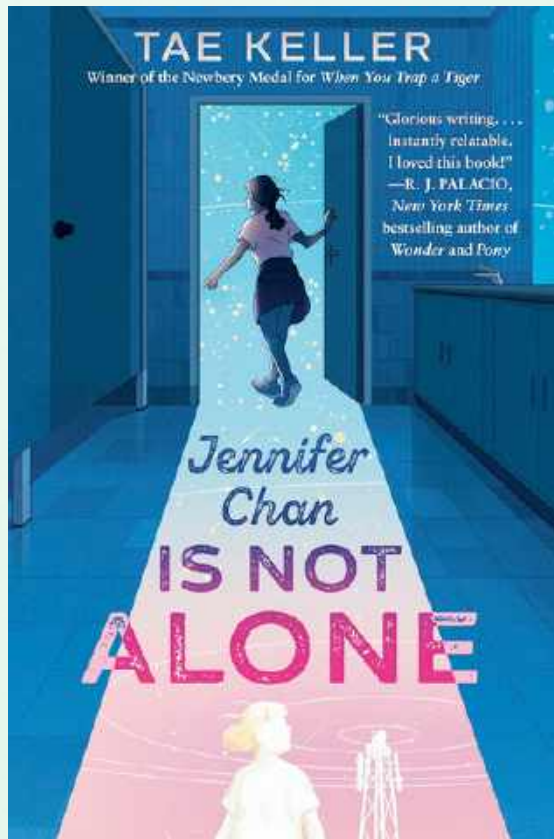
### **The Jade Dragon**

Authors: Carol Marsden & Virginia Shin-Mui Loh

Ginny is sure the new girl in her second-grade class will be her best friend. After all, Stephanie is Chinese, just like Ginny. But Ginny soon discovers some puzzling things about Stephanie: she doesn't like Chinese food, she hates her straight black hair, and even more surprisingly, her parents are not Chinese. ...Stephanie spies Ginny's most prized possession — a hand-carved jade dragon — and asks to take it home. Much as Ginny yearns for a best friend, is it worth the risk of losing her special keepsake and angering MaMá?

*Candlewick; Ages 7+*





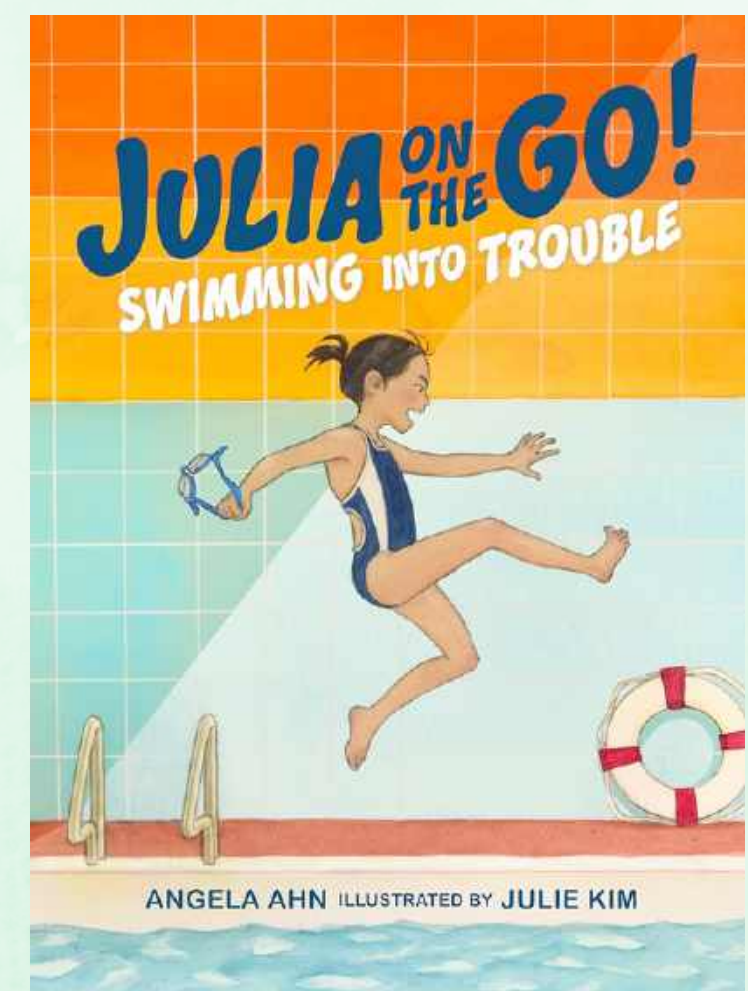
## **Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone**

Author: Tae Keller

Thanks to her best friend, Reagan, Mallory Moss knows the rules of middle school. The most important one? You have to fit in to survive. But then Jennifer Chan moves in across the street, and that rule doesn't seem to apply. Jennifer doesn't care

about the laws of middle school, or the laws of the universe. She believes in aliens—and she thinks she can find them. Then Jennifer goes missing. Using clues from Jennifer's journals, Mallory goes searching. But the closer she gets, the more Mallory has to confront why Jennifer might have run... and face the truth within herself.

*Random House Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*

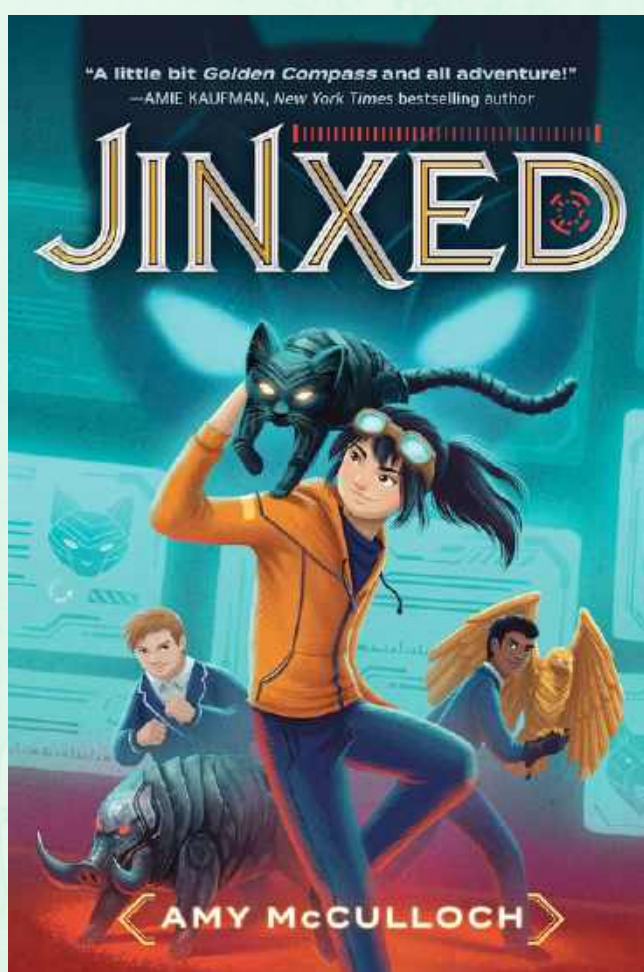


## **Julia on the Go! Series**

Author: Angela Ahn

Temporarily sidelined from her swim team by an earache, Julia won't be kept down. Julia is desperate to get back in the pool, even if it means having to go behind her parents' backs in order to do so. But Julia's solution lands her in a sticky situation, and it's going to require the entire community center to come together to help her out of it!

*Tundra Books; Ages 7+*

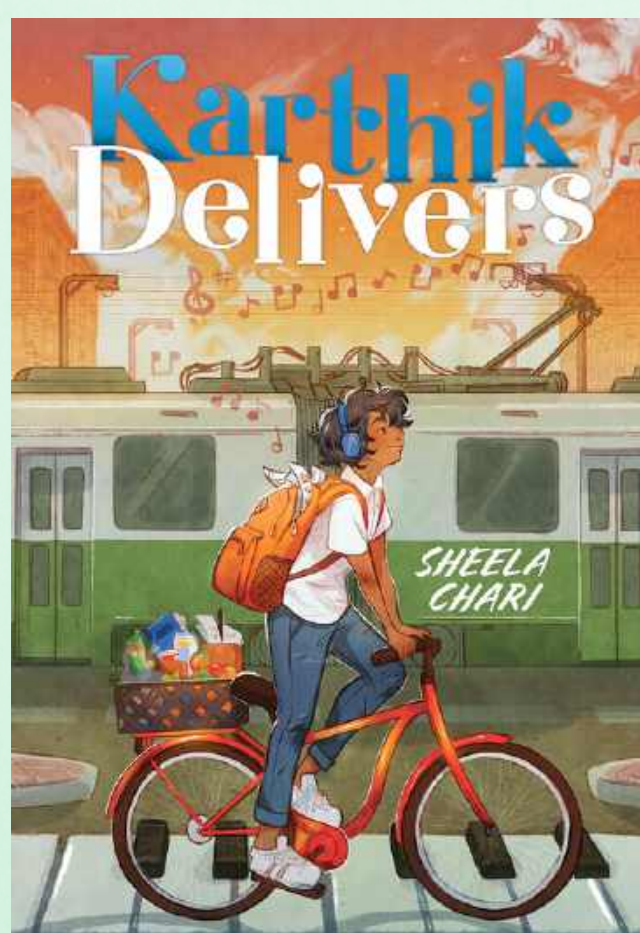


## **Jinxed Series**

Author: Amy McCulloch

When a coding star enters an elite technology academy, she discovers a world of competition, intrigue, and family secrets—plus a robotic companion that isn't what it seems.

*Sourcebooks Young Readers; Ages 8+*

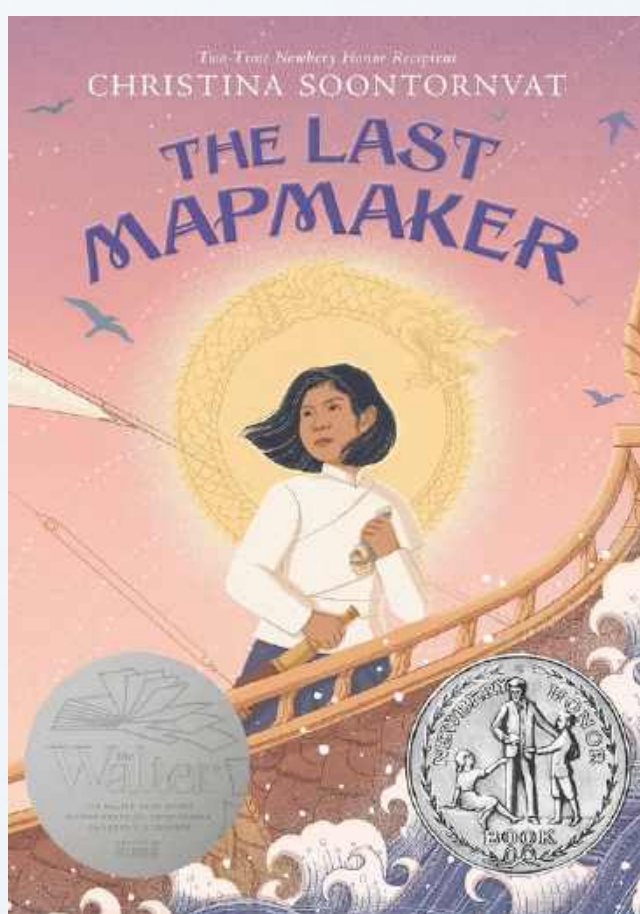


## **Karthik Delivers**

Author: Sheela Chari

Karthik's luck changes when he secretly agrees to be in a play about the famous musician, Leonard Bernstein. But he can't tell his parents. The family store is in jeopardy, and they need him delivering groceries on his bike to help save it. His mom is also worried about the Financial Crisis, and she's convinced that studying hard and staying focused is the only way to succeed. But Karthik is having fun being Lenny. Besides, what if acting is Karthik's special talent? And what if acting is the one way to catch Juhi Shah's attention? With all the pressure from his family to succeed, will Karthik be able to imagine and hope when he's not sure what will happen next?

*Harry N. Abrams; Ages 10+*



## ***The Last Mapmaker***

Author: Christina Soontornvat

As assistant to Mangkon's most celebrated mapmaker, twelve-year-old Sai plays the part of a well-bred young lady with a glittering future. In reality, her father is a conman—and in a kingdom where the status of one's ancestors dictates their social position, the truth could ruin her. Sai seizes the chance to join an expedition to chart the southern seas, but she isn't the only one aboard with secrets. When Sai learns that the ship might be heading for the fabled Sunderlands—a land of dragons, dangers, and riches beyond imagining—she must weigh the cost of her dreams.

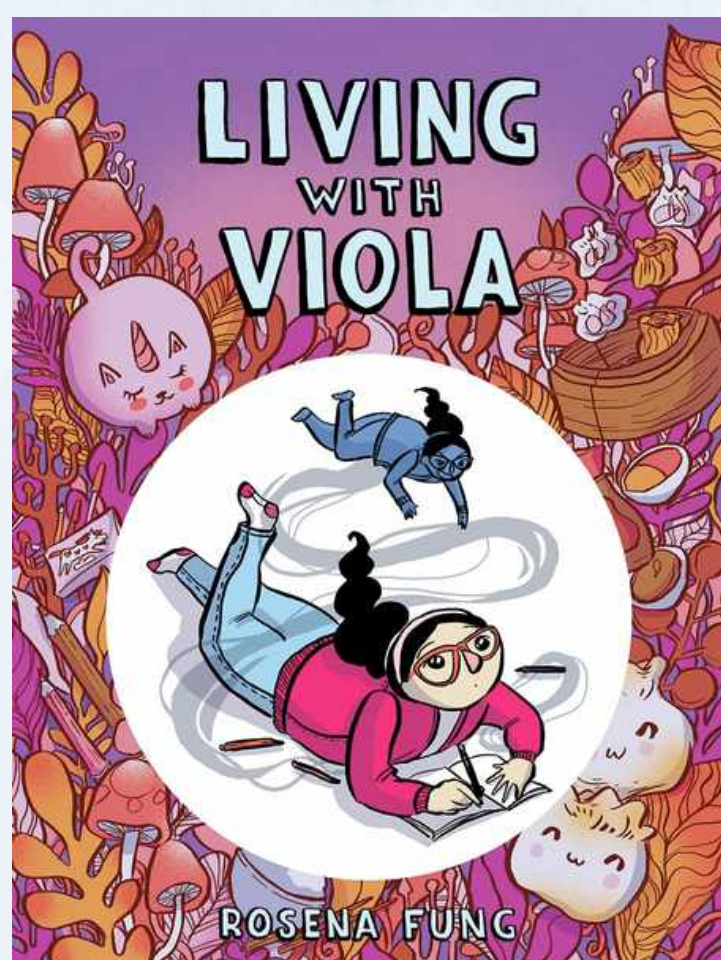
*Candlewick; Ages 8+*

## ***Keep Dancing, Lizzie Chu***

Author: Maisie Chan

Twelve-year-old Lizzie Chu has lived with her wai gong (grandfather) in Glasgow since her parents died when she was a baby. But Wai Gong has been acting different lately. He spends a lot of time talking to his Guan Yin statue—the Chinese goddess of compassion, kindness, and mercy—at his altar and seems to be becoming more forgetful. Even the shared passion he and Lizzie have for their favorite show, Strictly Come Dancing, seems to be tailing off. Then one day Lizzie's friend Chi visits dressed as Princess Leia for Comic Con, and Wai Gong mistakes her for Guan Yin. He's delighted—and Lizzie gets an idea...

*Harry N. Abrams; Ages 8+*



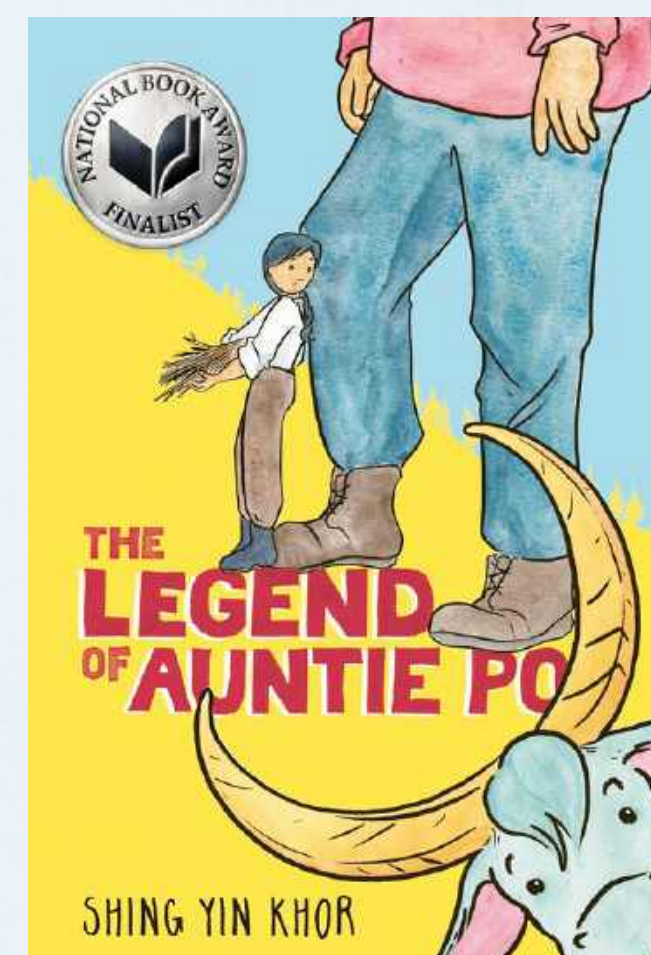
## ***Living with Viola***

Author: Rosena Fung

Livy is already having trouble fitting in as the new girl at school—and then there's Viola. Viola is Livy's anxiety brought to life, a shadowy twin that only Livy can see or hear. Livy tries to push back against Viola's relentless judgment, but nothing seems to work

until she strikes up new friendships at school. Livy hopes that Viola's days are numbered. But when tensions arise both at home and at school, Viola rears her head stronger than ever. Only when Livy learns how to ask for help and face her anxiety does she finally figure out living with Viola.

*Annick Press; Ages 9+*

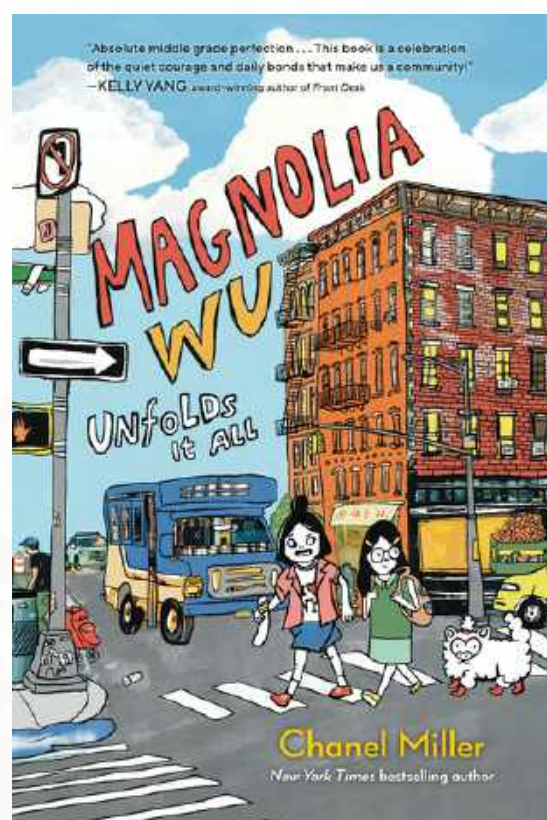


## ***The Legend of Auntie Po***

Author: Shing Yin Khor

Part historical fiction, part fable, and 100 percent adventure. Thirteen-year-old Mei reimagines the myths of Paul Bunyan as starring a Chinese heroine while she works in a Sierra Nevada logging camp in 1885.

*Kokila; Ages 10+*

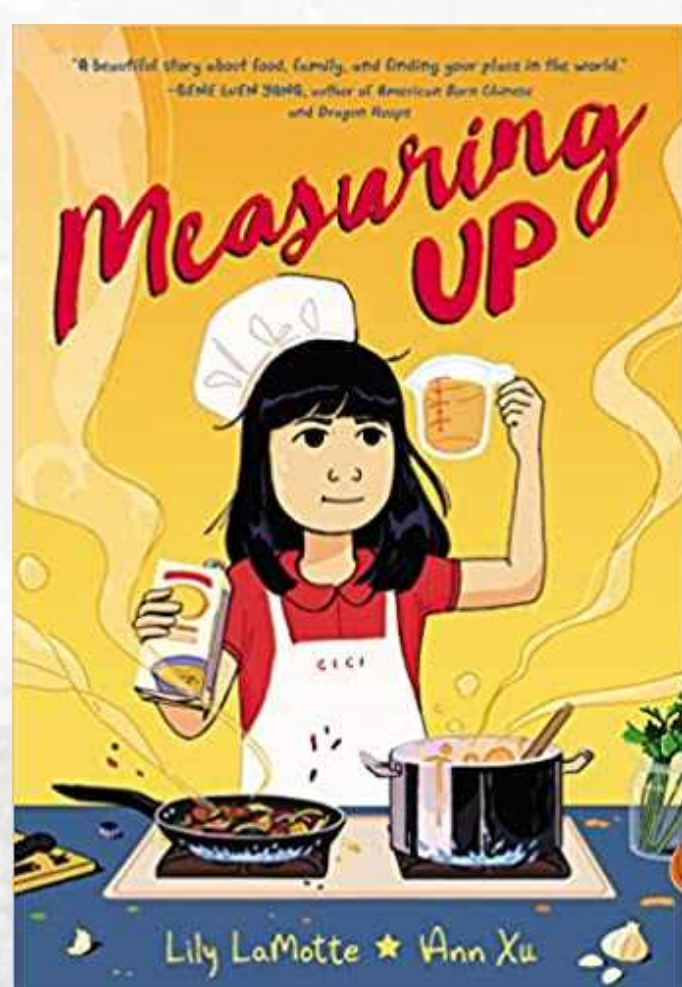


## **Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All**

Author: Chanel Miller

Down at the bottom of the tall buildings of New York City, Magnolia Wu sits inside her parents' laundromat. She has pinned every lost sock from the laundromat onto a bulletin board, in hopes that customers will return to retrieve them. But no one seems to have noticed. In fact, barely anyone has noticed Magnolia at all. What she doesn't know is that this is about to be her most exciting summer yet...

*Philomel Books; Ages 7+*



## **Measuring Up**

Author: Lily LaMotte

Illustrator: Ann Xu

Twelve-year-old Cici has just moved from Taiwan to Seattle, and the only thing she wants more than to fit in at her new school is to celebrate her grandmother, A-má's, 70th birthday together. Since she can't go to A-má, Cici cooks up a plan to bring A-má to her by winning the grand prize in a kids' cooking contest to pay for A-má's plane ticket!

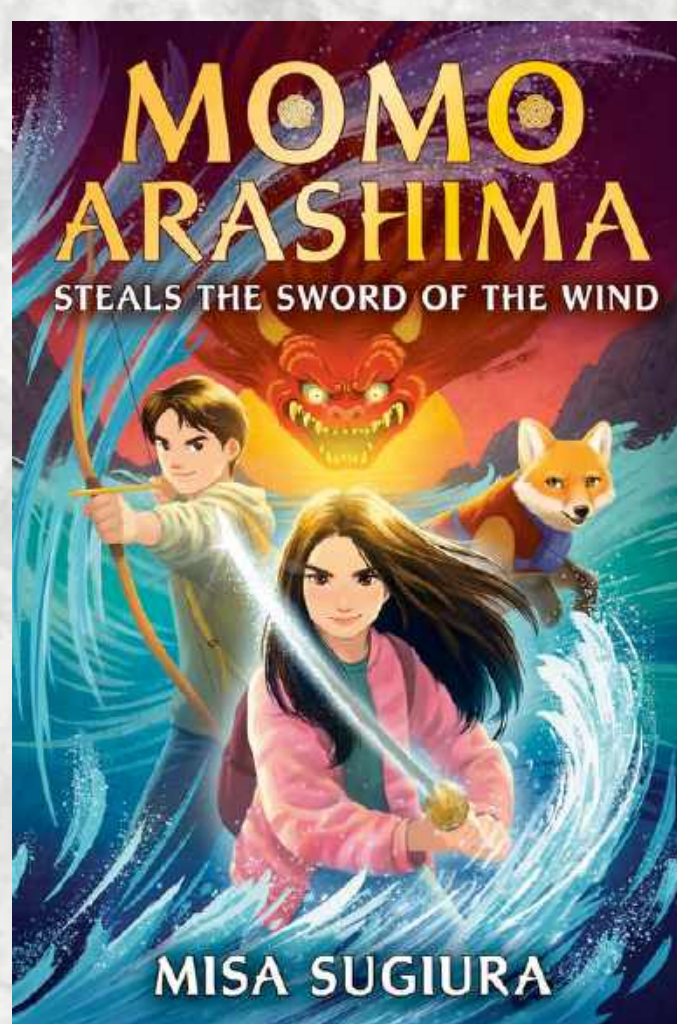
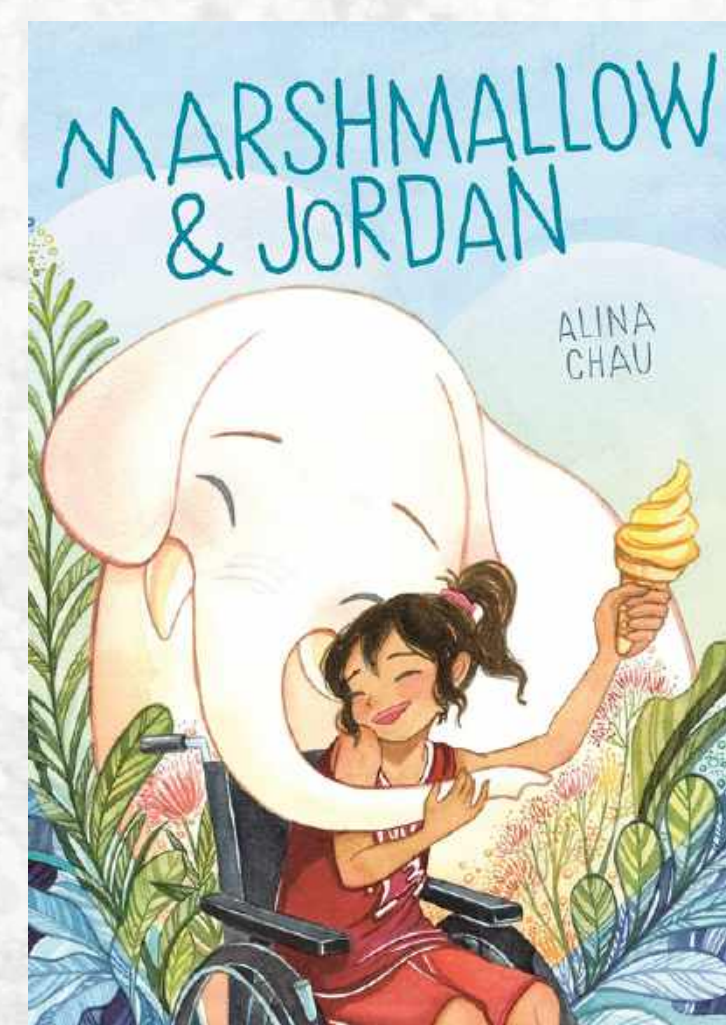
*HarperAlley; Ages 8+*

## **Marshmallow & Jordan**

Author: Alina Chau

Jordan's days as star player for her school's basketball team ended when an accident left her paralyzed from the waist down. Now, she's still the team captain, but her competition days seem to be behind her...until an encounter with a mysterious elephant, who she names Marshmallow, helps Jordan discover a brand new sport. Will water polo be the way for Jordan to continue her athletic dreams—or will it just come between Jordan and her best friends on the basketball team? And with the big tournament right around the corner, what secret is Marshmallow hiding?

*First Second; Ages 8+*



## **Momo Arashima Series**

Author: Misa Sugiura

A thrilling fantasy series about a twelve year old girl who sets out to save her Shinto goddess mother—and the world—by facing down demons intent on bringing chaos.

*Labyrinth Road; Ages 8+*



## ***New From Here***

Author: Kelly Yang

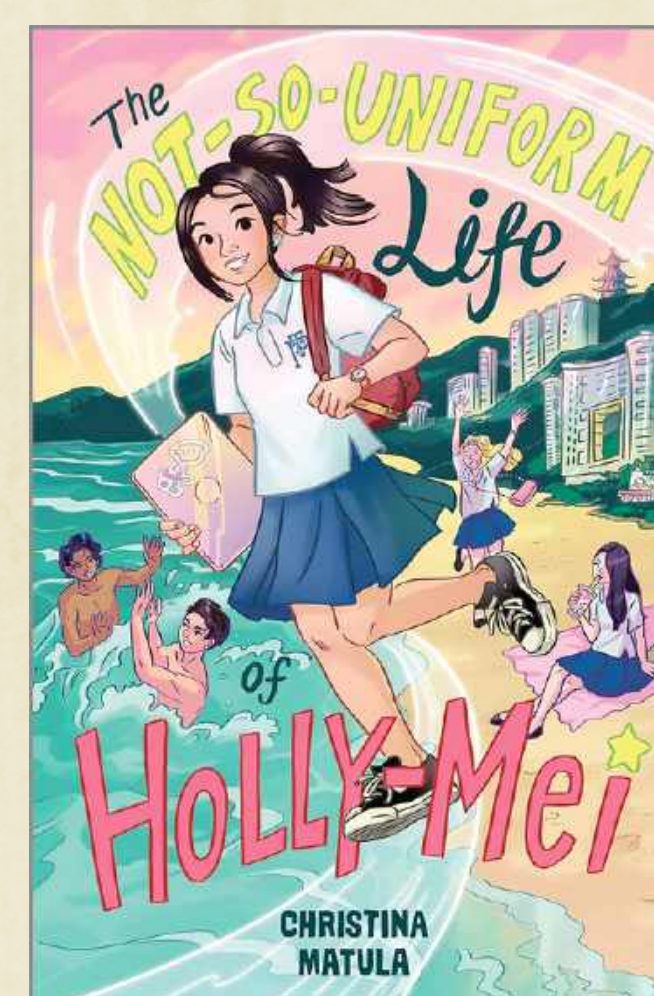
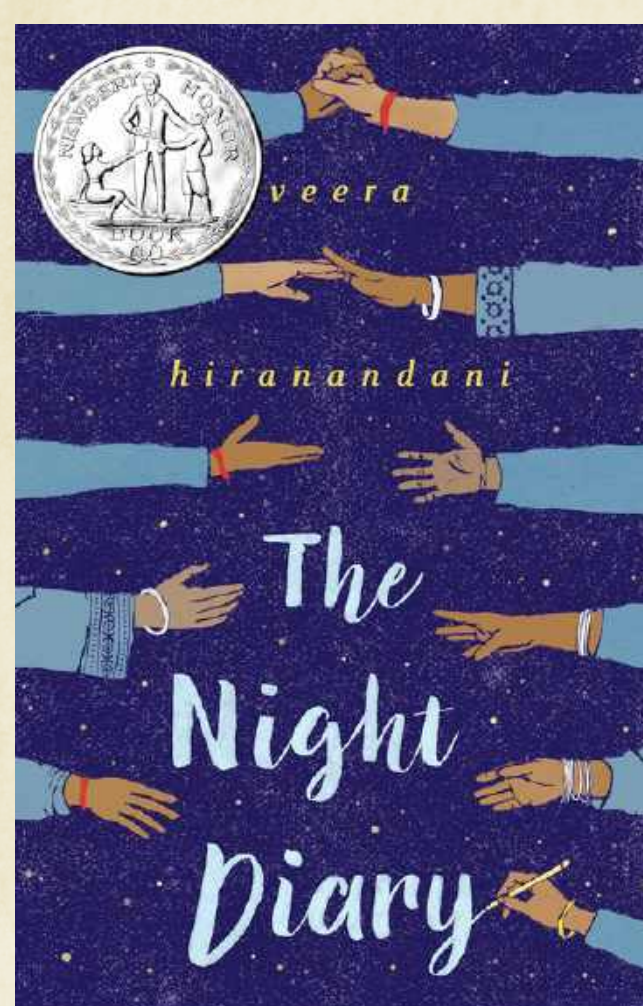
When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California, where they think they will be safe. As racism skyrockets during COVID-19, Knox tries to stand up to hate, while finding his place in his new country. Can you belong if you're feared; can you protect if you're new? And how do you keep a family together when you're oceans apart?  
*Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 9+*

## ***The Night Diary***

Author: Veera Hiranandani

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

*Kokila; Ages 10+*

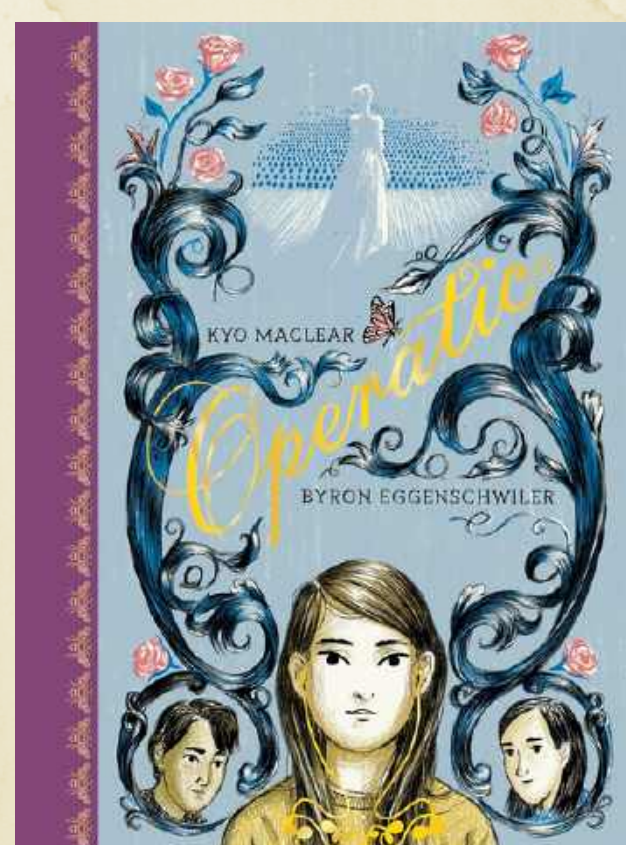


## ***The Not-So-Uniform Life of Holly-Mei***

Author: Christina Matula

Holly-Mei Jones couldn't be more excited about moving to Hong Kong for her mother's job. Her new school is right on the beach and her family's apartment is beyond beautiful. Everything is going to be perfect . . . right?

*Inkyard Press; Ages 8+*



## ***Operatic (Graphic Novel)***

Author: Kyo Maclear

Illustrator: Byron Eggenschwiler

It's almost the end of middle school, and Charlie has to find her perfect song for a music class assignment. But it's hard for Charlie to concentrate when she can't stop noticing her classmate Emile, or wondering about Luka, who hasn't been to school in weeks. Then, the class learns about opera,

and Charlie discovers the music of Maria Callas. The more she learns about Maria's life, the more Charlie admires her passion for singing and her ability to express herself fully through her music. Can Charlie follow the example of the ultimate diva, Maria Callas, when it comes to her own life?

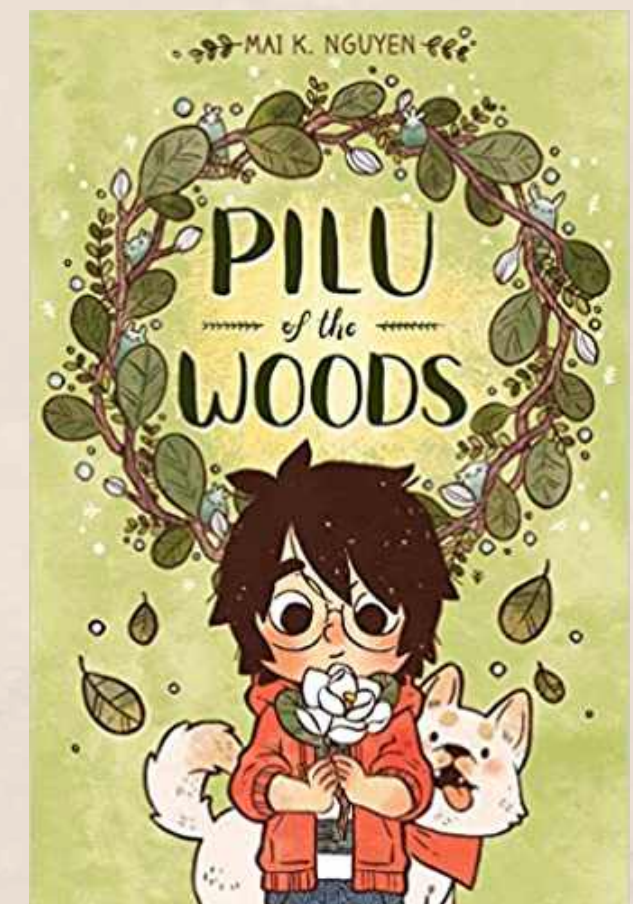
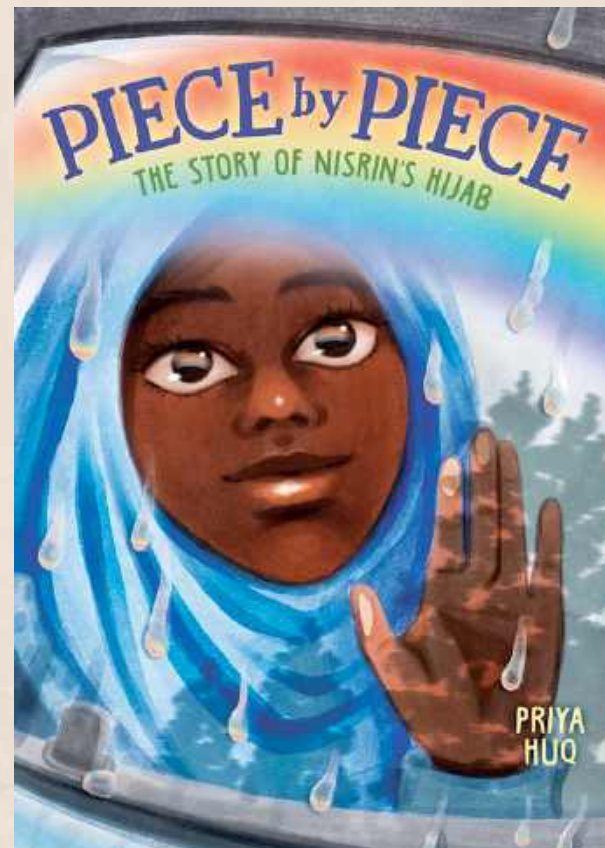
*Groundwood Books; Ages 10+*

## ***Piece by Piece: The Story of Nisrin's Hijab (A Graphic Novel)***

Author & Illustrator: Priya Huq

Nisrin will have to rely on faith, friends, and family to help her recover after she is the target of a hate crime. With the help from old friends and new, Nisrin is starting to figure out what really makes her happy.

*Abrams Fanfare; Ages 10+*

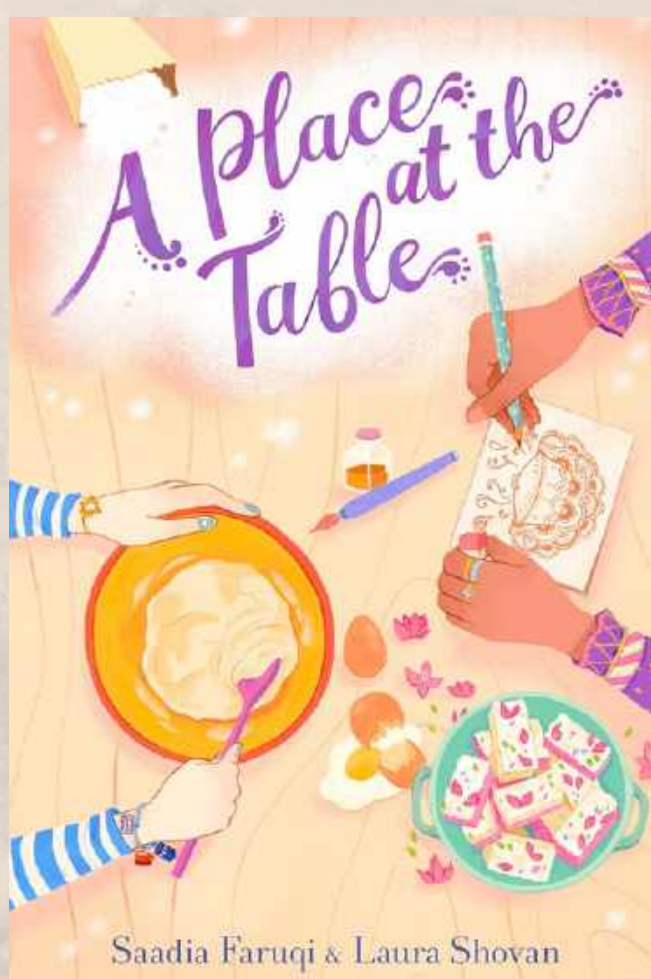


## ***Pilu of the Woods***

Author: Mai K. Nguyen

Willow loves the woods near her house. They're calm and quiet, so different from her own turbulent emotions, which she keeps locked away. When her emotions get the better of her one day, she decides to run away into the woods. There, she meets Pilu, a lost tree spirit who can't find her way back home.

*Oni Press; Ages 8+*



## ***A Place at the Table***

Authors: Saadia Faruqi  
& Laura Shovan

A timely, accessible, and beautifully written story exploring themes of food, friendship, family and what it means to belong, featuring sixth graders Sara, a Pakistani American, and Elizabeth, a white, Jewish girl taking a South Asian cooking class taught by Sara's mom.

*Clarion Books; Ages 10+*

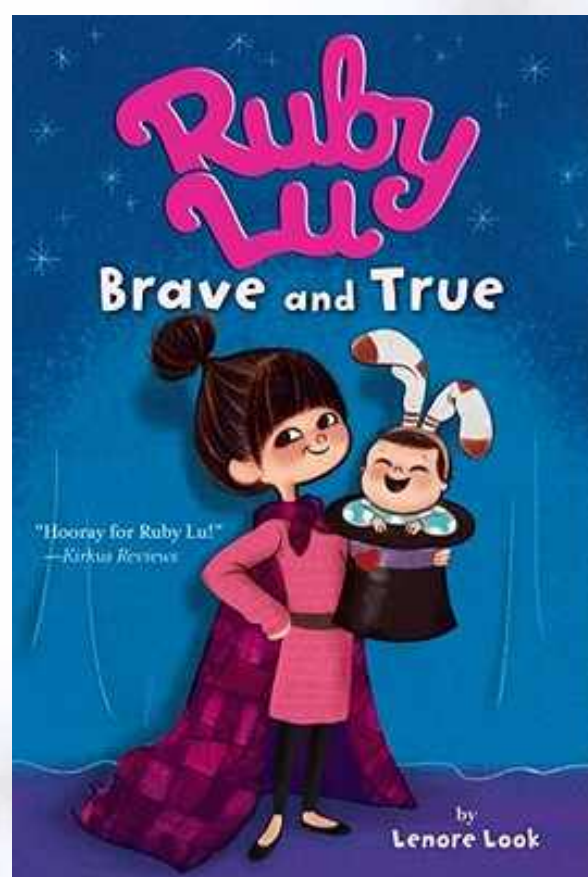
## ***Pippa Park Series***

Author: Erin Yun

Life is full of great expectations for Korean American Pippa Park. It seems like everyone, from her family to the other kids at school, has a plan for how her life should look. When Pippa gets a mysterious basketball scholarship to Lakeview Private, she jumps at the chance to reinvent herself. At school, Pippa juggles old and new friends, a crush, and the pressure to get As and score points while keeping her past and family's laundromat a secret from her elite new classmates. But when Pippa begins to receive a string of hateful, anonymous messages via social media, her carefully built persona is threatened. As things spiral out of control, Pippa wonders if she can keep her old and new lives separate, or if she should even try.

*Fabled Films Press; Ages 9+*





## ***Ruby Lu Brave and True***

Author: Lenore Look | Illustrator: Anne Wilsdorf

Most days the best thing about being Ruby is everything. Like when she's the star of her own backyard magic show. Or when she gives a talk at the school safety assembly on the benefits of reflective tape. Or when she rides the No. 3 bus all the way to Chinatown to visit GungGung and PohPoh.

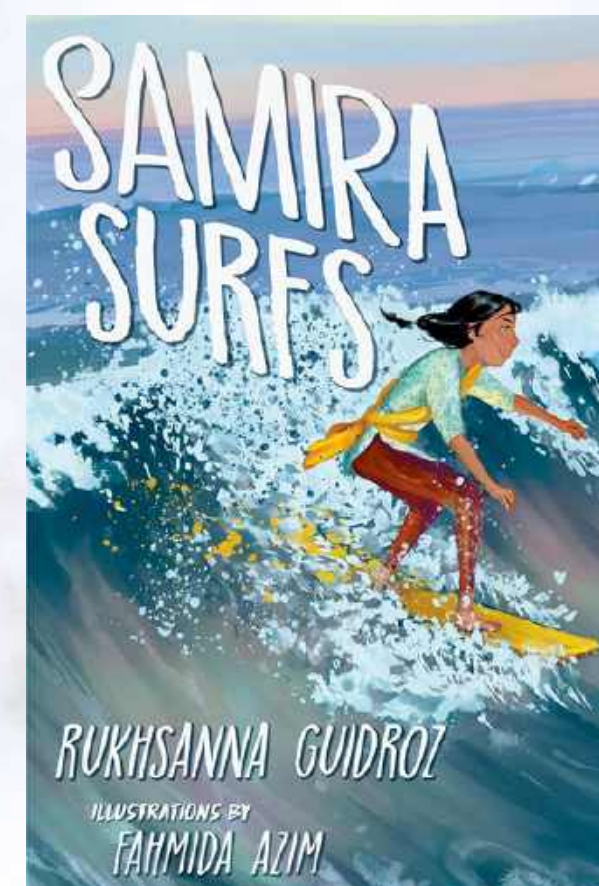
*Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Ages 6+*

## ***Samira Surfs***

Author: Rukhsanna Guidroz | Illustrator: Fahmida Azim

Samira thinks of her life as before and after: before the burning and violence in her village in Burma, when she and her best friend would play in the fields, and after, when her family was forced to flee. There's before the uncertain journey to Bangladesh by river, and after, when the river swallowed her nana and nani whole. And now, months after rebuilding a life in Bangladesh with her mama, baba, and brother, there's before Samira saw the Bengali surfer girls of Cox's Bazar, and after, when she decides she'll become one.

*Kokila; Ages 8+*



## ***Saving Sunshine (A Graphic Novel)***

Author: Saadia Faruqi | Illustrator: Shazleen Khan

A relatable, funny, and heart-wrenchingly honest graphic novel about Muslim American siblings who must learn how to stop fighting and support each other in a world that is often unkind.

*First Second; Ages 8+*

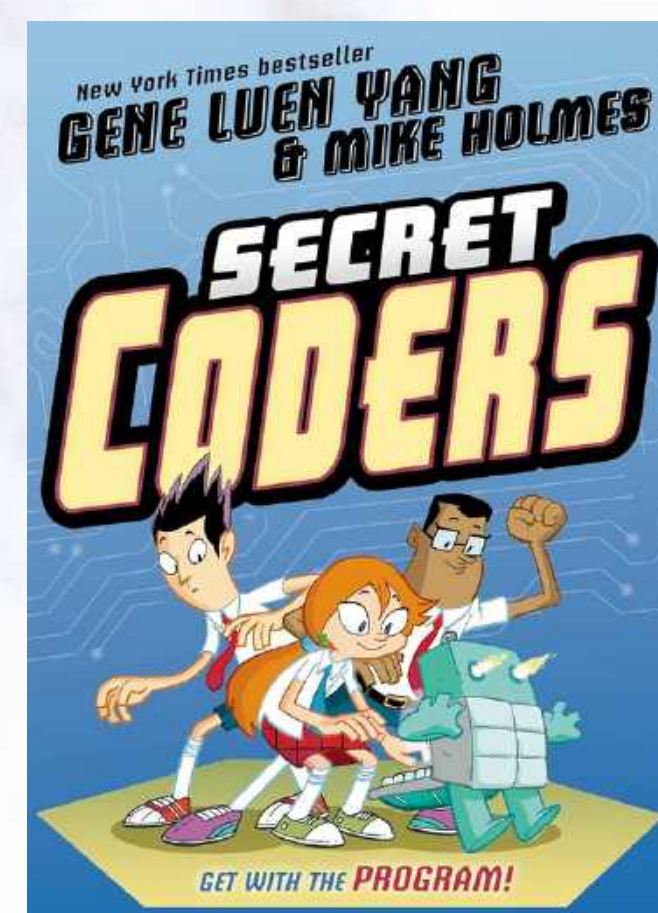
## ***Secret Coders (Graphic Novel Series)***

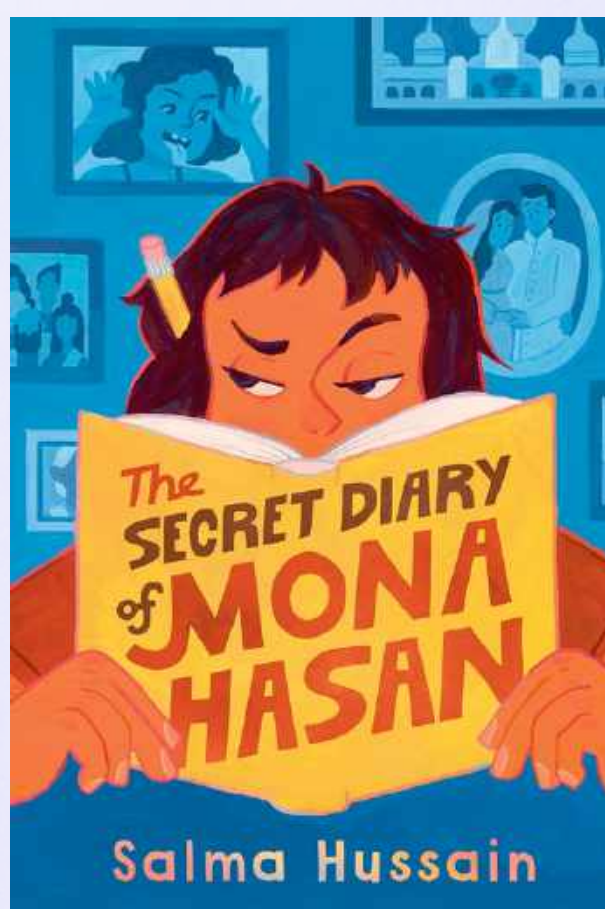
Author: Gene Luen Yang

Illustrator: Mike Holmes

Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is just crawling with mysteries to be solved! The founder of the school left many clues and puzzles to challenge his enterprising students. Using their wits and their growing prowess with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are going to solve the mystery of Stately Academy no matter what it takes!

*First Second; Ages 6+*





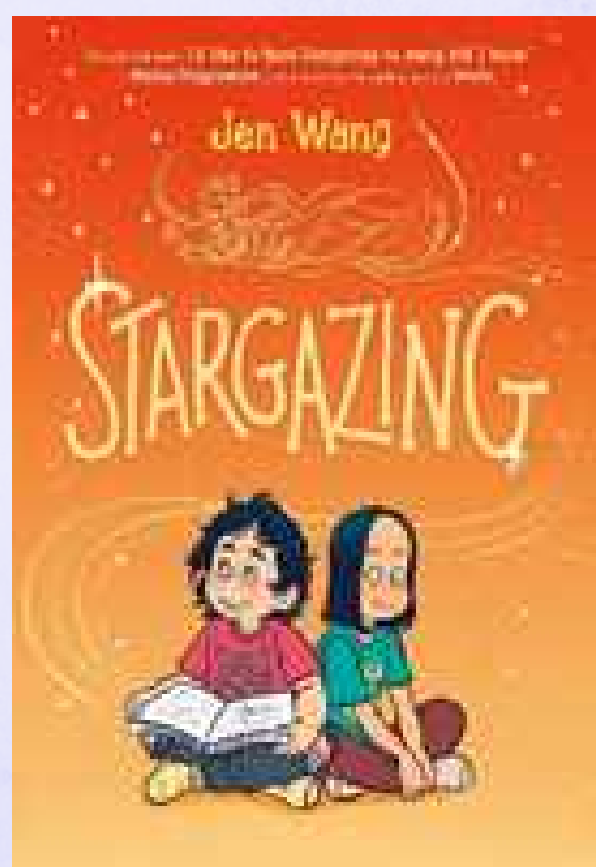
## ***The Secret Diary of Mona Hasan***

Author: Salma Hussain

Mona Hasan is a young Muslim girl growing up in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, when the first Gulf War breaks out in 1991. Over the course of one year, Mona falls in love, speaks up to protect her younger sister, loses her best friend to the new girl at

school, has summer adventures with her cousins in Pakistan, immigrates to Canada, and pursues her ambition to be a feminist and a poet.

*Tundra Books; Ages 10+*



## ***Stargazing***

Author & Illustrator: Jen Wang

Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic... and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known...

*First Second; Ages 8+*

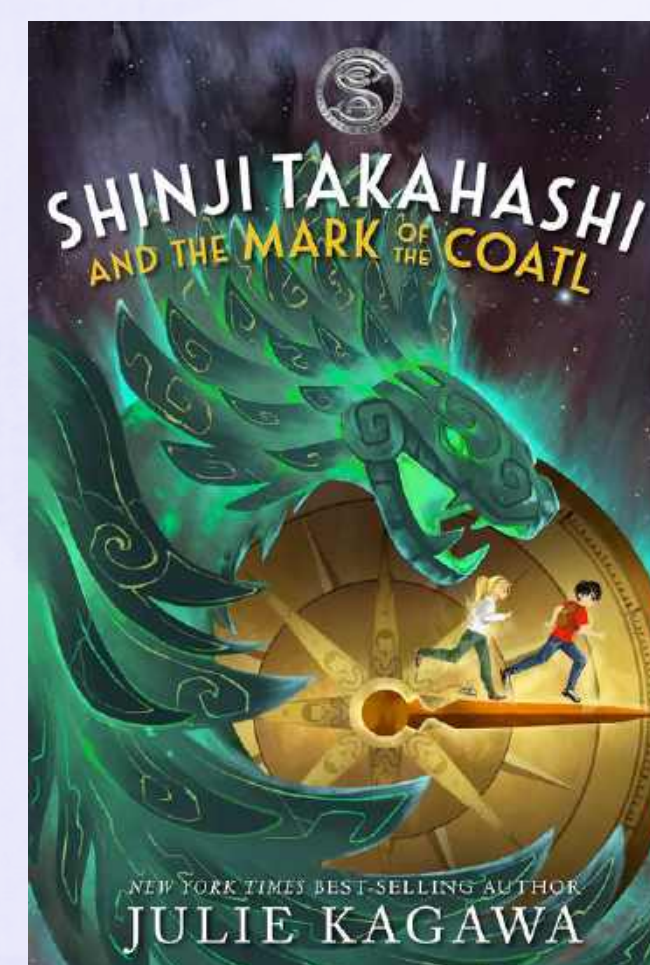
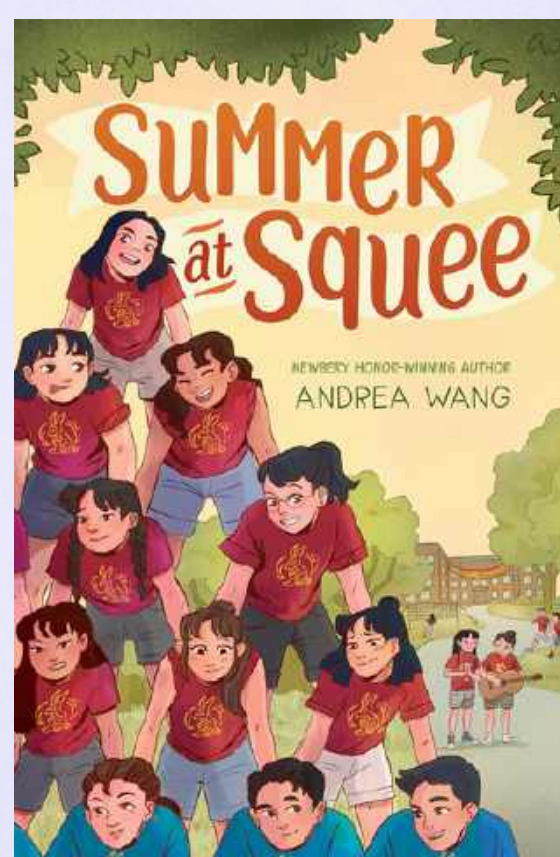
## ***Summer at Squee***

Author: Andrea Wang

Phoenny Fang plans to have the best summer ever. She's returning to Summertime Chinese Culture, Wellness, and Enrichment Experience (SCCWEE for short and "Squee" to campers in the know), and this year she's a senior camper... But she quickly learns how out of touch she is with others' experiences, particularly of the campers who are adoptees....

Summer at Squee turns out to be even more transformative than Phoenny could've imagined, with new friendships, her first crush, an epic show, and a bigger love for and understanding of her community.

*Kokila; Ages 8+*



## ***Shinji Takahashi and the Mark of the Coatl***

Author: Julie Kagawa

Shinji Takahashi is just an ordinary kid. An ordinary homeschooled smart-alecky kid being raised by his globe-trotting aunt Yui. But when a magical guardian decides to use him as a conduit to awaken its power, Shinji's life takes a turn for the anything-but-ordinary. Captured by the menacing Hightower Corporation, which is bent on using the guardian's magic for its own nefarious purposes, Shinji must team up with a brilliant young tech whiz named Lucy and her robot mouse, Tinker, in order to escape.

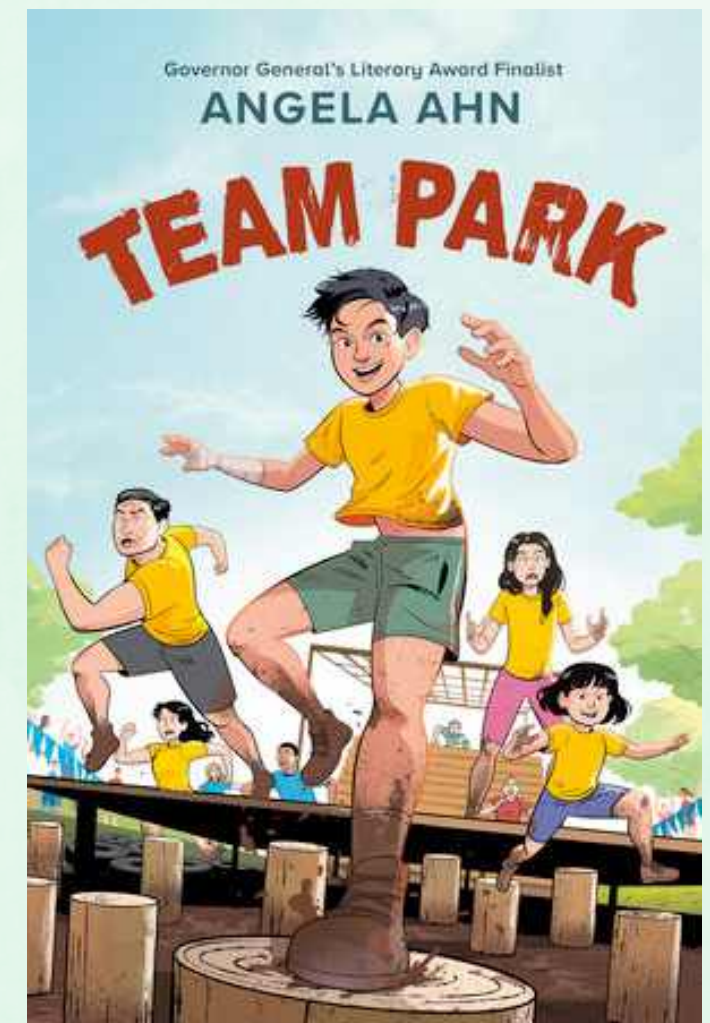
*Disney Hyperion; Ages 8+*

## ***Team Park***

Author: Angela Ahn

Evan Park has always faced obstacles in getting his father's approval, but an actual obstacle race has some surprising results. Unlike his dad, Evan Park does not like team sports — no matter how hard he tries. And when an accident causes Evan to break his wrist, he is determined that once he heals, he'll work on finding his thing. Alone. When his sister encourages him to look beyond a solo competition, they discover a local family race that is more about the experience than the results. Can Evan shift his perspective to rally the whole family to do this event... together?

*Tundra Books; Ages 9+*

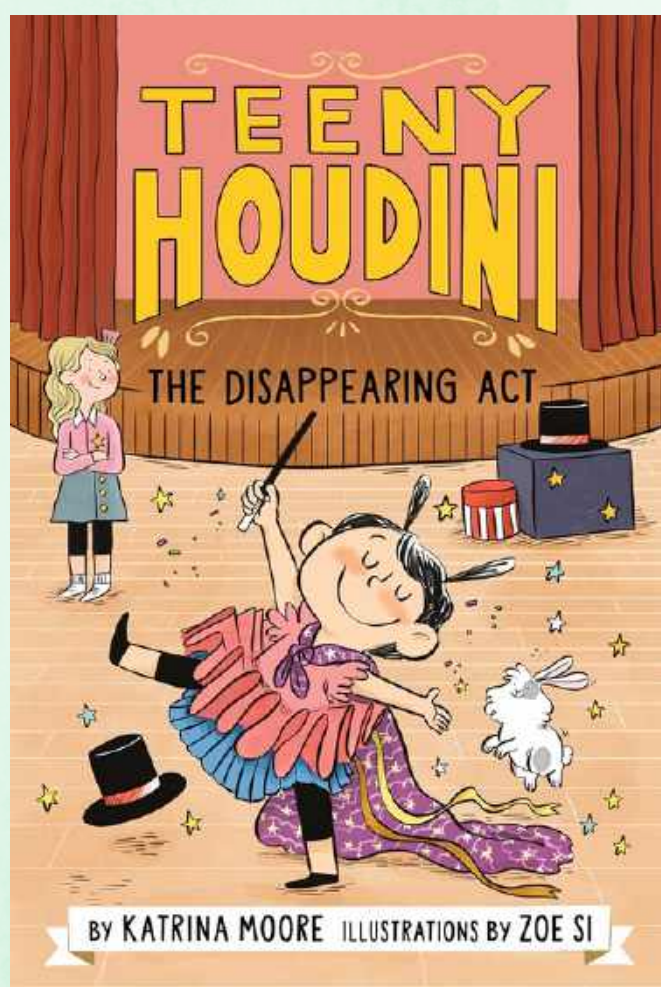


## ***Teeny Houdini Series***

Author: Katrina Moore | Illustrator: Zoe Si

Teeny Houdini, also known as Bessie Lee, is an overly excited, mischievous first grader who bounces off the walls—and off the page—with her volume, enthusiasm, and grand ideas, which are just too big for her tiny frame. Bessie's multigenerational Chinese American family is the warm center of the stories, from exasperated but loving big sister Bailey to the always encouraging and understanding Gramma.

*Katherine Tegen Books; Ages 6+*

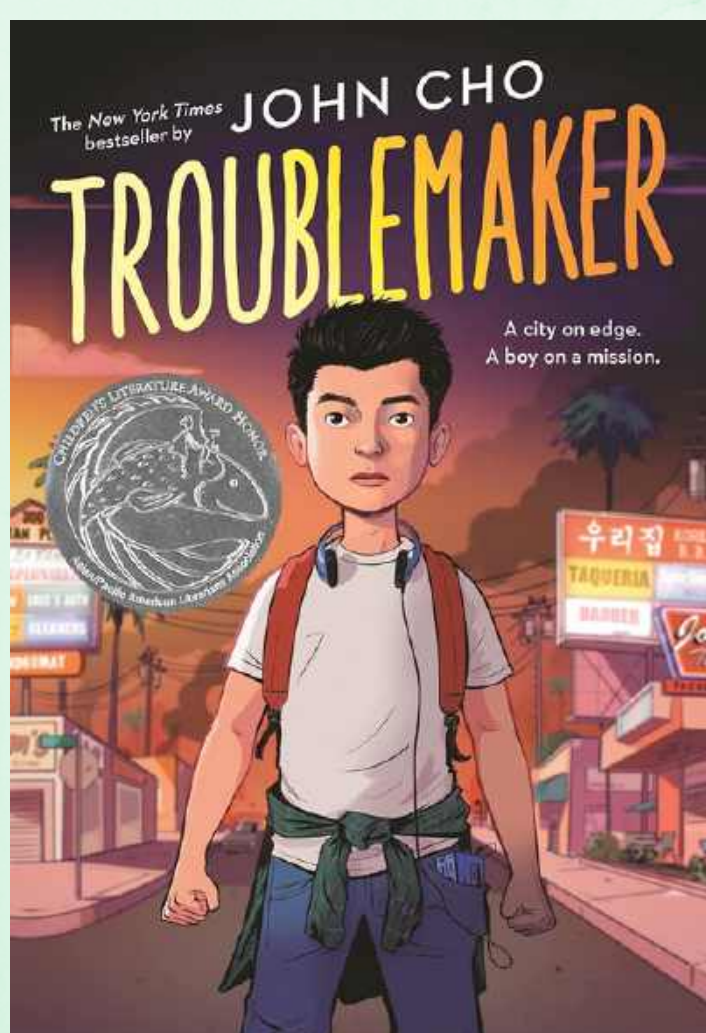


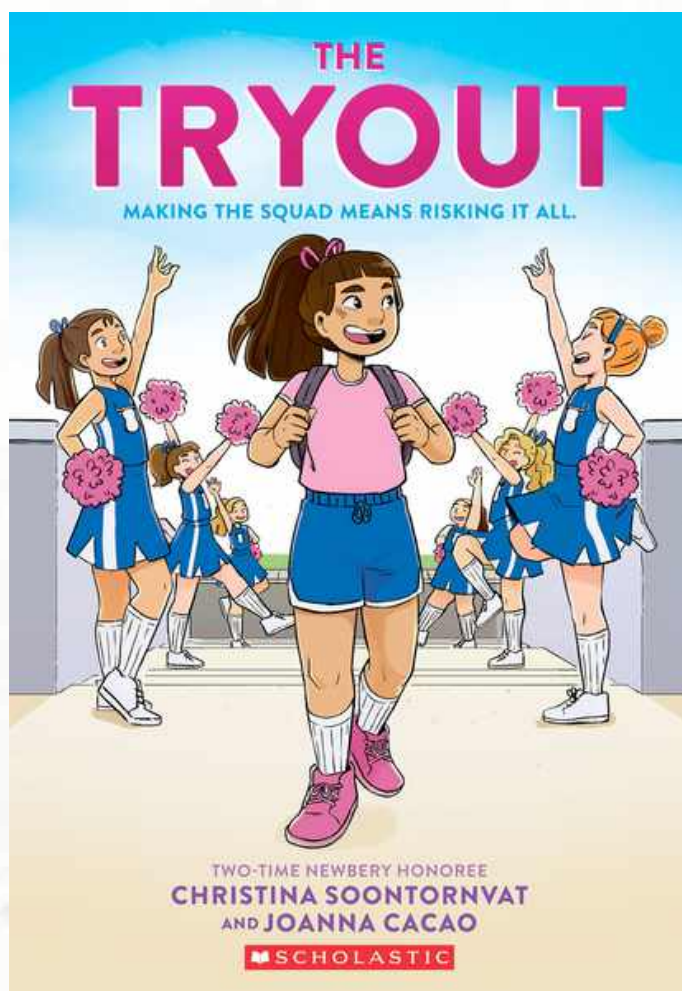
## ***Troublemaker***

Author: John Cho

Troublemaker follows the events of the LA Riots through the eyes of 12-year-old Jordan as he navigates school and family. As tensions escalate, Jordan's father leaves to check on the family store, spurring Jordan and his friends to embark on a dangerous journey to come to his aide, and come to terms with the racism within and affecting their community.

*Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Ages 8+*





## ***The Tryout: A Graphic Novel***

Authors: Christina Soontornvat  
& Joanna Cacao

When cheerleading tryouts are announced, Christina and her best friend, Megan, literally jump at the chance to join the squad. As two of the only kids of color in the school, they have always yearned to fit in—and the middle school cheerleaders are popular and accepted by everyone. But will the girls survive the terrifying tryouts, with their whole grade watching? And will their friendship withstand the pressures of competition?

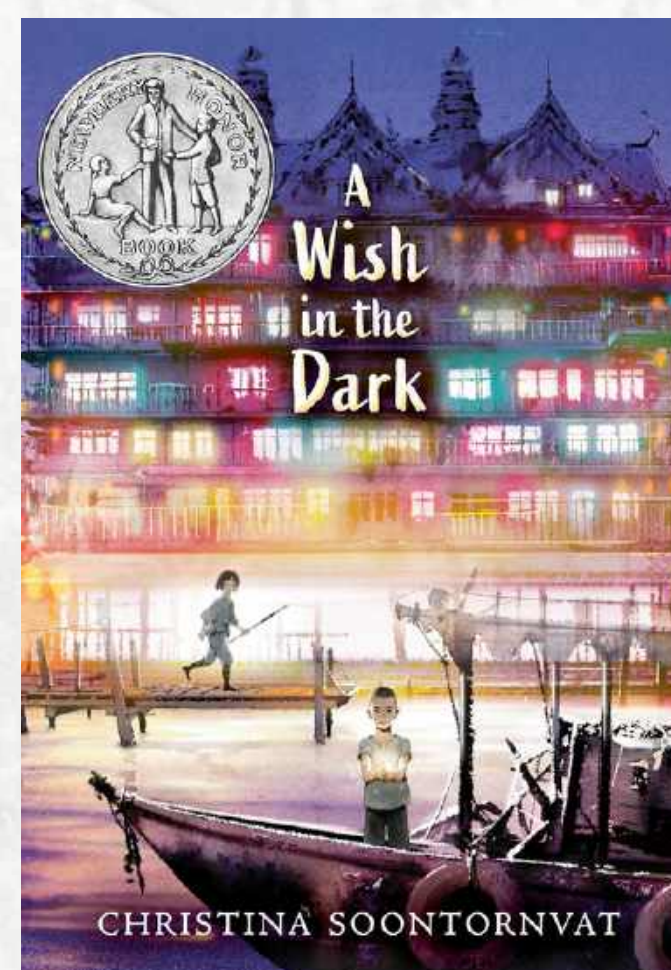
*Graphix; Ages 9+*

## ***A Wish in the Dark***

Author: Christina Soontornvat

A boy on the run. A girl determined to find him. A compelling fantasy looks at issues of privilege, protest, and justice.

*Candlewick; Ages 8+*



## ***Zara's Rules Series***

Author: Hena Khan

Meet Zara Saleem, the queen of the neighborhood. Zara's in charge of it all: she organizes the games, picks the teams, and makes sure everyone has a good time...and they always do. When a new family moves in across the street, suddenly Zara's reign is threatened by Naomi, who has big ideas of her own about how the neighborhood kids can have fun. To get everyone to notice her again, Zara decides she's going to break a Guinness World Record—if her little brother Zayd doesn't mess things up. But when she finds herself increasingly alone in her record-breaking quest, Zara starts to wonder if sharing the crown and making a new friend might end up being the best rule of all.

*Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Ages 7+*

