

Asian Heritage Picture Books

Picture books for children ages three to eight, which reflect the culture of a variety of Asian countries.

Easy Picture

EP Compestine

D is for Dragon Dance

By Ying Chang Compestine, il Yongsheng Xuan

A Chinese family gets ready for the New Year in this beautiful ABC book.

EP Ho

Hush!: A Thai Lullaby

by Minfong Ho, ill. by Holly Meade

A lullaby which asks animals such as a lizard, monkey, and water-buffalo to be quiet and not disturb the sleeping baby.

EP Lin

Dim Sum for Everyone

by Grace Lin

A child describes the various little dishes of dim sum that she and her family enjoy on a visit to a restaurant in Chinatown.

EP Shea

Ten Mice for Tet

by Pegi Deitz Shea; ill. by To Ngoc Trang, embroidery by Pham Viet Dinh

A village of mice prepares for Tet, or Vietnamese New Year, as different numbers of mice give gifts, cook food, and celebrate in other traditional ways. Includes an afterword with facts about the holiday.

EP Thong

One is a Drummer: A Book of Numbers

by Roseanne Thong, ill. by Grace Lin

A young girl numbers her discoveries in the world around her, from one dragon boat to four mahjong players to ten bamboo stalks. also: **Round is a Mooncake: a Book of Shapes; Red is a Dragon: A Book of Colors**

Easy Fiction

E Fic Bunting

So Far From the Sea

by Eve Bunting, ill. by Chris Soentpiet

When seven-year-old Laura and her family visit Grandfather's grave at the Manzanar War Relocation Center, the Japanese American child leaves behind a special symbol.

E Fic Choi

The Name Jar

by Yangsook Choi

After Unhei moves from Korea to the United States, her new classmates help her decide what her name should be.

E Fic Compestine

The Story of Noodles

by Ying Chang Compestine, ill. by YongSheng Xuan

Left alone to prepare their family's prize-winning dumplings for the annual cooking contest, the young Kang boys accidentally invent a new dish, "mian tiao," or noodles. Includes a cultural note and a recipe for long life noodles. also: **The Story of Chopsticks; The Story of Kites; The Story of Paper**

E Fic Garland

My Father's Boat

by Sherry Garland, ill. by Ted Rand

A Vietnamese-American boy spends a day with his father on his shrimp boat, listening as he describes how his own father fishes on the South China Sea.

E Fic Gershator

Sky Sweeper

By Phillis Gershator

Despite criticism for his lack of "accomplishments," Takiboki finds contentment sweeping flower blossoms and raking the sand and gravel in the monks' temple garden. Includes a note on the art and beauty of Japanese gardens.

E Fic Hall

Henry and the Kite Dragon

by Bruce Edward Hall, ill. by William Low

In New York City in the 1920s, the children from Chinatown go after the children from Little Italy for throwing rocks at the beautiful kites Grandfather Chin makes, not realizing that they have a reason for doing so.

E Fic Heide

The House of Wisdom

by Florence Parry Heide & Judith Heide Gilliland, il. by Mary Grandpre

Ishaq, the son of the chief translator to the Caliph of ancient Baghdad, travels the world in search of precious books and manuscripts and brings them back to the great library known as the House of Wisdom.

E Fic Heo

Father's Rubber Shoes

by Yumi Heo

Yungsu misses Korea terribly until he begins to make friends in America.

E Fic Khan

The Roses in My Carpet

by Rukhsana Khan, ill. by Ronald Himler

When a young boy and his mother and sister come to a refugee camp to escape the war in Afghanistan, he finds some comfort in the beauty of the carpets he is learning to weave.

E Fic Lee

In the Park

by Huy Voun Lee

On the first day of spring, a mother and her son go to the park where they draw Chinese characters that represent words relating to the season.

also: **At the Beach; In the Snow; 1,2,3,Go (EP)**

E Fic Look

Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding

by Lenore Look; ill. by Yumi Heo

A Chinese American girl describes the festivities surrounding her uncle's Chinese wedding and the customs behind each one.

Also: **Henry's First Moon Birthday**

E Fic McKay

Journey Home

by Lawrence McKay, Jr., ill. by Dom & Keunhee Lee

Mai returns to Vietnam, the land of her mother's birth, to discover both a new country and something about herself.

E Fic Noyes

Red Butterfly: How a Princess Smuggled the Secret of Silk Out of China

By Deborah Noyes

In long-ago China, as a young princess prepares to leave her parents' kingdom to travel to far-off Khotan where she is to marry the king, she decides to surreptitiously take with her a precious reminder of home.

E Fic Oppenheim

Ali and the Magic Stew

by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim, ill. by Winslow Pels

Guided by a beggar he so often shunned, a young, spoiled boy in Persia must quickly collect ingredients for a healing stew to make for his dying father.

E Fic Park

The Firekeeper's Son

By Linda Sue Park, ill. by Julie Downing

In eighteenth-century Korea, after Sang-hee's father injures his ankle, Sang-hee attempts to take over the task of lighting the evening fire which signals to the palace that all is well. Includes historical notes.

E Fic Patz

Babies Can't Eat Kimchee!

by Nancy Patz

A baby sister must wait to grow up before doing big sister things, such as ballet dancing and eating spicy Korean food.

E Fic Partridge

Oranges on Golden Mountain

by Elizabeth Partridge, ill. by Aki Sogabe

When hard times fall on his family, Jo Lee is sent from China to San Francisco, where he helps his uncle fish and dreams of being reunited with his mother and sister.

E Fic Recorvits

My Name is Yoon

by Helen Recorvits, ill. by Gabi Swiatkowska

Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon, or "shining wisdom," refers to herself as "cat," "bird," and "cupcake," as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.

E Fic Rumford

Nine Animals and the Well

by James Rumford

A fable about a group of animals which strives to bring the perfect present to the Indian raja-king's birthday party. Discusses how the numerals we use originated in India.

E Fic Say

Kamishibai Man

by Allen Say

After many years of retirement, an old Kamishibai man--a Japanese street performer who tells stories and sells candies--decides to make his rounds once more even though such entertainment declined after the advent of television.

E Fic Wong

Apple Pie 4th of July

by Janet Wong

A Chinese American child fears that the food her parents are preparing to sell on the Fourth of July will not be eaten.

E Fic Young

Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem about China

by Ed Young

Lyrical text and illustrations featuring Chinese characters and paper collage introduce the beauty and richness of China.

Non-fiction, Poetry & Folktales

E 294.5 Shepard

Savitri: A Tale of Ancient India

by Aaron Shepard, ill. by Vera Rosenberry

In this tale from the "Mahabharata," India's national epic, Princess Savitri outwits the god of death to save her husband.

E 394.26959 Viesti

Celebrate in Southeast Asia

by Joe Viesti & Diane Hall

Describes a variety of holiday celebrations in Southeast Asia, including Thailand's Elephant Round-Up, Singapore's Moon Cake Festival, and the Vietnamese New Year.

E 398.2 Berger

All the Way to Lhasa: A Tale From Tibet

by Barbara Berger

A boy and his yak persevere along the difficult way to the holy city of Lhasa and succeed where others fail.

E 398.2 Demi

One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale

by Demi

A reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl.

E 398.2 Han

The Rabbit's Escape

By Suzanne Crowder Han, ill. by Yumi Heo

Tricked into visiting the underwater kingdom where the Dragon King of the East Sea wants his liver, a clever rabbit uses his wits to escape. Bilingual-Korean/English.

E 398.2 Heo

The Green Frogs: Korean Folktale

By Yumi Heo

A folktale about two green frogs who always disobey their mother, explaining why green frogs cry out whenever it rains.

E 398.2 Ho

The Two Brothers

by Minfong Ho

Brought up in a Buddhist monastery, two brothers go out into the world to very different fates, armed with the advice of a wise abbot.

E 398.2 Shepard

The Gifts of the Wali Dad

by Aaron Shepard, ill. by Daniel San Souci

An Indian/Pakistani folktale in which an impoverished grass-cutter finds that gifts can be a mixed blessing.

E 398.209 Wada

Momotaro and the island of Ogres: A Japanese Folktale

By Stephanie Wada

One of Japan's most popular folktales--the amazing adventures of Momotar, a boy found inside a peach and raised by an elderly couple--is brought to vivid life by images from an exquisite handscroll painted by Kan Naganobu (1775-1828). Includes a postscript on the tradition of Japanese folktales.

E 811 Mak

My Chinatown: One year in Poems

by Kam Mak

A boy adjusts to life away from his home in Hong Kong, in the Chinatown of his new American city.

E 895.1 Maples

Maples in the Mist

ed. by Minfong Ho

A collection of short poems written over 1000 years ago by such poets of the Tang Dynasty as Li Po, Yin Luan, and Du Mu.

E 895.6 Kobayashi

Today and Today

By Issa Kobayashi ill. G. Brian Karas

A selection of haikus by the Japanese master.

E 895.6 Spivak

Grass Sandals: The Travels of Basho

by Dawnine Spivak

A simple retelling of the travels of seventeenth-century Japanese poet, Basho, across his island homeland. Includes examples of the haiku verses he composed.

E 915 Chin-Lee

A is for Asia

by Cynthia Chin-Lee; ill. by Yumi Heo

An alphabetical introduction to the diverse peoples, lands, and cultures of the world's largest continent.

E 915.2 Wells

A to Zen: A Book of Japanese Culture

by Ruth Wells

Introduces Japanese words from A to Z. Book is designed to be read from back to front and from right to left.

J 811.54 Park

Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo (Poems)

by Linda Sue Park

Sijo is a traditional Korean form of poetry. Sijo is syllabic, like Japanese haiku, with three lines of 14 to 16 syllables each: the first two introduce the topic, the third and fourth lines develop it, and the fifth and sixth lines contain an unexpected humorous or ironic twist. This collection contains 26 sijo.

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