**Literary Resource Guide**

The titles listed below generally highlight literature regarding Asian American culture; however, there are also titles reflecting a range of cultural backgrounds that reflect similar themes.

Titles marked with an asterisk (\*) may contain questionable language and/or graphic scenes that should be considered before classroom use.

| **Title** | **Author** | **Age Group** | **Theme/Genre** | **Keywords / Tags** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *1001 Cranes* | Naomi Hirahara | 8 to 12 | identity, family, immigrant experience | Interpersonal relations; marriage; grandparents; Japanese Americans |
| *A Pair of Twins* | Kavitha Mandana | 4 to 8 | gender, identity | human-animal relationships; Dasara; fasts and feasts; folklore; India |
| *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow* | Amy Lee-Tai | 6 to 10 | identity, discrimination, war | Japanese American; evacuation and relocation; World War II (1939 – 1945); bilingual |
| *A Suitcase of Seaweed and Other Poems* | Janet Wong | 9 to 12 | identity, poetry | Korean American; family life; poetry |
| *All the Colors of the Earth* | Sheila Hamanaka | 5 to 8 | identity, equality | story in rhyme; differences brotherliness |
| *Aloha, Kanai* | Lisa Yee | 8 and up | family | Hawaiians; cousins; racially mixed people; |
| *Alvin Ho* | Lenore Look | 8 to 10 | identity, Friendship | Fear; self-confidence; friendship; interpersonal relations; Chinese Americans |
| *Apple Pie 4th of July* | Janet Wong | 6 to 7 | identity, immigrant experience | Chinese American; cooking; Fourth of July |
| *Archer’s Quest* | Linda Sue Park | 8 to 12 | fantasy and adventure | Tongmyong Wang – King of Korea; rulers; time travel; magic; historical fiction; fantasy |
| *At the Beach* | Huy Voun Lee | 4 to 6 | heritage and language | Asian Americans; writing; Chinese language; picture book |
| *Baseball Saved Us* | Ken Mochizuki | 7 to 11 | identity, discrimination, war | Japanese Americans; evacuation and relocation; World War II (1939 – 1945); baseball; prejudice; internment camp |
| *Bee-bim Bop!* | Linda Sue Park | 4 to 7 | heritage, family | Koreans; cooking; responsibility; stories in rhyme |
| *Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)* | Lisa Yee | 7 to 10 | identity, family, friendship | friendship; schools; personal relationships; biracial; peer pressure |
| *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909* | Michelle Markel | 4 to 8 | education, immigrant experience | Ukrainian; Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike; strikes and lockouts; women clothing workers; labor movement; child labor; immigrant children; determination |
| *Bye, Bye, Motabhai!* | Kala Sambasivan | 4 to 8 | freedom, adventure, fantasy | India; animals; morals |
| *Chengli and the Silk Road Caravan* | Hildi Kang | 8 to 12 | adventure | Caravans; trade routes; friendship; royalty; desert; independence; orphan; Silk Road; |
| *Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream* | Jenny Han | 7 to 10 | family, identity, friendship | Clara Lemlich; strikes and lockouts; clothing trade; women clothing workers; women in the labor movement; Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike |
| *Coolies\** | Yin | 7 to 10 | immigrant experience | Chinese Americans; Central Pacific Railroad Company; brothers |
| *Cooper's Lesson* | Sun Yung Shin | 6 and up | identity, bi-racial | Korean Americans; racially mixed people; biracial; bilingualism; identity; Korean language; intergenerational friendship; family life |
| *Cora Cooks Pancit* | Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore | 6 to 8 | family and heritage | Filipino Americans; cooling |
| *Dear Juno* | Soyoung Park | 4 to 8 | family, immigrant experience | Korean Americans; grandmothers; letters |
| *Dia Story Cloth: The Hmong People’s Journey of Freedom* | Dia Cha | 6 to 11 | identity, war, immigrant experience | Hmong Americans; embroidery; freedom |
| *Dragonwings* | Laurence Yep | 8 to 12 | immigrant experience | Chinese Americans; father-son relationships; mockery; poverty; flying machine; historical fiction |
| *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* | Margarita Engle | 5 to 8 | identity, gender, biography | Chinese-African-Cuban; musicians; tradition; gender equality |
| *Dumpling Days* | Grace Lin | 4 to 7 | family, identity | Taiwanese Americans; family life |
| *Erika-San* | Allen Say | 8 to 10 | identity, culture | Japan |
| *Faithful Elephants* | Yukio Tschiya | 10 to 12 | war | zoo keepers; World War II (1939 – 1945); Japan |
| *Father's Chinese Opera* | Rich Lo | 5 to 8 | patience and hard work | China; opera; perseverance; acrobatics; fathers and sons; performing arts |
| *Fly Free!* | Roseanne Thong | 7 to 9 | freedom | Vietnam; kindness; conduct of life; Buddhist concepts |
| *Following My Paint Brush* | Dulari Devi and Gita Wolf | 6 to 10 | gender, classism, biography | India; folk artists; Dulari Devi; women artists; painting |
| *Gobble You Up!* | Gita Wolf | 4 to 8 | folklore and fairytale | Rajasthani; folk literature |
| *Going Home, Coming Home* | Truong Tran | 6 to 10 | identity, family, war | Vietnamese Americans; grandmothers; language; social life and customs |
| *Good Fortune: A Journey to Gold Mountain* | Li Keng Wong | 9 to 12 | immigrant experience | Li Keng Wong; Chinese Americans; immigrants; biography; Chinatown; emigration and immigration |
| *Good Job, Kanani* | Lisa Yee | 8 and up | friendship, intergenerational | Hawaiians; racially mixed people; friendship; surfing; values |
| *Granddaddy's Turn* | Eric Stein and Michael S. Bandy | 6 to 9 | segregation. identity, family | African Americans; grandfathers; suffrage; voting |
| *Grandfather’s Journey* | Allen Say | 6 to 8 | family, immigrant experience | Japanese Americans; grandfathers; voyages and travels; homesickness |
| *Half and Half* | Lensey Namioka | 8 to 12 | identity, bi-racial | Chinese Americans; Scottish Americans; family life; identity; racially mixed people |
| *Halmoni and the Picnic* | Sook Nyul Choi | 4 to 8 | identity, immigrant experience | Korean Americans; grandmothers |
| *Hana Hashimoto Sixth Violin* | Chieri Uegaki | 5 to 8 | confidence | Musical ability; grandfathers; girls; fear in children |
| *Henry’s First-Moon Birthday* | Lenore Look | 6 to 8 | culture and family | Chinese Americans; brothers and sisters; babies grandmothers |
| *Hot Hot Roti for Dada-ji* | F. Zia | 5 to 10 | family and heritage | East Indian Americans; grandfathers |
| *Hush! A Thai Lullaby* | Minfong Ho | 4 to 7 | family | lullabies; poetry; Thailand |
| *I Am Malala* | Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb | 6 and up | identity, biography, confidence | Malala Yousafzal; young women; education; Pakistan; Swat District; children’s rights; biography |
| *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* | Bette Bao Lord and Marc Simont | 8 to 12 | immigrant experience, identity | Chinese Americans; moving; school |
| *Inside Out and Back Again\** | Thanhha Lai | 8 to 12 | refugee/immigrant experience, poetry | Vietnamese Americans; novels in verse; emigration and immigration; historical fiction |
| *Juna's Jar* | Jane Bakh | 5 to 9 | change, friendship, fantasy | Korean Americans; friendship; brothers and sisters; imagination |
| *Just Like Me: Stories and Self-Portraits by Fourteen Artists* | Tomie Arai and Enrique Chagoya | 6 to 10 | biography | Self portraits; artists |
| *Kamishabai Man* | Allen Say | 6 to 10 | folk art, intergenerational | Japan; Kamishibai; street theater; storytelling |
| *King for a Day* | Ruskhsana Khan | 4 to 8 | identity, confidence | Basant Festival; kites; wheelchairs; people with disabilities; Pakistan |
| *Kira-Kira\** | Cynthia Kadohata | 10 to 14 | death, identity, family | Japanese Americans; death; sisters; friendship |
| *Kohala Kuamo'o: Nae'ole's Race to Save a King* | Kekauleleanae'ole Kawai'ae'a | 6 to 10 | family, folklore, fantasy | Kamehameha I, the Great, King of the Hawaiian Islands; Hawaiian language; kings and rulers |
| *Let's Talk About Race* | Julius Lester | 4 to 10 | identity, race | Julius Lester; racism; race awareness; prejudices; tolerance |
| *Mama Miti* | Danna Jo Napoli | 4 to 8 | environmental | Wangari Maathai; Green Belt Movement; Kenya; women conservationists; biography |
| *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* | Doreen Rappaport | 5 to 8 | segregation, identity | Martin Luther King Jr.; African Americans; biography; civil rights; Baptists; clergy |
| *Marina's Muumuu* | Evangelina Vigil Pinon | 6 and up | identity, immigrant experience, family | Hawaii; clothing and dress; racially mixed people; Spanish language; grandparents; growing up; bilingual |
| *Mohala Mai 'o Hau: How Hau Became Hau'ula* | Robert Lono Ikuwa | 6 to 10 | confidence | Hawaii; sisters; self-esteem and self-respect; friendship; social skills; school |
| *Monsoon* | Uma Krishnaswami | 4 to 8 | environmental | Middle East; India; monsoons; weather; culture; climate |
| *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems* | Kim Mak | 6 and up | identity, immigrant experience, poetry | Chinese Americans; Chinatown (New York, NY); emigration and immigration |
| *My Freedom Trip* | Francis Park and Ginger Park | 9 to 12 | war, family | North Korea; refugee children; military and wars |
| *Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan* | Jeanette Winter | 6 to 9 | education, determination | Taliban; children of divorced parents; sex roles; girls; education; Afghanistan; Middle East; violence; friendship |
| *Nim and The War Effect* | Milly Lee | 6 to 10 | identity, immigrant experience, discrimination | Chinese Americans; World War II (1939 – 1945); competition; grandfathers |
| *One Plastic Bag: Isauou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia* | Miranda Paul | 5 to 9 | reality, identity | pollution; recycling; Africa; plastic bags |
| *Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story* | Ken Mochizuki | 7 to 11 | war, courage | Chiune Sugihara; Jewish Holocaust; World War II (1939–1945); righteous gentiles; diplomats; biography |
| *Peek!: A Thai Hide-and-Seek* | Minfong Ho | 3 to 7 | family | Thailand; adoption; fathers and daughters; animals; stories in rhyme |
| *Red Kite, Blue Kite* | Ji-li Jiang | 7 to 10 | war, family | China; cultural revolution; fathers and sons; family life; Communism; kites; historical fiction |
| *Ruby Lu, Brave and True* | Lenore Look | 8 to 10 | family, identity | Chinese Americans; neighborhoods; friendship; family life; schools |
| *Ruby's Wish* | Shirin Yim | 8 to 12 | gender, identity, education | China; education; sex role; self-esteem and self-respect; friendship; social skills and school; historical fiction |
| *Same Sun Here* | Silas House and Neela Vaswani | 9 to 12 | identity, immigrant experience, environmental issues | East Indian Americans; friendship; pen pals; immigrant; family life; values |
| *Seperate is Never Equal* | Duncan Tonatium | 4 to 10 | identity, race, immigrant experience | Hispanic Americans; Sylvia Mendez; children and youth; school integration; education Civil Rights Movement |
| *Shinning Star: The Anna May Wong Story* | Paula Woo | 6 to 10 | biography | Chinese American; motion picture actresses; biography |
| *Sita's Ramayanna* | Samhita Arni | 10 and up | heritage, folklore | Ramayana Vishnu (Hindu deity); folklore; India; Rama; self-esteem; strength; graphic novel |
| *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story* | Paula Yoo | 6 to 10 | identity, discrimination, biography | Sammy Lee; divers; springboard diving; biography |
| *Standford Wong Flunks Big-time* | Lisa Yee | 8 to 12 | family | School; sports; family relations; self-esteem and self-respect; humor |
| *Sumi's First Day of School Ever* | Joung un Kim and Soyoung Park | 4 to 6 | immigrant experience | Korean Americans; school |
| *Tan to Tamarind: Poems About the Color Brown* | Malathi Michelle Iyengar | 6 to 11 | identity, poetry | human skin color; self-esteem; self-image; poetry |
| *The Breadwinner* | Deborah Ellis | 5 to 8 | Education, confidence, struggle | Afghanistan; women; family life; sex role; friendship |
| *The Bracelet* | Yoshiko Uchida | 7 to 11 | identity, discrimination, war | Japanese Americans; evacuation and relocation; friendship; World War II (1939 – 1945) |
| *The Detention Club* | David Yoo | 8 to 12 | identity, friendship | Korean Americans; school; boys; popularity; conduct of life |
| *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu* | Wendy Wan-Long Shang | 8 to 12 | identity | Chinese Americans; individuality; families; school |
| *The House Baba Built: An Artist Childhood in China* | Ed Young | 8 to 10 | war, family | Shanghai, China; Ed Young; artists; family life; multigenerational; memoir |
| *The Land of Forgotten Girls* | Erin Entrada Kelly | 8 to 12 | identity, family, friendship | Filipino Americans; immigrants; dysfunctional families; sisters; stepmothers |
| *The Librarian of Basra* | Jeanette Winter | 4 to 8 | identity, education | Alia Muhammad Baker; librarians; Iraq; destruction and pillage; Iraq War (2003 – 2011); biography |
| *The Name Jar* | Yangsook Choi | 6 to 8 | identity, immigrant experience, friendship | Korean Americans; schools; identity; assimilation |
| *The Paper Crane* | Molly Bang | 4 to 8 | folklore and fairytale | Japan; crane (birds); folktale |
| *The Rumor* | Anushka Ravishankar | 4 to 8 | folklore | Baddbaddpur; folktale, rumors; |
| *The Song of Mu Lan* | Jeane Lee | 6 and up | identity, folklore, poetry | Mulan Hua; poetry |
| *The Sweetest Mango* | Malavika Shetty | 4 to 8 | heritage, community | mango |
| *The Thing About Luck* | Cynthia Kadohata, Julia Kuo | 10 to 14 | family | Japanese Americans; farm life; grandparents; brothers and sisters; fortune; fate and fatalism |
| *The Ugly Vegetables* | Grace Lin | 6 to 8 | family, community | Chinese Americans; gardens; vegetables |
| *The Way Home Looks Now* | Wendy Wan-Long Shang | 8 to 12 | family, friendship | Chinese Americans; accident; bereavement; Little League baseball |
| *The Year of the Rat* | Grace Lin | 8 to 10 | discrimination, identity | Taiwanese Americans; Chinese New Year; schools; identity; families; individuality |
| *Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank* | Paula Yoo | 7 to 10 | biography | Muhammad Yunus; Grameen Bank; microfinance; bankers; Bangladesh; economists; biography |
| *Uncle Peter’s Amazing Chinese Wedding* | Lenore Look | 6 to 8 | family | Chinese Americans; weddings; nieces; rituals; family life |
| *Vanished* | Sheela Chari | 8 to 12 | mystery, fantasy | Musician; heirlooms; mystery; India |
| *We Are All Born Free* | Amnesty International | 6 and up | identity | United Nations; Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| *We Eat Rice* | Min Hong | 3 to 7 | heritage | Korean; eating; differences |
| *Whale Rider* | Witi Tame Ihimaera | 10 and up | identity, gender, family | New Zealand; Maori; human-animal relationships; family life; rulers |
| *When Marian Sang* | Pam Munoz | 4 to 10 | discrimination, identity, passion | Marian Anderson; contraltos; African American singers; biography |
| *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* | Grace Lin | 8 to 12 | fantasy, adventure | fairy tales; dragons; moon |
| *Yasmin's Hammer* | Ann Malaspina | 7 to 10 | poverty, resiliency | Bangladesh; child labor; education |