

# WING LUKE MUSEUM

Middle Grade Books

## Fall/Winter 2021

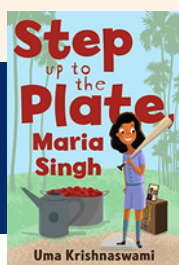
Resources for your future field trip!

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### ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Asian Americans have been a part of American History for hundreds of years. From early Chinese Americans searching for Gum Saan (gold mountain) in the midst of the California gold rush to the Filipino/a/x American labor organizers who helped welcome a new wave of worker's rights, Asian Americans have been pioneers in countless industries, movements, and communities. Here are a few stories you can share with your students to set the stage for the many different stories they might encounter in our tours and exhibits.

#### STEP UP TO THE PLATE MARIA SINGH BY 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 Mamá 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.

.ISBN: 9781600602610

#### PRAIRIE LOTUS BY LINDA SUE PARK



a powerful, touching, multilayered book about a girl 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. The book follows a young half-Asian girl, Hanna, in a small town in America's heartland, in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, which primarily means negotiating the townspeople's almost unanimous prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story. Narrated by Hanna, the novel has poignant moments yet sparkles with humor, introducing a captivating heroine whose wry, observant voice will resonate with readers.

ISBN: 9780358454632



#### KIRA KIRA BY CYNTHIA KADOHATA

This book beautifully weaves together the history of post-war resettlement for the Japanese American community with the universality of grief, love, and hope. Katie Takeshima must begin to reframe her own life and the world around her when her older sister Lynn, Katie's mentor and best friend, is diagnosed with lymphoma shortly after the family moves from a Japanese American community in Iowa to relative isolation in Georgia. With all of the changes in her life, Katie begins to realize why the older people in her life view the world the way they do. Kadohata provides emotional insight into a Japanese American family in a time that is often unexplored in middle grade fiction.

ISBN: 9780689856402



#### INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN BY THANHHA LAI

For all the ten years of her life, HÀ has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by . . . and the beauty of her very own papaya tree. 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. In America, HÀ discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food, the strange shape of its landscape . . . and the strength of her very own family.

ISBN: 9780061962790

#### LOOKING FOR MORE?

- **Digital Library of Japanese American Incarceration** includes a wide collection of resources that can be checked out and read digitally. Free Account Required. <https://archive.org/details/digital-library-of-japanese-american-incarceration>
- **Wing Luke Museum Bookshop** offers a digital bookstore that features an array of curated lists aimed at diverse audiences while supporting the museum. <https://bookshop.org/shop/winglukemuseum>
- Email [ehalladay@wingluke.org](mailto:ehalladay@wingluke.org) for resources that can best tie together your specific class content and our field trip experiences!

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### CONTEMPORARY VOICES, MODERN STORIES

The current-day Asian American experience is vast and diverse. From activism to the arts, Asian Americans can find themselves in all aspects of society, community, and culture today. Here are just a few stories that can help your students prepare to see our neighborhood both as it existed in history and how it exists today. These books can give your students a new understanding of what it means to be Asian in America today.

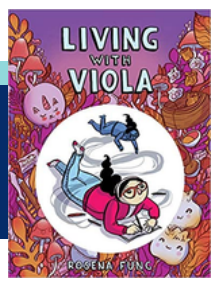
#### STARGAZING BY JEN WANG



At first appearances, Moon and Christine seem to be complete opposites, but when Moon becomes Christine's neighbor, the pair become fast friends. Moon even tells Christine her deepest secret: she has visions of celestial beings who comfort and reassure her that earth isn't really where she belongs. Moon's visions have an all-too-earthly root, however, and soon Christine's best friend is in the hospital, fighting for her life. Can Christine be the friend Moon needs, now, when the sky is falling?

ISBN: 978-1250183873

#### LIVING WITH VIOLA BY 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.

ISBN: 978-1773215495



#### RED, WHITE, AND WHOLE BY 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, although their names are linked—Reha means “star” and Punam means “moon”—but they are a universe apart. 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. She'll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving her Amma's life.

ISBN: 978-0063047426



#### BLACKBIRD FLY BY ERIN ENTRADA KELLY

Apple has always felt a little different from her classmates. She and her mother moved to Louisiana from the Philippines when she was little, and her mother still cooks Filipino foods and chastises Apple for becoming “too American.” When Apple's friends turn on her and everything about her life starts to seem weird and embarrassing, Apple turns to music. If she can just save enough to buy a guitar and learn to play, maybe she can change herself. It might be the music that saves her . . . or it might be her two new friends, who show her how special she really is.

ISBN: 978-0062238627

#### LOOKING FOR MORE?

- **Wing Luke Museum Bookshop** offers a digital bookstore that features an array of curated lists aimed at diverse audiences while supporting the museum. <https://bookshop.org/shop/winglukemuseum>
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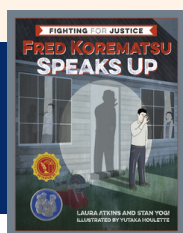
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### JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION

The Chinatown/International District was undeniably altered by the effects of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. From the displacement of the vibrant and sizable Japanese American community to the loss of historic spaces and businesses within Nihonmachi, or Japantown, Japanese American incarceration left our neighborhood forever changed. The books below are a small fraction of the resources that can help prepare your students to walk through our historic Japantown and develop nuanced and thoughtful conversations about Japanese American history.

#### FRED KOREMATSU STANDS UP

BY LAURA ATKINS, STAN YOGI

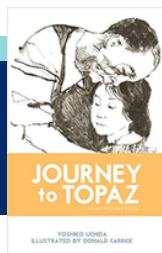


Fred Korematsu liked listening to music on the radio, playing tennis, and hanging around with his friends—just like lots of other Americans. But everything changed when the United States went to war with Japan in 1941 and the government forced all people of Japanese ancestry to leave their homes on the West Coast and move to distant prison camps. This included Fred, whose parents had immigrated to the United States from Japan many years before. But Fred refused to go. He knew that what the government was doing was unfair. And when he got put in jail for resisting, he knew he couldn't give up.

ISBN: 9781597143684

#### JOURNEY TO TOPAZ

BY YOSHIKO UCHIDA

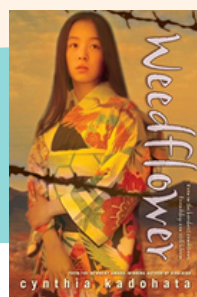


Based on Yoshiko Uchida's personal experiences, this is the moving story of one girl's struggle to remain brave during the Japanese incarceration of World War II. In a bleak and dusty prison camp, eleven-year-old Yuki and her family experience both true friendship and heart-wrenching tragedy. Journey to Topaz explores the consequences of prejudice and the capacities of the human spirit. First published in 1971, this book is now a much loved and widely read classic.

ISBN: 9781890771911

#### WEEDFLOWER

BY CYNTHIA KADOHATA



Twelve-year-old Sumiko was raised on a flower farm in California, and is used to being the only Japanese girl in her class. Even when the other kids tease her, she always has had her flowers and family to go home to. That all changes after the horrific events of Pearl Harbor. Other Americans start to suspect that all Japanese people are spies for the emperor, even if, like Sumiko, they were born in the United States! Soon after, Sumiko and her family find themselves being shipped to an incarceration camp in one of the hottest deserts in the United States. The vivid color of her previous life is gone forever, and now dust storms regularly choke the sky and seep into every crack of the military barrack that is her new "home." Sumiko soon discovers that the camp is on an Indian reservation and that the Japanese are as unwanted there as they'd been at home. But then she meets a young Mohave boy who shines a light on the struggles connecting Japanese American and Indigenous communities.

ISBN: 9781416926658

#### THEY CALLED US ENEMY

BY GEORGE TAKEI, JUSTIN EISINGER, STEVEN SCOTT, HARMONY BECKER



George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in Star Trek, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's—and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future. In a stunning graphic memoir, Takei revisits his haunting childhood in American concentration camps, as one of over 100,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned by the U.S. government 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.

ISBN: 9781603094740

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