Asian American Children's Books

Developed by Idali, Casiel Jackson and Ryan French October 2004

Levine, E. (1995)

A Fence Away from Freedom

Ages 5 and up

Putnam

In a series of interviews, Japanese-Americans who were children and teenagers during World War 11 describe life in the interment camps.

Sinnott, S. (1995)

Our Burden of Shame

Ages 9-11

Franklin Watts

An account of the internment of Japanese Americans during WW11.

Stanley, J. (1994)

I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment Grades 5-10

Crown Books for Young Readers

An account of a Japanese American family interned by the U.S. government during WW11.

Banim, L. (1995)

American Dreams

Ages 9-12

Silver Moon Press

Developments in World War 11 force Amy Mochida and her family to move from Hollywood to and internment camp with other Japanese Americans, changing Amy's friendship with eleven-year-old Jennie.

Salisbury, G. (1994)

Under the Blood-Red-Sun

Delacorte

Tomi, an eighth grader, has his world shattered after the bombing of Pear Harbor.

Savin, M. (1995)

The Moon Bridge

Ages 8-12

Ages 9 and up

Scholastic

The friendship between San Francisco girls Mitzi Fujimoto and Ruthie Fox is changed when World War 11 begins and Mitzi and her family are forced to go into an internment camp.

Tung, A. (1999)

Song of the Stranger Ages 8-12

Contemporary Publishing

Twelve-year-old Karen learns more about her grandmother and her heritage after spending the summer in Japan.

Bunting, E. (1998)

So Far From the Sea

Ages 7-10

Houghton Mifflin

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.

Say, A. (1998)

The Stranger in the Mirror

Ages 5-8

Houghton Mifflin

One morning 8-year-old Martin looks in the mirror and sees and stranger. Overnight, he has changed. His parents take him to one doctor after another, only to be told there is nothing wrong with their son. But Martin has grown old in the space of one day; his world will never be the same again.

Say, A. (1999)

Tea with Milk Ages 5-11

Houghton Mifflin

After growing up near San Francisco, a young Japanese woman returns with her parents.

Lauren, L. (1994)

Stella: On the Edge of Popularity

Ages 9-12

Polychrome Pub Corp

A Korean American adolescent deals with embarrassment over family's heritage.

Lensey, N. (1996)

Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family Ages 9-12

Yearling Books

Chinese American adolescent is determined to fit into American, even if it means disregarding his heritage.

Shaughnessy, D. (2003)

Let's talk about Racism Ages 4-8

Powerkids Press

Helps young children understand racism and the importance of tolerance.

Sanders, M. (1995)

What's your name Ages 4-8

Holiday House

"New" children's names in multicultural America come from Hindi, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Farsi, and other cultures.

Bunting, E. (1998)

So Far from the Sea Ages 4-8

Clarion Books

A girl visits her grandfather's grave in Manzanar and learns about WW 11 internment of Japanese Americans.

Buback, G. (1994)

Luka's Quilt Ages 4-8

Greenwillow

A grandmother and a young Hawaiian girl learn the importance of love and heritage through a quilt.

Nunes Miho, S. (1997)

The Last Dragon Ages 4-8

Houghton Mifflin Co

A young Chinese American boy learns about his cultural heritage in Chinatown.

Hazell, R. (1999)

Heroic Children Ages 4 and up

Barefoot Books

True stories of children who inspired future generations; includes the stories of Sadako Sasaki from Japan, Iqbal Masih from Pakistan, and Milarepa from Tibet.

Lin, G. (2001)

The Ugly Vegetables Ages 4-8

Charlesbridge Publishing

Young Chinese American girl feels ashamed that her mother plants "ugly" Chinese vegetables in their yard rather than flowers like other families in the neighborhood.

Meyer-Allan, K. (1995)

I Have a New Friend Ages 4-8

Barrons Juveniles

Saki, an Asian American girl, and Lisa share each others native customs, foods and clothes.

Carlson, L. (1995)

American Eyes Young Adult

Fawcett Books

Ten short stories explore the nature of home as experienced by young Americans whose ancestral roots lie in several different Asian Countries.

Namioka, L. (1996)

Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family Ages 9-12

Yearling Books

Yingmei Yang, a Chinese American have difficult time being accepted in school.

Salisbury, G. (1995)

Under the Blood Red Sun

Ages 9-12

Yearling Books

For Tomi, a Japanese American, life changes after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Choi-Nyul, Y. (1997)

Yunmi and Halmoni's Trip Ages 4-8

Houghton Mifflin Company

Yumni's grandmother returns to Korea for a visit and takes Yumni along to meet her Korean relatives.

Garland, S. (1998)

My Father's Boat Ages 4-8

Scholastic

A Vietnamese-American boy spends a day fishing with his father on their shrimp boat.

Havill, J. (1993)

Jamaica and Brianna Ages 4-8

Houghton Mifflin Co

Jamaica hates wearing hand-me-down boots when her friend Brianna has fuzzy pink ones.

Lee-Voun, H. (1995)

In the Snow Ages 4-8

Henry Holt & Company, Inc

A boy and his mother practice writing Chinese character in the snow.

Levine, E. (1995)

I Hate English Ages 4-8

Cartwheel Books

When her family moves to New York from Hong Kong, Mei Mei doesn't want to speak English.

Pak, S. (2001)

Dear Juno Ages 4-8

Puffin

Juno, a Korean-American boy, creatively figures out the meaning of his grandmother's letter to him.

Pomeranc- Hess, M. (1998)

The American Wei Ages 4-8

Albert Whitman & Co

Wei Fong loses his first tooth while going to his family's naturalization ceremony.

Wells, R. (1998)

Yoko Ages 4-8

Hyperion Press

Yoko's sushi for lunch brings laughter, then delight, as one of her classmates tries it.

Wells, R. (2001)

Yoko's Paper Cranes Ages 4-8

Hyperion Press

Yoko makes origami cranes, just like her grandmother taught her, to send to her beloved grandmother in Japan.

Shannon, B. (1999)

Sand Castle Ages 4-8

Greenwillow

As Jen builds a sand castle, others join in to help.

Holloway, M. (1999)

Mei-Mei Loves the Morning Ages 4-8

Albert Whitman & Co

A young Chinese girl enjoys a morning ride with her grandfather.

Ashley, B. (1995)

Cleversticks Ages 4-8

Dragonfly

Ling Sung happily teaches his classmates how to use chopsticks.

Bloom, S. (2001)

The Bus for Us Ages 4-8

Boyds Mills Press

Tess pesters her older brother with the same question over and over again while waiting for the school bus.