

Own Voices: Asian and Pacific Islander Creators

Fiction

Alkaf, Hanna. *The Girl and the Ghost*. A Malaysian folk tale in which a lonely girl, Suraya, inherits a pelesit from her grandmother. This ghostly demon proves to be a good companion, bringing both danger and hope.

Aung Thin, Michelle. *Crossing the Farak River*. For Hasina and her younger brother Araf, the constant threat of Sit Tat, the Myanmar Army, is a way of life. As Rohingyas, they know that when they hear the helicopters there is one thing to do—run, and don't stop. So when soldiers invade their village one night, they do.

Barakiva, Michael. *One Man Guy* (TWEEN). When Alek's high-achieving Armenian-American parents send him to summer school, he thinks his summer is ruined. But then he meets Ethan, who opens his world in a series of truly unexpected ways.

Bilan, Jasbinder. *Asha and the Spirit Bird*. Asha lives in the foothills of the Himalayas, missing her papa, who works in the city. When he suddenly stops sending his wages, Asha and her best friend cross the world's highest mountains to find him, facing hunger, exhaustion, even snow leopards.

Brown, Waka Takahashi. *While I Was Away*. When twelve-year-old Waka's parents suspect she can't understand the basic Japanese they speak to her, they make the drastic decision to send her to Tokyo to live for several months with her strict grandmother.

Burkinshaw, Kathleen. *The Last Cherry Blossom*. Twelve-year-old Yuriko handles the everyday troubles of living, as well as the events leading up to the bombing of Hiroshima.

Cao Wenxuan. *Bronze and Sunflower*. Taken in by a poor family in a rural village after the death of her father, Sunflower bonds with the family's only child, Bronze, who has not spoken since being traumatized by a terrible fire.

Chadda, Sarwat. *City of the Plague God*. Thirteen-year-old Sikander Aziz has to team up with the hero Gilgamesh in order to stop Nergal, the ancient god of plagues, from wiping out the population of Manhattan in this adventure based on Mesopotamian mythology. Also by Sarwat Chadda: *Ash Mistry* series.

Chang, Victoria. *Love, Love*. Frances Chin, a 10-year old Chinese-American girl, struggles with bullies and loneliness at school, while also trying to help her mysteriously sick older sister and busy parents.

Chapman, Elsie. *All the Ways Home*. After his mother's death, Kaede develops some behavior problems and is sent to Japan to spend time with his estranged father and an older half brother.

Cheng, Jack. *See You in the Cosmos*. Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip.

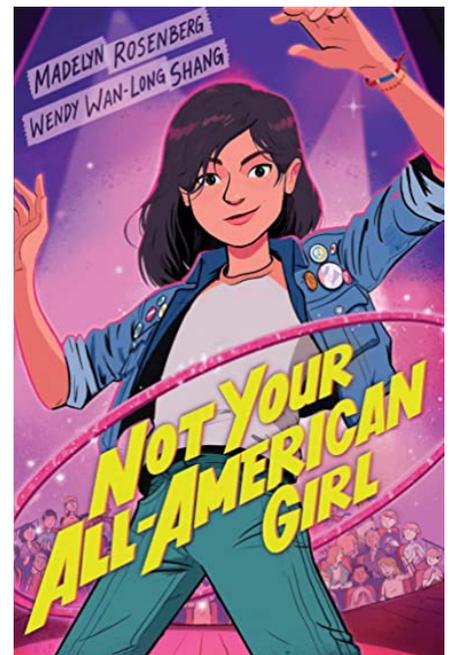
Chokshi, Roshani. *Aru Shah and the End of Time* (series). Telling fibs in order to fit in better with her wealthier peers, 12-year old Aru Shah spends her school break at the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture, where her decision to light a cursed lamp unwittingly releases an ancient demon.

Cruz, Marie Miranda. *Everlasting Nora*. After surviving a fire in which her father dies, Nora and her mother live in a cemetery, but when her mother disappears and a loan shark steals her savings, Nora finds support from her cemetery neighbors to earn some money and search for her mother.

DasGupta, Sayantani. *The Serpent's Secret* (series). Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an ordinary sixth-grader, but then her parents disappear and a drooling rakkhosh demon shows up in her kitchen, and soon she is swept into another dimension, full of magic, winged horses, talking birds, and cute princes.

Dilloway, Margaret. *Five Things About Ava Andrews*. Ava bubbles with ideas and plans, but only on the inside. On the outside, everyone except her best friend, Zelia, thinks she doesn't talk or, worse, is stuck-up. What nobody knows is that Ava has invisible disabilities: anxiety and a heart condition. Also by Margaret Dilloway: *Momotaro Xander and the Lost Island of Monsters* (series); and *Summer of a Thousand Pies*.

Dumas, Firoozeh. *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel*. Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s.



Everyman, Cookie Hiponia. *We Belong*. Stella and Luna know that their mama, Elsie, came from the Philippines when she was a child, but they don't know much else. So one night they ask her to tell them her story and their mama spins two tales—that of her youth as a strong-willed middle child and immigrant, and that of the young life of Mayari, the mythical daughter of a god.

Faruqi, Saadia. *A Thousand Questions*. Told in two voices, eleven-year-olds Mimi, visiting her wealthy grandparents in Karachi, Pakistan, for the first time, and Sakina, daughter of the grandparents' cook, form an unexpected friendship. Also by Saadia Faruqi: *A Place at the Table*.

Flint, Shamini. *Ten: A Soccer Story*. In 1986 Malaysia, eleven year old soccer fan Maya trains herself and pulls together a team at her girls' school, despite soccer being a "boys' game."

Florence, Debbi Michiko. *Keep it Together, Keiko Carter*. Keiko, Audrey, and Jenna have always been best friends. Keiko desperately wants it to stay that way, but now they are starting seventh grade and everything seems to be changing.

Gourlay, Candy. *Bone Talk*. Samkad lives deep in the Philippine jungle, and has never encountered anyone from outside his own tribe before. His world is utterly changed when he discovers the brother he never knew he had and learns of the people who are bringing war and destruction to their home.

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Fiction cont.

Hashimi, Nadia. *The Sky at Our Feet*. Jason has just learned that his Afghan mother has been living illegally in the United States since his father was killed in Afghanistan. Although Jason was born in the US, it's hard to feel American now when he's terrified that his mother will be discovered—and that they will be separated. Also by Nadia Hashimi: *One Half from the East*.

Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*. Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary. Also by Veera Hiranandani: *The Whole Story of Half a Girl*, and *Phoebe G Green* (Early Chapter series).

Kadariusman, Michelle. *Music for Tigers*. Middle-schooler Louisa wants to spend the summer practicing violin, but is instead sent to the rainforest camp of her Australian relatives. There she learns that her family secretly protects the last of the supposedly extinct Tasmanian tigers. Also by Michelle Kadariusman: *Girl of the Southern Sea*.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Saucy*. When eleven-year-old Becca, a quadruplet, finds a sick piglet on the side of the road, her life is changed forever. Also by Cynthia Kadohata: *Checked; Half a World Away; A Place to Belong*; and *The Thing About Luck*.

Kelkar, Supriya. *Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame*. In 1857 India, 12-year-old Meera escapes a life beyond her control, only to end up a servant to a British general in the East India Company. When a rebellion spreads, she must choose between relative safety in a British household or standing up for herself and her people. Also by Supriya Kelkar: *Ahimsa*, and *American as Paneer Pie*.

Keller, Tae. *When You Trap a Tiger*. When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni. Also by Tae Keller: *The Science of Breakable Things*.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *We Dream of Space*. Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties. Also by Erin Entrada Kelly: *Blackbird Fly; Hello, Universe; Lalani of the Distant Sea; The Land of Forgotten Girls*; and *You Go First*.

Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice* (series). A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after a community tragedy. Also by Hena Khan: *Zayd Saleem: Power Forward* (series).

Kim, Jessica. *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part.

Kim, Patti. *It's Girls Like You, Mickey*. Mickey faces a lot of challenges when starting seventh grade, but an instant connection with new student Sun Joo improves her outlook until Sydney, popular and mean, decides to make Sun Joo her friend. Also by Patti Kim: *I'm Ok*.

Krishnaswami, Uma. *Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh*. In 1945, Maria Singh just wants to play softball (and wear shorts while doing it) but her Mexican Mamá and old-fashioned Punjabi Papi don't believe that girls should play ball. Also by Uma Krishnaswami: *Book Uncle and Me*.

Lai, Thanhha. *Listen, Slowly*. American-born Mai is looking forward to summer vacation at California's beaches. Instead, she must travel to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is returning to find out what happened to her husband. Also by Thanhha Lai: *Inside Out and Back Again*.

LaRocca, Rajani. *Red, White, and Whole*. Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. When Reha finds out that her Amma is sick, she becomes determined to be the perfect daughter and save her mother's life. Also by Rajani LaRocca: *Midsummer's Mayhem*.

Lee, Julie. *Brother's Keeper*. Twelve-year-old Sora and her eight-year-old brother, Youngsoo, must try to escape North Korea's oppressive Communist regime on their own in 1950.

Lee, Stacey. *Outrun the Moon* (TWEEN). 15-year-old Mercy Wong, who strives to escape from her disadvantaged life through education, endures hardships when the 1906 San Francisco earthquake destroys her home and school.

Lin, Grace. *Before the Sword*. When her sister is bitten by a poisonous spider, Mulan travels with a healer to find a flower from which the antidote can be made to save her sister's life. Also by Grace Lin: *The Year of the Dog* (series); and *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (series).

Menon, Sandhya. *From Twinkle, With Love* (TWEEN). Aspiring filmmaker and wallflower Twinkle Mehra learns a lesson about love while directing a movie for the arts festival, in which her longtime crush and his twin brother are also participating.

Nagai, Mariko. *Under the Broken Sky*. When Soviet troops invade Japanese-occupied Manchuria during the last days of World War II, twelve-year-old Natsu Kimura must care for her younger sister as they struggle to survive and return to Japan.

Nayeri, Daniel. *Everything Sad is Untrue: (A True Story)*. At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls "Daniel") stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says, but Khosrou's stories, stretching back years, and decades, and centuries, are beautiful, and terrifying.

Oh, Axie. *Rebel Seoul* (TWEEN series). In 2199 in the Neo State of Korea, eighteen-year-old Jaewon is partnered with supersoldier Tera, but their evolving love is threatened when Jaewon must choose among conflicting loyalties—to the totalitarian government that promises to end all war, the nationalist rebels his father followed, or the crime syndicate staging a coup.

Pancholy, Maulik. *The Best at It*. Twelve-year-old Rahul Kapoor, an Indian-American boy growing up in small-town Indiana, struggles to come to terms with his identity, including that he may be gay.

Park, Linda Sue. *The One Thing You'd Save*. If your house were on fire, what one thing would you save? Explore different answers to this provocative question in linked poems that capture the diverse voices of a middle school class. Also by Linda Sue Park: *Prairie Lotus*.

Perkins, Mitali. *Tiger Boy*. A tiger cub has escaped from a reserve in West Bengal, India, and Neel is determined to find her in order to save her from being captured and sold on the black market. Also by Mitali Perkins: *Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Two Cultures by Ten Voices*.

Respicio, Mae. *Any Day with You*. During the summer before seventh grade, Kaia makes a film with her friends to win a contest and, hopefully, prevent her beloved great-grandfather from moving back to the Philippines. Also by Mae Respicio: *The House that Lou Built*.

Riazzi, Karuna. *The Gauntlet* (series). Twelve-year-old Farah and her two best friends are sucked into a mechanical board game and forced to defeat its diabolical architect in order to free themselves.

Rosenberg, Madelyn and Wendy Wan-Long Shang. *Not Your All-American Girl*. Best friends Lauren and Tara both try out for their middle school musical play. Tara gets the lead role, as usual, because in the teacher's mind Lauren, half-Jewish and half-Chinese, does not fit the image of "all-American girl." Also by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang: *This is Just a Test*.

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Saeed, Aisha. *Amal Unbound*. Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher is dashed when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment, she is forced to work at their estate, where she becomes aware of the deadly measures they use to stay in control. Also by Aisha Saeed: *Far From Agrabah*; and *Diana and the Island of No Return*.

Shang, Wendy Wan-Long. *The Way Home Looks Now*. In 1972, after his older brother is killed in a car crash, Peter's family is upended by grief. Peter hopes that if he joins a Little League team, he can reawaken the passion for baseball that all the members of his family used to share and bring them back to life. Also by Wendy Wan-Long Shang: *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*.

Soontornvat, Christina. *A Wish in the Dark*. A boy on the run from prison versus a girl determined to find him. Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, this twist on Les Misérables is a dazzling, fast-paced adventure that explores the difference between law and justice. Also by Christina Soontornvat: *The Changelings*.

Soundar, Chitra. *Mangoes, Mischief, and Tales of Friendship: Stories from India*. Can Prince Veera and his best friend, Suku, outsmart the king's trickiest subjects? Being a wise and just ruler is no easy task.

Tan, Susan. *Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire* (series). A biracial young writer begins penning her memoirs in the hope that her family will not forget about her when the baby arrives.

Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home*. Runaway sisters Viji and Rukku find shelter—and friendship—on an abandoned bridge, forming a family of sorts with two homeless boys. But when illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile, hard-fought freedom. Also by Padma Venkatraman: *A Time to Dance*.

Villanueva, Gail D. *My Fate According to the Butterfly*. In one week Sabrina will be eleven-years-old and she would really like to get her estranged parents and her older sister Nadine together for the celebration... especially since the black butterfly landing on her locket has convinced her that she is going to die.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk* (series). English is not Mia Tang's first language, but she wants to be a writer. That's not her only secret either—her family lives and works in a motel where they are hiding other immigrant families like theirs in the empty rooms under the nose of the mean motel owner.

Yeh, Kat. *The Way to Bea*. Recently estranged from her best friend and weeks away from shifting from only child to big sister, seventh grader Beatrix Lee consoles herself by writing haiku in invisible ink and hiding the poems, but one day she finds a reply.

Yun, Erin. *Pippa Park Raises Her Game*. Life is full of great expectations for Pippa Park. It seems like everyone, from her family to the other kids at school, has a plan for how her life should look. So when Pippa gets a mysterious basketball scholarship to Lakeview Private, she jumps at the chance to reinvent herself by following the "Rules of Cool."

Zhang, Kat. *The Memory of Forgotten Things*. Twelve-year-old Sophia has never told anyone about her unusual memories—snapshots of a past that never happened. She becomes convinced that the upcoming solar eclipse will grant her the opportunity to make her alternate life come true, to enter a world where her mother never died. Also by Kath Zhang: *The Emperor's Riddle*.

Graphic Novels

Chanani, Nidhi. *Pashmina*. When Priyanka finds a mysterious pashmina in her house, she is transported to an India which may or may not be real, and looks for answers about her family.

Guojing. *The Only Child*. A lost little girl follows a mysterious stag deep into the woods and journeys through a strange and wondrous world while trying to find her way back home.

Ha, Gene. *Mae* (series). Abbie discovered a portal to a fantasy world as a child. Now she has returned home a hero, but her tales are too hard for her sister Mae to believe—until the monsters start to cross over to our world.

Inzer, Christine Mari. *Diary of a Tokyo Teen: A Japanese-American Girl Travels to the Land of Trendy Fashion, High-Tech Toilets and Maid Cafes*. Just before her 16th birthday, Christine spends the summer in Japan with her grandparents, journaling all the sights, sounds and amazing characters she meets.

Johnson, R. Kikuo. *The Shark King*. The Hawaiian story of Nanaue, born of human mother and shark father, who struggles to find his place in a village of humans.

Jun, Nie. *My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder*. Four short stories set in a hutong, or residential alleyway, of Beijing, China. Yu'er, her grandfather, and their eccentric neighbors experience the magic of everyday life.

Kim, Julie J. *Where's Halmoni?* Searching for their missing grandmother, two Korean children follow tracks into a fantastic world of folklore.

Kim, Patti. *Here I Am* (Graphic Novels 308.4 KIM). The story of a family newly immigrated to the United States and the challenges of starting a life in a new place

LaMotte, Lily. *Measuring Up*. Having just moved to Seattle from Taiwan, twelve-year-old Cici enters a cooking competition to win money for her grandmother to visit, but she only knows how to cook Taiwanese food.

Na, Liu. *Little White Duck: A Childhood in China*. A young girl describes her experiences growing up in China, beginning with the death of Chairman Mao in 1976.

Takei, George. *They Called Us Enemy* (TEEN). A graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II.

Tamamo the Fox Maiden and Other Asian Stories: Cautionary Fables & Fairytales (Graphic Novels 398.2 TAM). A collection of Asian folktales retold as comics include vengeful spirits, flying ogres, and trickster tigers from Japan, China, Tibet, India, Indonesia and beyond.

Wang, Jen. *Stargazing*. Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

Xu, Yu. *Newsprints* (series). Blue is an orphan who disguises herself as a newsboy. There's a war going on, and girls are expected to help the struggling economy by selling cookies. But Blue loves living and working at the Bugle, the only paper in town that tells the truth.

Yang, Gene Luen. *Secret Coders* (series). Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is just crawling with mysteries to be solved! Using their wits and their growing prowess with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are determined to figure it all out. Also by Gene Luen Yang: *American Born Chinese*; *Boxers and Saints*; and *The Shadow Hero*.

Yee, Reimena. *Séance Tea Party*. After watching her circle of friends seemingly fade away, Lora is determined to still have fun on her own, so when a tea party leads Lora to discovering Alexa, the ghost that haunts her house, they soon become best friends.