



2025-2026 NCTA PRE-APPROVED MINI-GRANT SETS

The “Pre-Approved Mini-Grant Set” is one of the options you may choose for your Mini-Grant. This option allows you to select one grade-level appropriate “Pre-approved” set of items that Pitt NCTA has already identified as being useful for educators. For more about this option (or if you would like to customize your own list of materials for your Mini-Grant), please read the NCTA Mini-Grant Information Sheet available at: <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/ncta/minigrants.html>

Here is a listing of the materials contained in each of the grade-appropriates “Pre-Approved” sets:

SET A: FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections are being written to assist you in teaching the Freeman Award books. Check for updates at: <http://nctasia.org>

Book/Korea: *Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea* by Sungju Lee (2017 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$7.99 in paperback]

Publisher: Amulet Paperbacks; Reprint edition

Date: 2017

ISBN-10: 1419727613

[Curriculum Connections and Culture Notes available at:

<https://www.nctasia.org/award/every-falling-star/>]

Book/Korea: *Banned Book Club* by Kim Hyun Sook and Ryan Estrada (2020 Freeman Book Award of Note) [\$11.59 paperback]

Publisher: Iron Circus Comics

Date: 2020

ISBN-10: 194582042X

[Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections available at:

<https://www.nctasia.org/award/banned-book-club/>]

Book/Taiwan: *The Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X.R. Pan (2018 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$6.99 paperback]

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Date: 2019 (paperback)

ISBN-10: 0316464015

[Curriculum Connections and Culture Notes available at:
<https://www.nctasia.org/award/the-astonishing-color-of-after/>]

Book/China: *When China Ruled the Seas: the Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433* by Louise Levathes [\$15.66 paperback]
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Date: 1997 (paperback; revised edition)
ISBN-10: 0195112075

Graphic Novel/China: *Tiananmen 1989: Our Shattered Hopes* (2020 Freeman Book Award Honorable Mention) [\$17.25 hard cover]
Publisher: IDW Publishing (June 16, 2020)
Date: 2020
ISBN-10: 1684056993

Book/Japan: *GO: A Coming of Age Novel* by Kazuki Kaneshiro (2018 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$9.17 paperback]
Publisher: Amazon Crossing
Date: 2018
ISBN-10: 1542046181
[Resources for use with this book located on our website:
<https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/ncta/teaching-go-book-discussion-and-workshop-resources>]
[Curriculum Connections and Culture Notes available at:
<https://www.nctasia.org/award/go-a-coming-of-age-novel/>]

Documentary/Japan: *Day of the Western Sunrise* by Daliboka Films and Pittsburgh director Keith Remink. Comes with Toolkit written by NCTA alums. [\$40.00]
<http://daliborkafilms.com>

SET B: FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL

Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections are being written to assist you in teaching the Freeman Award books. Check for updates at: <http://nctasia.org>

Book/Japan: *The Night Parade* by Kathryn Tanquary (2017 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$9.50 paperback]
Publisher: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, reprint edition
Date: 2017
ISBN-10: 149262327X

Book/Japan: *Beyond Me* by Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu (2020 Honorable Mention Freeman Book Award) [\$8.99 paperback]
Publisher: Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books; Reprint edition
Date: 2021

ISBN-10: 1481437909

[Curriculum Connections available at: <https://www.nctasia.org/award/beyond-me/>]

Book/Japan: *How Do You Live?* By Genzaburō Yoshino (2021 Of Note, Middle School Literature) [\$7.73 paperback]

Publisher: Algonquin Young Readers

Date: 2023 edition

ISBD-10: 164375307X

Book/China: *Bronze and Sunflower* by Cao Wenxuan (2017 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$9.99 paperback]

Publisher: Candlewick Press

Date: 2019 reprint edition

ISBN-10 : 1536206377

[Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections available at: <https://www.nctasia.org/award/bronze-and-sunflower/>]

Book/China: *The Emperor's Riddle* by Kat Zhang (2017 Freeman Book Award of Note) [\$7.81 paperback]

Publisher: Simon & Schuster, Aladdin reprint edition

Date: 2018

ISBN-10: 148147863X

[Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections available at: <https://www.nctasia.org/award/the-emperors-riddle/>]

Book/China: *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-li Jiang [\$6.99 paperback]

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint Edition (January 30, 2018)

Date: 2018 edition

ISBN-10: 9780064462082

Book/Korea: *When My Name was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park [\$7.69 paperback]

Publisher: Clarion Books; Reprint edition

Date: 2012

ISBN-10: 0547722397

Book/Korea: *Brother's Keeper* by Julie Lee (2020 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$8.99 paperback]

Publisher: Holiday House

Date: 2022 edition

ISBN-10: 0823444201

[Curriculum Connections available at: <https://www.nctasia.org/award/brothers-keeper/>]

Book/Korea: *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park [\$12.68 paperback]

Publisher: Rock the Boat
Date: 2022 edition
ISBN-10: 0861541863

Graphic Novel/Vietnam: *Saving H'non: Chang and the Elephant* (2023 Honorable Mention, Graphic Novels) [\$11.51]
Publisher: Dial Books
Date: 2023
ISBN-10: 0593406729

SET C: FOR ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections are being written to assist you in teaching the Freeman Award books. Check for updates at: <http://nctasia.org>

Book/Japan: *Mai and the Missing Melon* by Sonoko Sakai; illustrated by Keiko Brodeur (2023 Freeman Book Award book "Of Note") [\$18.95 hardcover]
Publisher: Bala Kids
Date: 2023
ISBN-10 : 1645471241
[NCTA Webinar with the author available at:
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/1446240863727086852>]

Book/Japan: *Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando* by Andrea Wang; illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz (2019 Freeman Book Award Honorable Mention [\$15.30 hardcover]
Publisher: little bee books
Date: 2019
ISBN-10 : 1499807031
[Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections available at:
<https://www.nctasia.org/award/magic-ramen-the-story-of-momofuku-ando/>]

Book/China: *Alone Like Me* by Rebecca Evans (2022 Freeman Book Award Honorable Mention) [\$17.99 hardcover]
Publisher: Anne Schwartz Books
Date: 2022
ISBN-10 : 0593181921
[Curriculum Connection Notes available at: <https://www.nctasia.org/award/alone-like-me/>]

Book/China: *Eighteen Vats of Water* (2022 Freeman Book Award Winner, Children's Literature) [\$14.99 hardcover]
Publisher: Creston Books
Date: 2022

ISBN-10: 1954354061

Culture Notes and Curriculum Connections available at:

<https://www.nctasia.org/award/eighteen-vats-of-water/>

Book/Vietnam: *My Grandfather's Song* by Phùng Nguyễn Quang and Huỳnh Kim Liên (2023 Freeman Book Award Winner: Children's Literature) [\$10.49 hardcover]

Publisher: Make Me a World

Date: 2023

ISBN-10: 059348861X

Book/Korea: *The Turtle Ship* by Helena Ku Rhee (2018 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$14.50 or \$18.95]

Publisher: Lee & Low Books; Standard Edition

Date: 2018

ISBN-10: 1885008902

[Culture Notes available at: <https://www.nctasia.org/award/the-turtle-ship/>]

Book/Korea: *The House Before Falling Into the Sea* by Ann Suk Wang, illustrated by Hanna Cha (2024 Freeman Book Award Winner) [\$10.14 hardcover]

Publisher: Dial Books for Young Readers

Date: 2024

ISBN-10: 0593530152

[Curriculum Connections available at: <https://www.nctasia.org/award/the-house-before-falling-into-the-sea/>]