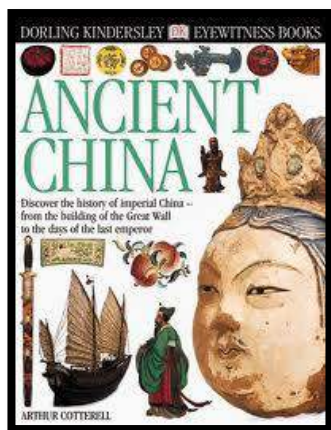


# Selected Books on East Asia for Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The following list of books contains recommendations compiled by professional children's librarians, library journals, and Asia educators for books that cover Asian folktales, culture, art, language, music, crafts, and various other themes. Books are listed according to title, with full information provided on content, level, region of interest, etc. These books provide an excellent introduction to students at the PreK to 5<sup>th</sup> grade level to a number of topics of interest, and include both fiction and nonfiction and a wide variety of styles and reading levels. Many books are also marked for their quality in being used for reading aloud. *Compiled by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Children's Department and the Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh.*

\* Please note that any title beginning with an article such as "a", "an", or "the" will be alphabetized by the first letter of the next word. ISBN numbers given are generally ISBN-13 codes for standard hardcover or paperback editions. Books which are out of print may often be obtained at public libraries or via used bookstore networks such as <http://www.abebooks.com>.



## **Ancient China (DK Eyewitness Books)**

Arthur Cotterell (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0756613822

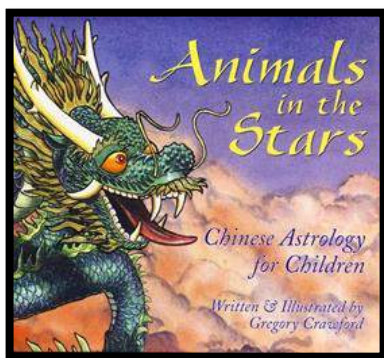
**Audience:** Grade 4 and up

**Keywords:** photography, history, art, culture

**Region:** China

### **From School Library Journal:**

Done in typical "Eyewitness" format, this volume touches upon such topics as Chinese history, the first emperor, inventions, health and medicine, waterways, food and drink, clothing, the Silk Road, and arts and crafts. Material from as recent as the last dynasty, which ended in 1911, is included; because all of the information is presented in double-page spreads, some cover extremely wide time frames. A few warnings: reproductions of Chinese paintings and prints, while in full color, are sometimes so small as to be virtually useless. Confucianism is incorrectly called a religion; likewise the Great Wall is attributed to the first emperor rather than to Ming times. Given these limitations, the book will nonetheless be popular for browsing. *Diane S. Marton, Arlington County Library, VA*



## **Animals in the Stars: Chinese Astrology for Children**

Gregory Crawford (Author and Illustrator)

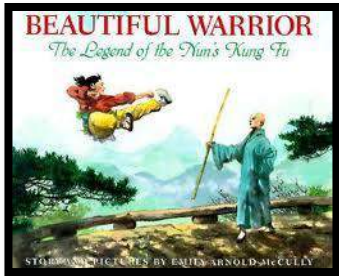
**ISBN:** 978-1591430001

**Audience:** Grade 3-6

**Keywords:** picture book, astrology, zodiac, animals, culture, holidays

**Region:** China

Offers a brief overview of Chinese astrology and the history of the Chinese zodiac. The human personality traits of the 12 animals – both good and bad – are described in detail along with explanations of the significance of being born in the "year of" that particular animal. Each animal description is also accompanied by a traditional Chinese folktale further personifying the unique qualities and characteristics of that animal. *Amazon.com*



**Beautiful Warrior: The Legend of the Nun's Kung Fu**  
Emily Arnold McCully (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0590374873

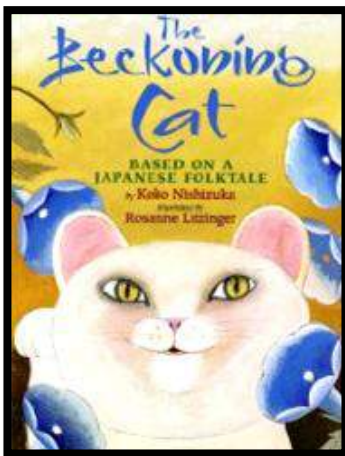
**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** China

#### From School Library Journal

The story of two legendary female kung fu masters who may have lived in the last part of the 17th century. The first, Wu Mei, born to an aristocratic family, was educated like a boy and excelled at martial arts. Made homeless by the overthrow of the last Ming emperor (1644), the young woman finds her way to the Shaolin Monastery, made famous in television and movies. She convinces the monks to continue her training and becomes a nun and renowned teacher of kung fu. As she studies, Mingyi develops into a calm, sturdy young woman who gains her freedom. McCully steeped herself in Chinese painting, but develops her own fresh interpretation of classic Chinese art. She alternates a format of using succeeding frames with double-page spreads that evoke the sweep of Chinese scroll paintings. *Margaret A. Chang, North Adams State College, MA*



**The Beckoning Cat: Based on a Japanese Folktale**  
Koko Nishizuka (Author), Roseanne Litzinger (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0823420513

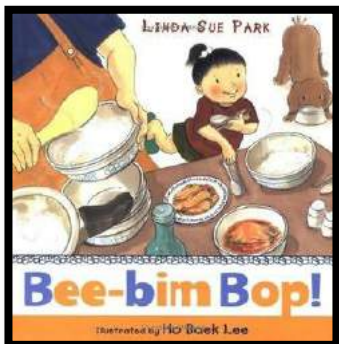
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale, animals, culture

**Region:** Japan

#### From Booklist

This charming retelling of a Japanese folktale explains the good-luck symbolism behind the waving white cat, whom kids may recognize in the ubiquitous white statues that sit with paws raised on business counters. Young Yohei, a poor, hardworking door-to-door fish monger, finds his life transformed after a muddy white cat comes begging. Yohei shares his meager dinner with the feline visitor, and the next day he is astonished when customers begin to come straight to him. The reason, he soon discovers, is the grateful white cat, who lures people to Yohei's door with his beckoning paw and stays on to help Yohei create a prosperous fish business. In her children's book debut, Nishizuka writes in captivating, simple, easily paced language that is well suited for storytime, as are Litzinger's watercolor, pencil, and gouache pictures. *Gillian Engberg*



**Bee-bim Bop!**  
Linda Sue Park (Author), Ho Baek Lee (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0547076713

**Audience:** Preschool to Grade 2

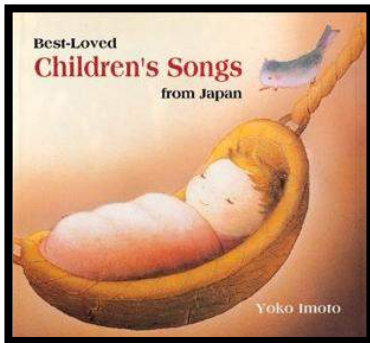
**Keywords:** picture book, food, project

**Region:** Korea

#### From School Library Journal

In the tradition of Grace Lin's *Dim Sum for Everyone!* and *The Ugly Vegetables*, Park introduces preschoolers to the culinary culture of Korea. Playful, cartoonlike drawings portray a round-faced girl helping her mother shop and prepare a delicious meal in the kitchen. The illustrations,

set against a white background, are very appealing. Each spread presents a detailed and busy kitchen scene enhancing the rhyming text. The verses contain many of the preparation steps and ingredients and some readers may have difficulty keeping the rhythm, but with a bit of practice, the rhyme works well. A recipe follows the story and in the author's note, Park explains that bee-bim bop means mix-mix rice. A fine addition to any collection, this book is a terrific way to introduce Korean culture to young children.—*Be Astengo, Alachua County Library, Gainesville, FL*



### **Best-Loved Children's Songs from Japan**

Yoko Imoto (Author), Monique Leahey Sugimoto (Editor), Dianne Ooka (Translator)

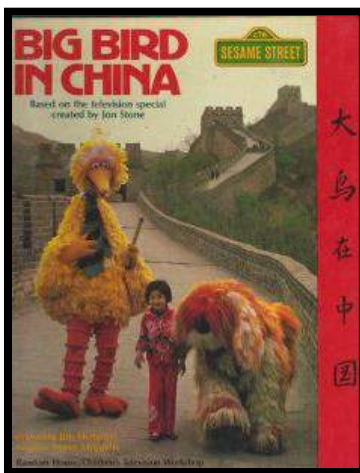
**ISBN:** 978-0893468378

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

**Keywords:** music

**Region:** Japan

This handsomely illustrated collection includes bilingual text and complete musical notation for 15 popular children's songs introduced in Japan between 1919 and 1949. Of special interest to parents, teachers, and librarians. "This book was wonderful. It included the Japanese as well as English lyrics. Many children's books neglect to include notation of the music, but this one does not. I had my K-4 children singing Japanese in no time at all!" *Jamie Long, Elementary Music Teacher (Hackettstown, N.J.)*



### **Big Bird in China**

Sesame Street

**ISBN:** 978-0394856452

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

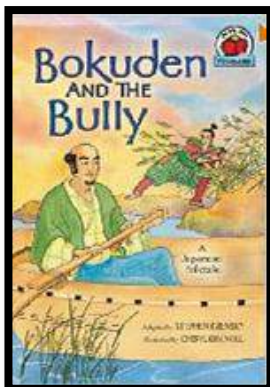
**Keywords:** photography, history, art, culture

**Region:** China

#### **From Muppet Wikia**

***Big Bird in China*** is a 64-page hardcover book that tells the story of the 1983 special *Big Bird in China*. The book is illustrated with screenshots and promotional photos from the special.

In the story, Big Bird and Barkley travel to China to learn more about the phoenix, a beautiful Chinese bird that captures Big Bird's imagination. To find the phoenix, they follow the clues on an ancient scroll. The American pair soon gets lost in the new country, but they're rescued by Xiao Foo, a young girl who helps them follow the clues. Along the way, the group is guided by the Monkey King, a character from Chinese folklore.



### **Bokuden and the Bully: A Japanese Folktale**

Stephen Krensky (Author), Cheryl Kirk Noll (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1580138475

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

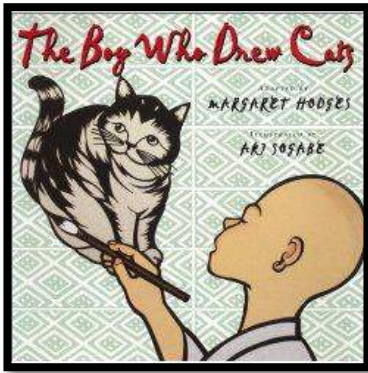
**Keywords:** folktale, history

**Region:** Japan

Bokuden was a great swordsman who liked to travel. One day, while riding a ferry, a bully started bothering the other passengers. He took the best spot on the boat and waved his sword around. Bokuden was not impressed. The bully challenged him to a fight. Bokuden agreed but said he would not need to use his sword to win. Can Bokuden live up to his amazing claim? Tsukahara Bokuden was a real historical figure (1489-1571) who learned his skills by traveling throughout Japan and training with most of the skillful swordsmen of the day. In one anecdote, Bokuden was challenged by a mannerless ruffian. When asked about his style, Bokuden replied that he studied the "Style of No Sword". The ruffian laughed and insultingly challenged Bokuden to fight him without a sword. They agreed to fight on a nearby island, but when the ruffian



jumped from the boat to the shore of the island, drawing his blade, Bokuden pushed the boat back out, leaving the ruffian stranded on the island. Bokuden explained: "This is my no-sword school".



### **The Boy Who Drew Cats**

Margaret Hodges (Author), Aki Sogabe (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0823415946

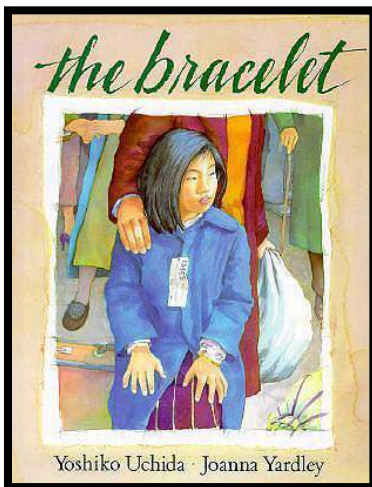
**Audience:** Kindergarten-Grade 3

**Keywords:** picture book, art, philosophy, folktale

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

In old Japan, a clever, frail peasant boy training for the priesthood cannot resist drawing cats on every available surface. When his exasperated teacher sends him away, he takes shelter in an abandoned temple late at night, not knowing that a murderous goblin haunts the place. After drawing cats all over the dusty walls, the boy crawls inside a small cabinet to sleep. Terrible noises disturb him during the night. When morning comes, he finds an enormous rat lying dead on the floor, and fresh blood on the mouths of the cats he painted. Sogabe's cut-paper, watercolor, and airbrush illustrations resonate with the spirit of Japanese woodcuts, and are distinguished by striking composition and harmonious, muted colors. This shivery page-turner celebrating the power of art belongs in most libraries. *Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, MA*



### **The Bracelet**

Yoshiko Uchida (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0698113909

**Audience:** Grades 2-5

**Keywords:** Internment, World War II, picture book

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

It is 1942, and seven-year-old Emi is being sent from her home in Berkeley, California, to an internment camp with her mother and older sister. Her father was arrested earlier and incarcerated in a camp in Montana. Temporarily herded into stables at a race track with other Japanese-American families, Emi realizes that she has lost the bracelet that her best friend, Laurie Madison, gave her as a parting keepsake. At first desolate, she soon realizes that she does not need the token after all, as she will always carry Laurie in her heart and mind. Uchida employs a simple, descriptive style, allowing the child's feelings to give punch to this vignette without becoming sentimental. An afterword gives brief, dignified historical context to the story. Yardley's watercolor illustrations both match and amplify the text at every point, evincing the greatest sensitivity to the depiction of character and to historical accuracy.

*John Philbrook, San Francisco Public Library*



### **Bringing in the New Year**

Grace Lin (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0375837456

**Audience:** Preschool - Grade 2

**Keywords:** picture book, holidays

**Region:** China

This story follows a Chinese family as they prepare for the Lunar New Year. Each member of the family lends a hand as they sweep out the dust of the old year, hang decorations, and make dumplings. Then it's time to put on new clothes and celebrate with family and friends. There will be fireworks and lion dancers, shining lanterns, and a great, long dragon parade to help bring in the Lunar New Year.



**C is for China (World Alphabets)**  
Sungwan So (Author)

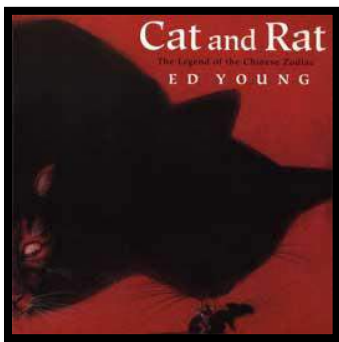
**ISBN:** 978-1845073183

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** photography, culture

**Region:** China

From Abacus to Lantern, from Jade to Wenzhi, this photographic alphabet book introduces young readers to the rich culture and natural beauty of China. Sungwan So's colorful variety of images explore the country's customs ancient and modern, illustrating not only the hubbub of street life in the cities, but also the rhythms of day-to-day life in rural areas. Beautiful photographs feature scenes of old men drinking tea on the street, a little boy learning to draw in the ink-and-wash technique *shuimohua*, natives in textured tapestries selling food at a market, and more. – *From Amazon.com*



**Cat and Rat**  
Ed Young (Author and illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0805060492

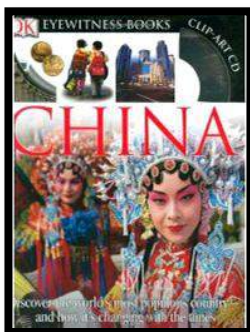
**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

**Keywords:** folktale, zodiac, picture book, culture, holidays, astrology

**Region:** China

**From School Library Journal**

In this version of the story behind the Chinese zodiac, the Emperor challenges all of the creatures to a race through forest and river, saying he will name each of the 12 years in the cycle after the winners. Rat and Cat, the best of friends, ask the water buffalo to carry them across the river. In sight of the finish line, Rat pushes Cat into the water and jumps off the buffalo's back, coming in first. Young tells the story in lively, spare prose, and includes a chart of the signs and their characteristics. His charcoal and pastel drawings on dark blue and buff rice paper are elegant and full of action. Yet because of the somber colors, the pictures are hard to read, especially from a distance. Setting white type on black background only adds to the gloom.—*Margaret A. Chang, North Adams State College, MA*



**China (DK Eyewitness Books)**  
Poppy Sebag-Montefiore (Author)

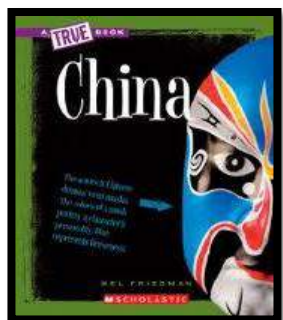
**ISBN:** 978-0756629762

**Audience:** Grade 3-6

**Keywords:** photography, culture, art, music, history, fashion, science, geography

**Region:** China

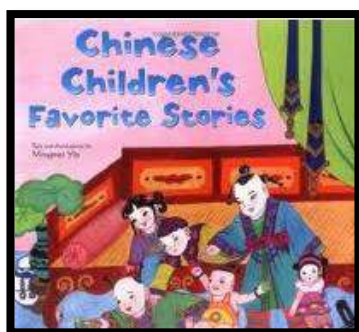
With its own clip-art CD and wall chart, *China* investigates the present-day culture of the most populous country on the planet in typical Eyewitness style with plenty of photographs.



**China: A True Book**  
Mel Friedman (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0531207260  
**Audience:** Grade 2-4  
**Keywords:** photography, culture, art, history, geography  
**Region:** China

Put the countries of the world at readers' fingertips with these books for young globe-trotters.



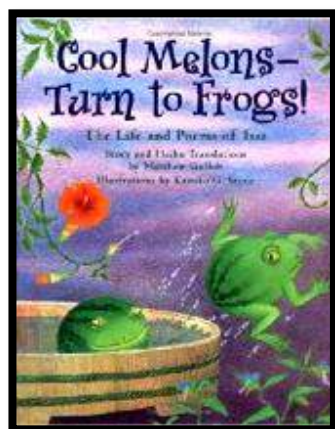
**Chinese Children's Favorite Stories**  
Mingmei Yip (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0804835893  
**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2  
**Keywords:** picture book, folktale  
**Region:** China

#### From School Library Journal

A collection of 13 traditional "thousand-year-old" stories. Selections include traditional Chinese elements such as dragons and the mischievous monkey king. Like fables, these tales have morsels of wisdom to impart, and almost all have a close connection with the natural world. Explanations of cultural elements are nicely incorporated into the text, such as the qin, a musical instrument. Yip's writing is clear and accessible to children, and the bright pastel illustrations are appealing. An attractive addition for larger collections.—*Robin L. Gibson, formerly at Perry County District Library, New Lexington, OH.*

Stories in this book include: The Fish-Basket Goddess, The Mouse Bride, Dream of the Butterfly, The Cowherd and the Spinning Girl, The Ghost Catcher, The Frog Who Lived in a Well, Chang-E Flies to the Moon, The Wolf and the Scholar, Playing the Qin for the Water Buffalo, Carp Jumping over the Dragon Gate, How the Fox Tricked the Tiger, The Monkey King Turns the Heavenly Palace Upside Down, The Monkey Wu Kong Learns His Lesson.

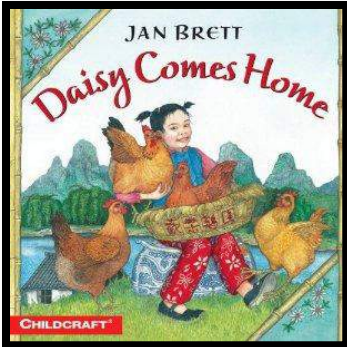


**Cool Melons – Turn to Frogs!: The Life and Poems of Issa**  
Matthew Gollub (Author), Kazuko G. Stone (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1584302414  
**Audience:** Grades 2-5  
**Keywords:** picture book  
**Region:** Japan

#### From School Library Journal

A successful collaboration of verse and prose that brings a famous 18th-century poet to life. Gollub's original translations of Issa's haiku are interspersed with biographical narrative (slightly fictionalized) so that each one lends context to the other. Each poem is illustrated with a realistic spot or framed watercolor-and-colored-pencil picture, and rendered in Japanese calligraphy in the outer margin. Stone elaborates on her artistic research in endnotes. Gollub explains in detail how he went about his translations so that readers can understand what to look for and what's lost. Although just an introduction, this book explains much about haiku and those who wrote it, information not usually included in titles written for this age level. However, no mention is made of what made Issa so different from his predecessors-his poetry had a casualness and sense of humor that was both criticized and popular. *Nina Lindsay, Oakland Public Library, CA*



### **Daisy Comes Home**

Jan Brett (Author and illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0142402702

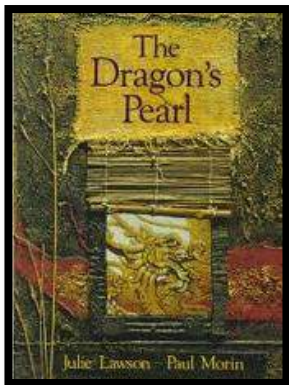
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** picture book, animals

**Region:** China

#### **From Publishers Weekly**

Inspired in part by the classic story of Ping, the adventurous young duck on the Yangtze River, Brett's (The Mitten) spirited, intricately illustrated tale centers on Daisy, the smallest of Mei Mei's six hens. Escaping the taunts of the larger hens, the beleaguered creature leaves the henhouse one rainy night to sleep in an egg basket at the edge of the Li River. But soon the rising water reaches the basket, and the current sweeps Daisy downstream. While a distraught Mei Mei searches for her, Daisy encounters (and cleverly escapes from) a dog, a water buffalo and a troop of monkeys before being snatched up by a fisherman who can't wait to sell her at market. Mei Mei's nick-of-time rescue of Daisy will bring smiles to young faces as will Daisy's new status in the hen house. The elegance of the illustrations gains a touch of whimsy as Brett hides some surprises in the distant mountains. —*Publishers Weekly*



### **The Dragon's Pearl**

Julie Lawson (Author), Paul Morin (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0773728820

**Audience:** Grades 2-5

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** China

#### **From School Library Journal**

A well-crafted story with many folkloric qualities that successfully presents Chinese tradition and culture in a manner that is both enlightening and entertaining. The tale is of a poor but optimistic boy who cuts and sells grass for fuel in order to buy food for himself and his mother. When a drought ruins the land, killing the livestock and leaving the people poor and hungry, Xiao Sheng discovers a magic pearl that keeps his mother's food jars and money box full. She returns her neighbors' earlier kindness by sharing her wealth with them, while the pearl changes the boy's life and the fortune of the village in a most dramatic way. Lawson has appended a page of notes about Chinese dragons (water-gods) that sheds light on the unusual aspects of the story. Despite its few artistic imperfections, the book as a whole is a lovely package of writing and visuals that will be enjoyed as read-aloud, cultural lesson, and folk fantasy. *Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH*





### The Dragon Prince: A Chinese Beauty & The Beast Tale

Lawrence Yep (Author), Kam Mak (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0064435185

**Audience:** Grade 1-5

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** China

#### From School Library Journal

Yep presents a polished, touching retelling of a story he calls "a Southern Chinese version of a traditional Chinese tale." When a poor farmer falls into the clutches of a dragon, he begs each of his seven daughters to save him from death by marrying the horrifying creature. At last, the youngest consents. The dragon carries Seven (the daughters are named in birth order, following Chinese tradition) to his home under the sea. Far from being frightened, Seven is full of wonder. When she tells the dragon, "The eye sees what it will, but the heart sees what it should," the monster turns into a handsome prince. They live happily until Seven longs to return home. There, her jealous third sister tries to drown her and takes her place as mistress of the dragon's palace. Then the Prince must go searching for his lost bride. Lavish, hyperrealistic paintings appear opposite each page of text, with two wordless double-page spreads interspersed. However, few of the paintings begin to capture the shivery wonder of the narrative. *Margaret A. Chang, North Adams State College, MA*



### Easy Origami

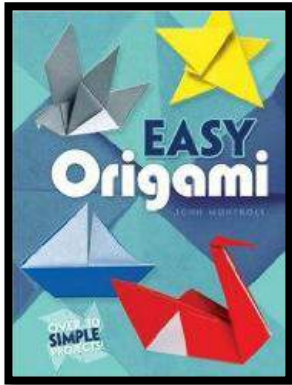
John Montroll

**ISBN:** 978-0486272986

**Audience:** Kindergarten - Adult

**Keywords:** arts & crafts, guide

**Region:** Japan



A collection of 32 projects for novice origami hobbyists, clearly illustrated with easy-to-follow instructions that even beginning papercrafters can follow with successful results. Subjects range from an ultra-simple hat, cup and pinwheel to the more challenging figures of a penguin and a piano. "I teach an art program for children. Of the many glamorous origami books that I've used with my students, this is the book they always want - the book they grab and fight over! The price is right, which is another great thing about this book. The projects are organized in a logical manner starting easy and getting progressively harder. Teachers: I always start my students off with guided instruction on the first few lessons, and then they are usually capable of managing on their own." *Susan, Ramona, CA*

### The Emperor and the Kite

Jane Yolen (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0698116443

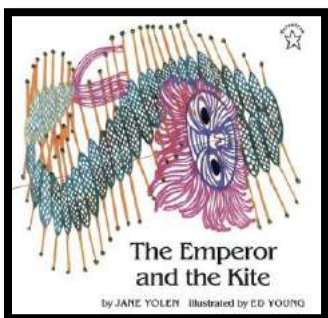
**Audience:** Preschool – grade 2

**Keywords:** picture book, history

**Region:** China

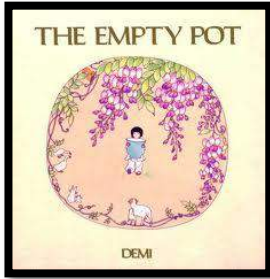
#### From Booklist

Largely ignored by her own family, Princess Djeow Seow spends her days playing with a kite made from paper and sticks. But when the Emperor is imprisoned in a high tower, only the





Princess can save the day, flying her kite high up into the sky to rescue her father. A familiar jewel polished to unaccustomed brilliance. -- *Booklist*



### **The Empty Pot**

Demi (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0805082272

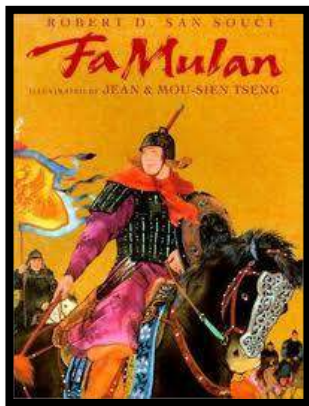
**Audience:** Grade 1-3

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** China

#### **From School Library Journal**

When the Chinese emperor proclaims that his successor will be the child who grows the most beautiful flowers from the seeds the emperor distributes, Ping is overjoyed. Like the emperor, he loves flowers and anything he plants bursts into bloom. But the emperor's seed will not grow, despite months of loving care, and Ping goes before the emperor carrying only his empty pot. The emperor ignores the beautiful blossoms brought by the other children and chooses Ping, revealing that the seeds he handed out had been cooked and could not grow. This simple story with its clear moral is illustrated with beautiful paintings. Isometric perspective, traditional Chinese architecture, and landscape motifs are combined with Demi's fine line and lively children and animals. A beautifully crafted book that will be enjoyed as much for the richness of its illustrations as for the simplicity of its story. *Eleanor K. MacDonald, Beverly Hills Public Library*



### **Fa Mulan**

Robert D. San Souci (Author), Jean & Mou-sien Tseng (Illustrators)

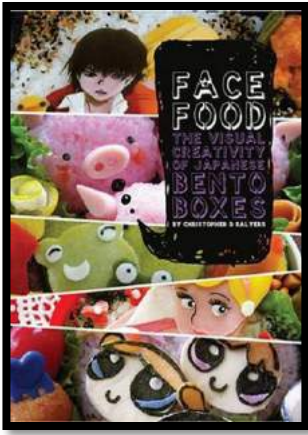
**ISBN:** 978-0786814213

**Audience:** Grade 1-4

**Keywords:** folktale

**Region:** China

Award-winning author Robert D. San Souci and Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng have created an elegant, visually stunning retelling of the popular Chinese legend. When Fa Mulan learns that her father has been drafted into Khan's army to fight the Tartars, she is shocked--her father is far too old and weak to go to war. She forms a brave plan, which her family reluctantly accepts, and, "At dawn she cut her hair short, put on her father's armor, and fastened his weapons to the horse's saddle." Fa Mulan is excited and afraid, and soon finds herself engaged in fierce combat with the Tartars and becomes skilled with the sword. The noble story of this legendary Chinese heroine has inspired poets, writers, artists, dramatists, and readers worldwide for centuries. San Souci's carefully researched interpretation of the ancient story is gentle, dramatic, and inspiring, and the Tsengs' beautiful, expressive watercolor paintings, bordered top and bottom like a Chinese scroll, are lovely. *Karin Snelson, Amazon.com*



### **Face Food: The Visual Creativity of Japanese Bento Boxes**

Christopher D. Salyers (Author)

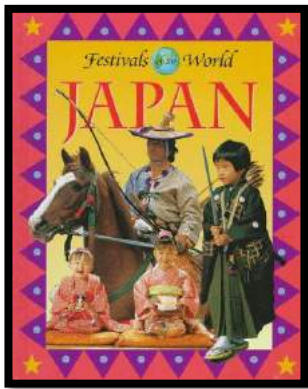
**ISBN:** 978-0979048661

**Audience:** Kindergarten - Adult

**Keywords:** food, school, popular culture, art

**Region:** Japan

All across Japan, parents come up with unique ways to bring attention to their children's lunch boxes. And what better way to make children eat than to turn their midday meals into a cartoon? With *Face Food*, Christopher D. Salyers documents the very real phenomenon of crafting food into visually creative and appealing forms, such as Pikachu, Doraemon and Cinderella, bringing health, heart and imagination to the bento box. How-to guides and articles by designers and chefs accompany photographs, all of which illuminate the dynamic reasons behind this wholly Japanese pursuit.



### **Festivals of the World: Japan**

Susan McKay (Author)

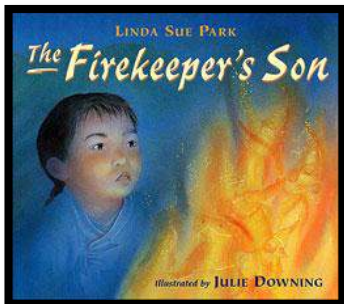
**ISBN:** 978-9812047571

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

**Keywords:** photography, culture, holidays

**Region:** Japan

Describes how the culture of Japan is reflected in its many festivals, including the Gion Festival, the Fire Festivals, and the Sapporo Snow Festival.



### **The Firekeeper's Son**

Linda Sue Park (Author), Julie Downing (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0547237695

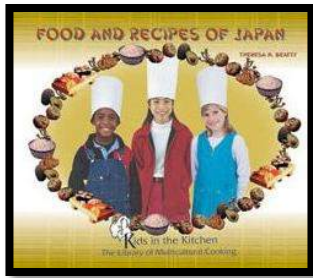
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 3

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Korea

#### **From School Library Journal**

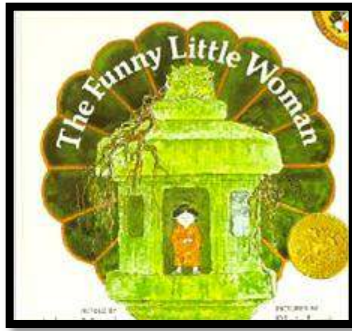
Park's command of place, characterization, and language is as capable and compelling in this picture book as it is in her novels. Set in 19th-century Korea, this story centers around an actual bonfire signal system. Every night, when Sang-hee's father sees that the ocean is clear of enemies, he climbs the mountain to light his fire, setting in motion a chain reaction of blazes that eventually reaches the peak closest to the palace and assures the king that all is well in the land. When Father breaks his ankle, his son must ascend alone into the darkness with a bucket of burning coals. During a dramatic pause, he contemplates the consequences of inaction and his secret desire to see the king's soldiers. Lyrical prose and deftly realized watercolors and pastels conjure up the troops in a vision linked to the glowing coal clasped in the boy's tongs. Children will be intrigued by this early form of wireless communication, caught up in the riveting dilemma, and satisfied by the resolution. *Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library*



**Food and Recipes of Japan**  
Theresa M. Beatty (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0823953196  
**Audience:** Grade 3-5  
**Keywords:** food  
**Region:** Japan

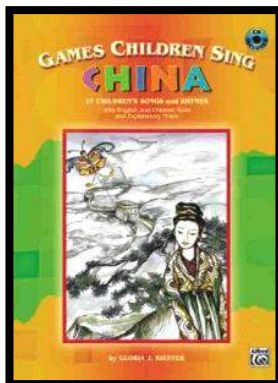
Describes some of the foods enjoyed in Japan and provides recipes for several popular Japanese dishes.



**The Funny Little Woman** (Caldecott Medal winner)  
Arlene Mosel (Author), Blair Lent (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0140547535  
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2  
**Keywords:** picture book  
**Region:** Japan

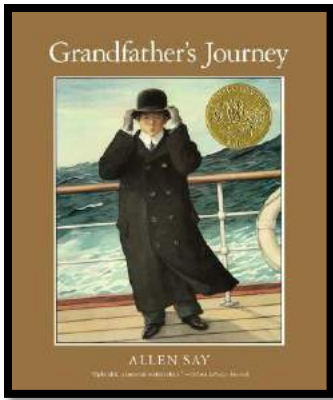
From the pen that brought us the adventures of "Tikki Tikki Tembo" comes the tale of "The Funny Little Woman." This is the story of a woman who lives all by herself in her own little hut, making dumplings. One day a naughty dumpling escapes down a crack in her floor. As she reaches for it, the floor gives way and the woman finds herself on an ancient road surrounded by statues of gods. The statues warn the woman not to attract the attention of the local Oni (evil demon) but the woman's giggles can't keep her hidden for long. Soon she's cooking for all the Oni in their homes with the help of a magic paddle. By the end, however, the woman wishes to return to her house and it is only when she is able to make the Oni laugh at her (rather than vice versa) that she is enabled to escape and prosper. Like all good folktales, this one contains elements that are familiar throughout the world. Illustrator Blair Lent has outdone himself with these pictures. *E.R. Bird, Manhattan, NY*



**Games Children Sing: China (Book & CD)**  
Gloria J. Kiester (Author/Editor)

**ISBN:** 978-0757941795  
**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3  
**Keywords:** music  
**Region:** China

Easy-to-learn melodies to sing, games, dances and, authentic songs as Chinese children sing them (as heard on the included CD). Great care has been given to the authenticity of the songs. The English texts were developed onsite to ensure that the translations mean the same as the original texts. Also includes a map of China, the music of China and a glimpse of Chinese culture and lifestyles.



### **Grandfather's Journey**

Allen Say (Author and illustrator)

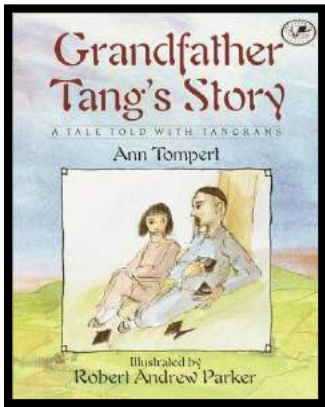
**ISBN:** 978-0547076805

**Audience:** Preschool-Grade 2

**Keywords:** immigration, picture book

**Region:** Japan

Home becomes elusive in this story about immigration and acculturation, pieced together through old pictures and salvaged family tales. Both the narrator and his grandfather long to return to Japan, but when they do, they feel anonymous and confused: "The funny thing is, the moment I am in one country, I am homesick for the other." Allen Say's prose is succinct and controlled, to the effect of surprise when monumental events are scaled down to a few words: "The young woman fell in love, married, and sometime later I was born." The book also has large, formal paintings in delicate, faded colors that portray a cherished and well-preserved family album. The book won the 1994 Caldecott Medal. —*Amazon.com Review*



### **Grandfather Tang's Story**

Ann Tompert (Author), Robert Andrew Parker (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0517885581

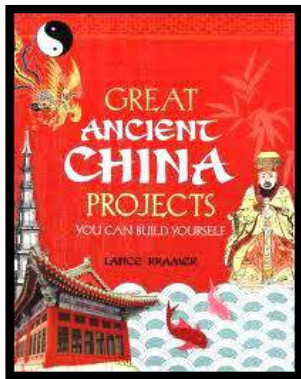
**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 4

**Keywords:** tangrams, picture book

**Region:** China

#### **From School Library Journal**

Two competitive fox fairies go through rapid physical transformations until a hunter's arrow reminds them of their true friendship. This original tangram tale is framed by the loving relationship between a grandfather and granddaughter as they share the story under the shade of an old tree, and culminates in a tangram of an old man and a girl likewise resting. Tangrams, ancient Chinese puzzles in which a square is cut into seven traditional pieces (each called a tan), are arranged into patterns used to help tell the story. Parker's watercolor washes complement the text, adding energy and tension, as well as evoking oriental brushwork technique. However, the text is strong enough to stand on its own, and will be valued by storytellers and listeners alike. --*Carolyn Noah, Worcester Public Library, MA*



### **Great Ancient China Projects You Can Build Yourself**

Lance Kramer (Author), Steven Weinberg (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1934670026

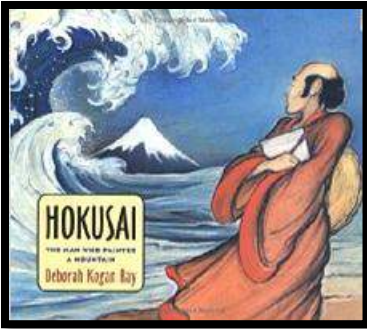
**Audience:** Grades 3-6

**Keywords:** art, crafts

**Region:** China

From Buddhism, feng shui, and porcelain pottery to gunpowder, dynasties, and trade routes, this interactive activity guide explores the incredible ingenuity and history of ancient China with more than 20 hands-on projects. Comprehensive coverage of the ancient culture—everything from the daily lives of both the rich and poor to the history of architecture, dynasties, religion, trade, and science—are combined with step-by-step instructions for creating Chinese inventions with ordinary household materials. Key vocabulary, time lines, and factual sidebars are included to further educate young readers about this innovative society and its continuing influence on modern culture.





### **Hokusai: The Man Who Painted a Mountain**

Deborah Kogan Ray (Author, Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 0374332630

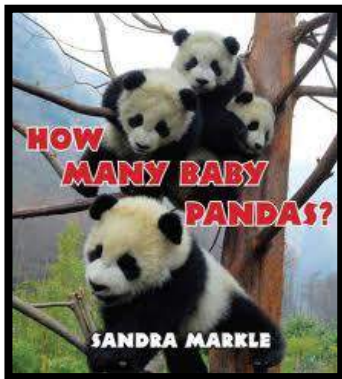
**Audience:** Grades 4-6

**Keywords:** art

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

Born into poverty and orphaned at six years old, Hokusai longed for an environment that would allow him the opportunity to read and draw. Although faced with dire challenges, his determination and talent carried him through childhood until he could set his course on a road that led to greatness. This picture-book biography tells of the life of a man who influenced Western Impressionists as well as Eastern talents. The text and evocative artwork provide details and scenes of everyday Japanese life in the 19th century. The illustrations include accomplished soft watercolor and colored-pencil paintings, labeled Chinese characters, drawings from the artist's sketchbooks, and a reproduction of Hokusai's "The Great Wave off Kanagawa." Ray's delightful offering will be enjoyed by budding artists and biography fans, and will be a useful adjunct to studies on art, artists, or Japan and its culture. *Ilene Abramson, Los Angeles Public Library*



### **How Many Baby Pandas?**

Sandra Markle

**ISBN:** 978-0802797834

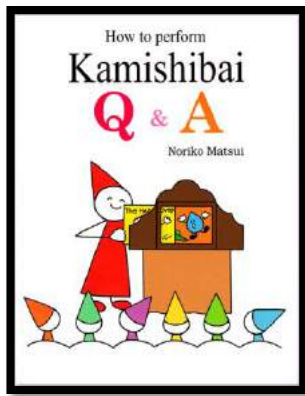
**Audience:** Preschool - Grade 3

**Keywords:** animals, numbers

**Region:** China

#### **From Booklist**

Clear, accessible text by noted children's science writer Markle and sharp color photos provide an engaging, informative introduction to baby pandas, highlighting those born at China's Wolong Giant Panda Breeding Center in 2005. Starting with images of several newborns, the book covers how young pandas feed, their physical characteristics, and their favorite activities. Scientific concepts are well explained, and the pages are filled with panda facts, such as when the animals begin to eat bamboo (an activity that occupies adults for 14 hours a day), along with conservation issues. The accompanying photos show pandas with their human caregivers and in natural settings and provide opportunities to count the animals and observe their physical development. Children will enjoy the varied pictures, which range from cute to amusing, although images of the tiny hairless newborns may startle some kids. *Shelle Rosenfeld*



## How to Perform Kamishibai: Q&A

Noriko Matsui

**ISBN:** N/A, see [www.storycardtheater.com](http://www.storycardtheater.com) to purchase.

**Audience:** Older elementary to adults

**Keywords:** storytelling, guide

**Region:** Japan, but can be applied to any kind of story

Renowned *kamishibai* (paper card storytelling) author and illustrator Noriko Matsui shares a lifetime of tips in this easy-to-read, cheerfully illustrated handbook. Written in question-and-answer format, *How to Perform Kamishibai* guides you through the process of choosing stories, setting up a performance space, and interacting with your audience. Beginning performers will gain extensive practical information, while advanced performers will pick up historical and philosophical insights. A bit simplistic at times, but for those who have never seen kamishibai performed live, this or the picture book *Kamishibai Man* (Allen Say) will give an excellent introduction.



## I Live in Tokyo

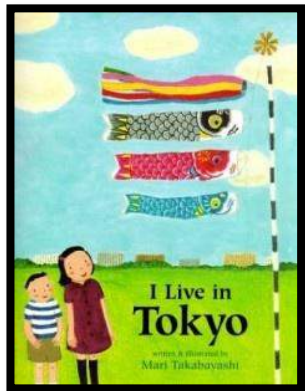
Mari Takabayashi (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:**

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 2

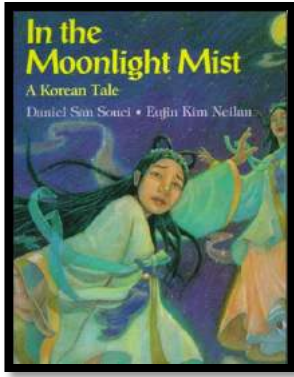
**Keywords:**

**Region:** Japan



### From School Library Journal

Seven-year-old Mimiko leads readers through a year highlighting the festivals, activities, food, and her family's daily routine. The name of each month is written along the left border in phonetic Japanese, English, and Kanji (Chinese characters used in Japanese writing). January begins with *oshogatsu*, a New Year celebration. The illustration depicts the family having a special meal, and various holiday items. The facing page is about calligraphy, or *shodo*. The illustration shows mother and daughter practicing their brushwork (January 2nd is said to be perfect for writing), as well as the Japanese zodiac, and a racket used for Japanese badminton, which seems out of place. Other festivals included are *setsubun*, celebrated the day before the first day of spring (February 3rd); the Bon Festival in July; and school field day (*undokai*) in October. This book's gentle, childlike watercolor illustrations capture an array of special and mundane events in one youngster's life. An appealing browsing item rather than fodder for reports. *DeAnn Tabuchi, San Anselmo Public Library, CA*



### **In the Moonlight Mist: A Korean Tale**

Daniel San Souci (Author), Eujin Kim Neilan (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1563977541

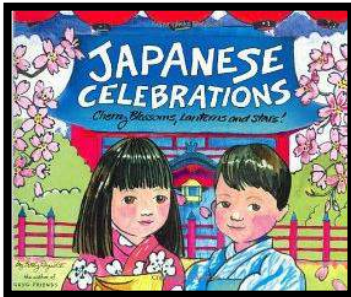
**Audience:** Grade 1-3

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** Korea

#### **From School Library Journal**

When a woodcutter generously rescues a deer, he is rewarded with a celestial bride. Following the deer's instructions, the young man hides in the moonlit mist as five maidens descend from the sky to bathe in a mountain lake. To keep one of the maidens from returning to heaven, he steals her garment. Troubled at first, she is soon won by the woodcutter's kindness and agrees to marry him. Disregarding the deer's warnings and yielding to his wife's pleas, he takes her gown out of hiding after their first child is born. Drawn to her former home, she puts it on and rises to the sky, the baby in her arms. Magical intervention allows for a happy ending, with the family reunited in heaven. *Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams*



### **Japanese Celebrations: Cherry Blossoms, Lanterns and Stars!**

Betty Reynolds (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0804836586

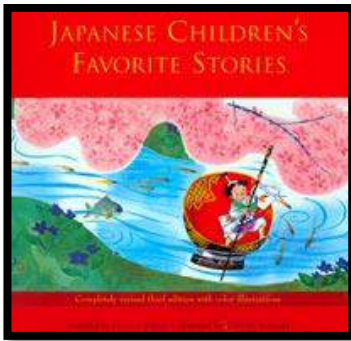
**Audience:** Grade 1-3

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

After a brief general introduction, events are listed chronologically, with a single descriptive paragraph or a sentence or two of explanation. The first celebration of the year is *O-Shogatsu* (New Year). Colorful illustrations show people participating in worship at temples and shrines, with a spread describing symbols of good luck and special foods. Other traditional pastimes are shown as well, such as card games and kite flying. An example of the zodiac calendar, which follows a 12-year cycle, is included. Other well-known festivals include *Hina Matsuri* (Doll Festival, or Girls' Day), *Kodomo-no-hi* (Children's Day), and *O-Bon* (Festival of Souls). There are several brief examples of regional festivals as well. A small section on Other Happy Events includes traditions for babies and a page on weddings. Japanese words and terms are listed phonetically and in Japanese characters (hiragana). Food, dress, activities, simple Japanese words and phrases, and origami folding are briefly touched on. *DeAnn Okamura, San Mateo County Library, CA*



### Japanese Children's Favorite Stories

Florence Sakade (Editor), Yoshisuke Kurosaki (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0804834490

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3 (or for anyone with general interest)

**Keywords:** folktales

**Region:** Japan

#### From School Library Journal

Fifty years after its initial publication, Sakade's compilation of popular Japanese folktales has been dusted off and prettied up for this new, third edition. This enduring collection presents 20 stories to enchant and enlighten young readers. Several of the tales can easily be compared with traditional Western counterparts. Although a few of these tales have been made into fully illustrated picture books, this collection is greater than the sum of its parts. The text is simple, clear, and accessible to beginning readers and storytellers alike. *Eve Ortega, Cypress Library, CA*

Contains the following folktales: Peach Boy (Momotaro), The Magic Teakettle, Monkey-Dance and Sparrow-Dance, The Long-Nosed Goblins, The Rabbit in the Moon, The Tongue-Cut Sparrow, Silly Saburo, The Toothpick Warriors, The Sticky-Sticky Pine, The Spider Weaver, Little One-Inch (Issun-bōshi), The Badger and the Magic Fan, Mr. Lucky Straw, Why the Jellyfish Has No Bones, The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom, The Crab and the Monkey, The Ogre and the Rooster, The Rabbit Who Crossed the Sea, The Grateful Statues, and The Bobtail Monkey.



### Japanese Origami: Paper Magic

Ann Stalcup (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0823953332

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** origami, culture, art, crafts

**Region:** Japan

This book highlights some specific origami figures and their significance in Japanese culture. Includes directions for creating an origami ornament.



### K is for Korea

Hyecheong Cheung and Prodeepta Das (Authors)

**ISBN:** 978-1845077891

**Audience:** Grade 1-3

**Keywords:**

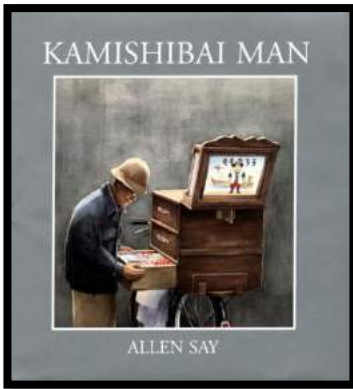
**Region:** Korea

#### From School Library Journal

This colorful title presents an alphabetic introduction to Korea and its culture. Vivid photographs fill every page, each accompanied by a letter of the alphabet, as well as paragraph-length descriptions. They range from everyday items such as "Vegetables" and "Pottery" to more exotic terms that include "Yunnori" (a family game), "Samulnori" (percussion music played on four instruments), and "Mugungwha" (a type of flower). The succinct text manages to weave in information regarding Korea's history, religions, and traditions. Although the book is not detailed enough for reports, it does provide children with a lively taste of the country. *Donna*



Atmur, Los Angeles Public Library



**Kamishibai Man**

Allen Say (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0618479542

**Audience:** Grade 1-5 (but also appeals to adults)

**Keywords:** picture book, storytelling, art

**Region:** Japan

\*A great companion book for a kamishibai theater project!

**From School Library Journal**

*Starred Review.* An elderly *kamishibai* (paper theater) man decides to return to the city and spend the day on his former rounds. His wife makes candies for him, just as in the past, and he sets off on his bicycle. Things have changed—there's traffic with honking horns and he wonders, "Who needs to buy so many things and eat so many different foods?" when he sees the shops and restaurants replacing beautiful trees that have been cut. He sets up his theater and begins to tell his personal story of being a *kamishibai* man in a flashback sequence. Soon he is surrounded by adults who remember him and his stories from their youth. Say's distinctive style and facial expressions are especially touching. A foreword gives readers a glimpse of the importance of the *kamishibai* man in the author's early life, and an afterword provides a historical look at the forgotten art form. Those interested in storytelling and theater will be especially impressed with this offering, but it will have broad appeal. *Helen Foster James, University of California at San Diego*



**The Kite Fighters**

Linda Sue Park

**ISBN:** 978-0547328638

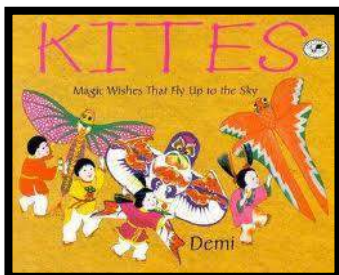
**Audience:** Grades 4-7

**Keywords:** chapter book

**Region:** Korea

**From School Library Journal**

When Young-sup holds a kite in his hand, he knows exactly how to make it fly. His older brother, Kee-sup, knows exactly how to construct one that is beautiful in form and perfectly balanced. One day, the young king of Korea suddenly arrives with all of his attendants on the hillside where the brothers are playing with their matching tiger kites. He requests their help in learning to fly one, and then asks Kee-sup to make a kite for him. The boy is deeply honored and works diligently on it. Meanwhile, Young-sup is determined to win the kite-fighting competition at the New Year's festival. He practices on the hillside where the king frequently joins him, and their growing friendship leads to an interesting collaboration and a thorny challenge to tradition in Korea in 1473. Though the story is set in medieval times, the brothers have many of the same issues facing siblings today. They play and argue, they compete for their father's attention, and eventually develop a greater understanding of one another. With ease and grace, Park brings these long-ago children to life. *Barbara Scotto, Michael Driscoll School, Brookline, MA*



**Kites – Magical Wishes That Fly Up to the Sky**

Demi (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0375810084

**Audience:** Grade 2-5

**Keywords:** picture book, art, history

**Region:** China

**From School Library Journal**

A picture book that combines a story with information. In long-ago China, a woman commissioned an artist to paint a special dragon kite for her son. It was her hope that this

creature representing wealth, wisdom, power and nobility would be seen by the gods in heaven and assist the boy in growing up to be big and strong. Word of the artist's talent traveled, and he was soon asked to create a wide variety of flyers for other villagers. The small, intricate, colorful kites illustrated in Demi's signature style and set against blues and greens are lovely to look at and will encourage readers to appreciate their beauty. Captions offer brief explanations of the different emblematic figures, creatures, and symbols, e.g., a crane denotes nobility and honesty and a cricket brings music and song. There is also mention of a Chinese festival devoted to kites, as well as detailed instructions for making a kite. The factual information, although clear, is sparse, making this title better suited to picture-book collections than the nonfiction shelves. *DeAnn Tabuchi, San Anselmo Public Library, CA*



### **Kogi's Mysterious Journey**

Elizabeth Partridge (Author), Aki Sogabe (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0525470786

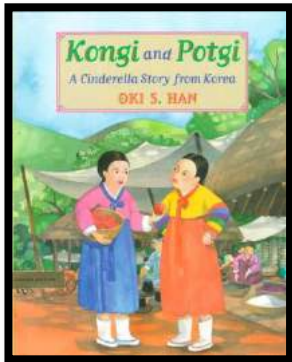
**Audience:** Kindergarten - Grade 4

**Keywords:** picture book, art, folktale

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

In medieval Japan, an artist longs to capture the spectacular natural surroundings and diverse wildlife of Lake Biwa. No matter how hard Kogi tries, his paintings always seem to lie stiff and dead upon the paper. Seeking an ineffable quality he cannot seem to achieve, he wades into the water and finds himself transformed into a golden carp. For days, Kogi revels in the delicious freedom of swimming in the great lake. Unfortunately, he becomes hungry, and though his human mind knows better, he takes a baited hook and soon finds himself lying below a cook's knife. The painter wakes to find that his wandering spirit has returned to his human body. His dream opens floodgates of creativity and now his paintings are endowed with energy and vitality. Partridge's spare, poetic recasting of a Japanese folktale ends with the artist and his creations coming to life again as fish. An informative source note traces the history of the story. This enticing version of a Japanese tale stands out as a compelling read-aloud. *Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams*



### **Kongi and Potgi**

Oki S. Han (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0803715721

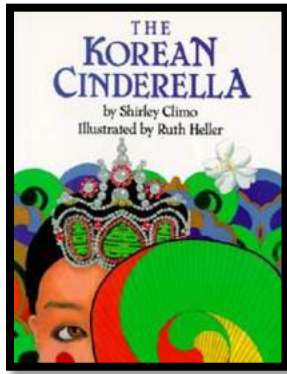
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 3

**Keywords:** picture book,

**Region:** Korea

#### **From School Library Journal**

Beautiful Kongi, a farmer's daughter, endures the mocking of her stepsister while patiently bearing her stepmother's unreasonable demands and impossible tasks. Helpful animals come to Kongi's rescue, and a flock of splendid angels produces a gown, embroidered slippers, and a sedan chair to carry her to the palace where the prince is choosing a bride. The plot resembles the familiar Perrault story, but the tone is sweeter, for stepmother and stepsister are forgiven and reformed in the end. According to the jacket flap, Han heard the story from her father when she was a child in Seoul; no other source is given. A note describes some aspects of pre-20th century Korean rural life. A version in Frances Carpenter's *Tales of a Korean Grandmother* (Tuttle, 1972) resolves the stepsisters' rivalry without a prince or slipper. Useful for comparison with Cinderella stories from other parts of the world, the book would make an interesting contrast to Nina Jaffe's *Older Brother, Younger Brother* (Viking, 1995). *Margaret A. Chang, North Adams State College, MA*



### **The Korean Cinderella**

Shirley Climo (Author), Ruth Heller (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0064433976

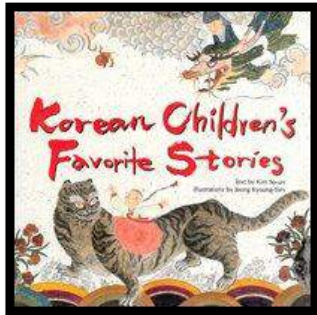
**Audience:** Kindergarten - Grade 3

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** Korea

#### **From Publishers Weekly**

Climo and Heller conflate several Korean variants of Cinderella to offer up the story of Pear Blossom, a lovely girl who is sorely mistreated by her nasty stepmother and stepsister. At once comfortingly familiar and intriguingly exotic, the text is especially noteworthy for its instructive but unobtrusive incorporation of Korean words.



### **Korean Children's Favorite Stories**

Kim So-un (Author), Jeong Kyoung-Sim (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0804835916

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

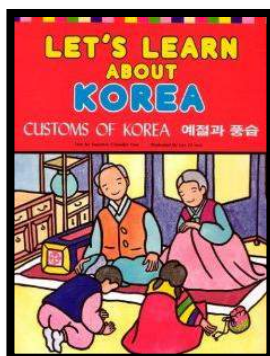
**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** Korea

#### **From School Library Journal**

Though no source notes are included, an introduction by the author speaks to the authenticity of the selections. The collection includes elements shared by many cultures, such as a flood story, and others with a unique sensibility. A variety of animals appear, including tigers, both good and bad, and snakes, depicted as dragons. The delicate watercolor illustrations make the stories accessible to children, and the square format and the calligraphic quality of the titles contribute to the overall sense of design. Appropriately, the opening tale speaks to the importance of sharing stories, and this collection succeeds in making these little-known offerings accessible to a new audience. *Robin L. Gibson, formerly at Perry County District Library, New Lexington, OH.*

Includes the following stories: The Story Bag, The Pheasant, the Dove, and the Magpie, The Bridegroom's Shopping, The Bad Tiger, The Great Flood, The Pumpkin Seeds, The Tiger and the Rabbit, The Green Leaf, The Three Little Girls, The Snake and the Toad, The Grateful Tiger, The Three Princesses, The Disowned Student



### **Let's Learn About Korea: Customs of Korea**

Suzanne Crowder Han (Author), Lee Gi-eun (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1565910003

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Korea

The aim of this book is twofold: to introduce Korean customs and to introduce some of the ideas and values Korean children are taught. The information is presented through the eyes of a young Korean girl as she goes about her daily life. All text is presented in both English and Korean.



### Let's Visit Korea

Suzanne Crowder Han (Author), Mi-on Kim (Illustrator)

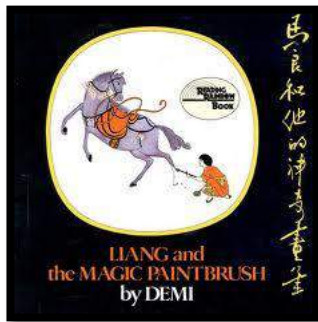
ISBN: 978-1565910102

**Audience:** Grade 1-3

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Korea

As Nick and Mona tour the country with their parents, they visit some of Korea's most picturesque spots and monuments of her ancient civilizations. Through their travels they learn much about Korean history, culture and everyday life.



### Liang and the Magic Paintbrush

Demi (Author and Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0805008012

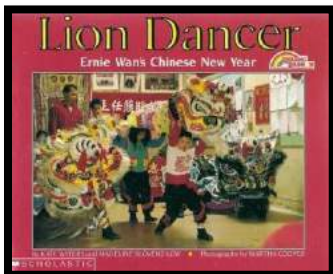
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:**

**Region:** China

#### From School Library Journal

When a poor boy in China receives a magical paintbrush, everything he paints turns to life. But the wicked emperor wants to capture the boy when he hears the news. The story will excite readers as the ruler gets his just reward when the boy creates a masterpiece that spells his doom. "The perennially popular story of Ma Liang and his magic paintbrush is here made into an attractive picture book. Demi's fine line and watercolor drawings are full of elaborate details which will entice readers to look and look again." --*School Library Journal*



### Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's New Year

Kate Waters (Author), Martha Cooper (Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0590430470

**Audience:** PreSchool-Grade 3

**Keywords:** New Year, holidays, photography, culture

**Region:** China

#### From School Library Journal

In brief, simple sentences, Ernie Wan describes his Chinese-American family's celebration of the lunar New Year. Ernie lives in New York City's Chinatown, where traditions are rooted in the culture of southern China. Ernie's father, a kung fu master, choreographs The Lion Dance, the center of the community celebration and a major tourist attraction. This year, Ernie dances in the place of honor under the lion's head. Color photographs depict private and public festivities. *Margaret A. Chang, Buxton School, Williamstown, MA*



### Look What Came From China

Miles Harvey (Author)

ISBN: 978-0531159361

**Audience:** Grade 1-4

**Keywords:**

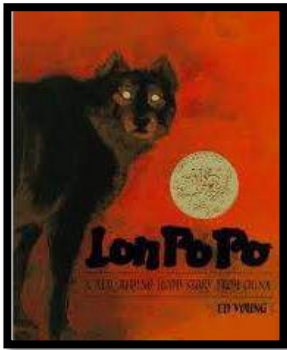
**Region:** China

#### From School Library Journal

These titles present a variety of inventions, sports, food, holidays, and customs that originated in their respective countries. In each, glossy double-page spreads cover topics such as "Fashion" and "Music," illustrated with full-color photographs, reproductions, and drawings. A recipe, a pronunciation guide to some foreign words, lists of further reading, and organizations and informative on-line sites are also included. On the last page of each book, the author informs readers about something traditionally associated with the country which, in fact, began



elsewhere. While these titles are not designed to replace the traditional packed-with-every-fact-you-will-ever-need references, they are colorful and stimulating books for a broad range of readers. *Linda W. Tilden, Cherry Hill Library, NJ*



**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China** (Caldecott Medal Winner)  
Ed Young (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0698113824

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** China

**From Publishers Weekly**

This version of the Red Riding Hood story from Young features three daughters left at home when their mother goes to visit their grandmother. Lon Po Po, the Granny Wolf, pretends to be the girls' grandmother, until clever Shang, the eldest daughter, suspects the greedy wolf's real identity. Tempting him with ginkgo nuts, the girls pull him in a basket to the top of the tree in which they are hiding, then let go of the rope—killing him. Like ancient Oriental paintings, the illustrations are frequently grouped in panels. The juxtaposition of abstract and realistic representations, the complicated play of color and shadow, and the depth of the artist's vision all help transform this simple fairy tale into an extraordinary and powerful book.



**Look What Came From Japan**  
Miles Harvey (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0531159668

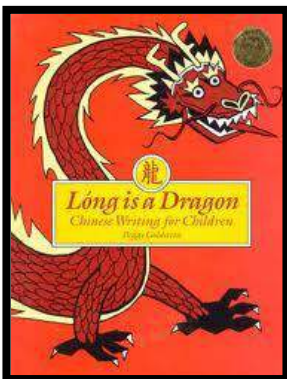
**Audience:** Grades 1-4

**Keywords:** history, culture, technology, art, photography

**Region:** Japan

**From School Library Journal**

These titles present a variety of inventions, sports, food, holidays, and customs that originated in their respective countries. In each, glossy double-page spreads cover topics such as "Fashion" and "Music," illustrated with full-color photographs, reproductions, and drawings. A recipe, a pronunciation guide to some foreign words, lists of further reading, and organizations and informative on-line sites are also included. On the last page of each book, the author informs readers about something traditionally associated with the country which, in fact, began elsewhere. While these titles are not designed to replace the traditional packed-with-every-fact-you-will-ever-need references, they are colorful and stimulating books for a broad range of readers. *Linda W. Tilden, Cherry Hill Library, NJ*



**Lóng is a Dragon: Chinese Writing for Children**  
Peggy R. Goldstein (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1881896012

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 5

**Keywords:** writing, calligraphy, language

**Region:** China

**From Kirkus Reviews**

A fine introduction to 75 simple and not-so-simple Chinese characters: their derivation, their Mandarin pronunciation, and how to write them. Cartoons clarify the pictures made by the characters; sample character combinations (e.g., language + electricity = telephone) demonstrate the evolution of both the language and the culture. A charming, handsome book.



### **Magic Spring**

Nami Rhee (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0399224201

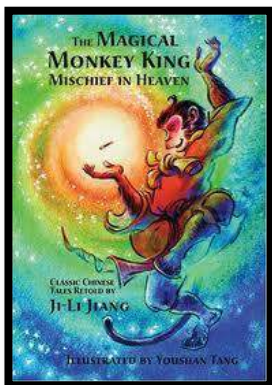
**Audience:** Grade 2-4

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** Korea

#### **From School Library Journal**

A devoted old couple leads a poor and difficult life until the husband finds a magic spring in the forest. One gulp turns him into a young man again. The wife also partakes, and the two now plan a new future with renewed youth and vigor. Their rich and greedy old neighbor, who hitherto had only needled them about their childlessness and poverty, learns of their secret and sets off to find the magic spring. When he fails to return, the couple find that their neighbor has imbibed far too much and has become an infant. The pair raise him as their own and all live happily ever after. Rhee's retelling is straightforward, interesting, and filled with imagery that is echoed in the primitive, folksy illustrations in greens, blues, and earth tones. Bits and phrases drawn from the story are transcribed in Hangul (Korean script) to form borders on each page. While by no means a complete Korean text, this is aesthetically pleasing and contributes to the unity and feeling of authenticity of the whole. *John Philbrook, San Francisco Public Library*



### **The Magical Monkey King: Mischief in Heaven**

Ji-Li Jiang (Author), Youshan Tang (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1885008251

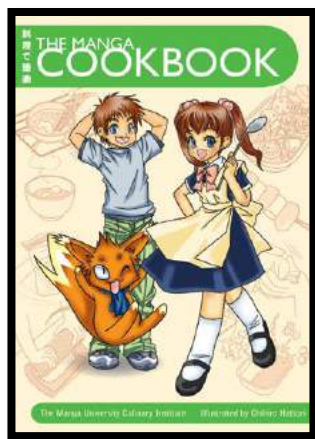
**Audience:** Grade 2-6

**Keywords:** chapter book, folktale

**Region:** China

#### **From School Library Journal**

One of the best-loved figures in Chinese popular culture is the trickster Monkey King. In this engaging version of his story, Jiang begins with Monkey's birth on the Mountain of Flowers and Fruits. After proving himself to the monkey tribe, who choose him as their king, Monkey tries to learn the secret of immortality, travels under the sea to steal a powerful weapon from the Dragon King, and wreaks havoc at the heavenly court of the Jade Emperor. Only Buddha can stop his mischief, and does so in a scene that works as exciting action and profound metaphor. Lively, colloquial language distinguishes this telling, and Su-Kennedy's black-and-white woodcuts enhance the action. Jiang's format serves the old tale better than the two picture-book retellings currently available and is the best version for elementary school students. Libraries will want it as a good story for younger fantasy lovers, whether or not it is used as an introduction to authentic Chinese literature. *Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams*



### **The Manga Cookbook**

The Manga University Culinary Institute (Author), Chihiro Hattori (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-4921205072

**Audience:** Grade 1-6

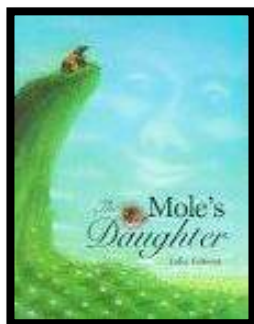
**Keywords:** food, comic

**Region:** Japan

#### **From the San Francisco Chronicle**

Youngsters can participate in manga cooking with *The Manga Cookbook* from The Manga University Culinary Institute, which offers 27 basic recipes by Yoko Ishihara introduced with color photographs. Additional black and white step-by-step comic book illustrations by Chihiro Hattori show how to make rabbit-shaped apple slices, rice hamburgers, pickled vegetables and teriyaki chicken.

Readers are guided through the cookbook by three cartoon characters: a young girl, Miyuki, who calls herself the kitchen sensei; Hiroshi, her boyfriend who likes to eat; and the feline-like mascot, Coo, identified as the book's culinary mastermind. In addition to recipes, more information about many of the dishes and ingredients are presented through Miyuki's notes. - *San Francisco Chronicle*



### **The Mole's Daughter**

Julia Gukova (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1550375244

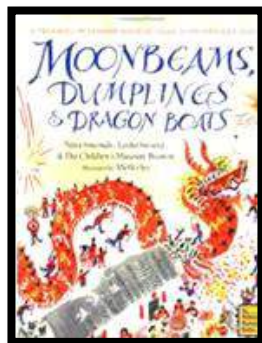
**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** Korea

#### **From Kirkus Reviews**

This sly Korean folktale features a family of moles: exquisite daughter, protective mother, and proud father. As the daughter is the fairest of all creatures, her father wants her to marry the most respected and powerful of husbands. "The sky is the limit," he intones and proceeds to offer his daughter to the heavens. But the sky tells him the sun is mightier still, so the father pleads his case there. The sun speaks of the cloud's ability to vanquish him, but when the father makes his offer to a rough-looking rain cloud, the cloud points to the wind; the wind motions toward an ancient stone wall that no breeze can topple. Only when a mole, having tunneled under the wall, pops up, is the question of the most powerful is laid to rest, and wedding bells chime. Gukova's artwork is wonderfully vivid, with all the natural elements fancifully displaying their talents.



### **Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats: A Treasury of Chinese Holiday Tales, Activities, & Recipes**

Nina Simonds, Leslie Swartz, & The Children's Museum, Boston (Authors), Meilo So (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0152019839

**Audience:** Grade 4-7

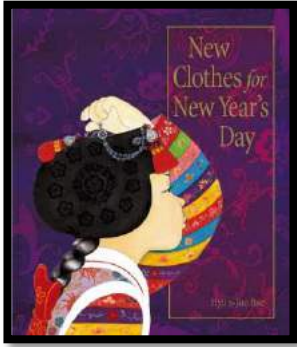
**Keywords:** holidays, food, art, crafts

**Region:** China

#### **From School Library Journal**

This book features five holidays: Chinese New Year and the Lantern Festival, Qing Ming, the Dragon Boat Festival, and the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Each section begins with a one-page description of the history and customs of the festival and is followed by a four- to six-page story, from one to three recipes, and two or three crafts or games. The headings on each page appear in both English typeface and Chinese calligraphy; a guide to Chinese pronunciation is included. Each of the four sections is introduced by a dynamic, detailed watercolor painting on a double-page spread. They include a dragon parade complete with fireworks, kites flying above a family honoring ancestors at a grave, a dragon boat race, and preparations for a moon ceremony. A

two-page resource section is divided into three parts: of interest to adults, of interest to young readers, and Internet sources. *Ginny Gustin, Sonoma County Library System, Santa Rosa, CA*



**New Clothes for New Year's Day**  
Hyun-ju Bae (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1933605296

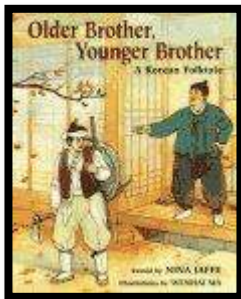
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** picture book,

**Region:** Korea

#### From Booklist

Thoreau may have distrusted enterprises requiring new clothes, but many young children find them thrilling, and they'll connect with the Korean little girl in this imported picture book who dresses up to welcome the new year. Simple words and inventively composed pictures depict each step in donning the elaborate, traditional costume, from the wrapped and tied "rainbow-striped jacket" to the silk pouch that brings good luck. Bae's delicate illustrations move smoothly between depictions of mishaps as the child wrestles with troublesome accessories and grand, wordless portraits, often incorporating traditional furnishings and ornamentation that demonstrate pride in cultural heritage. Despite an awkwardly translated endnote that lacks pronunciations for Korean vocabulary, this makes an inviting addition to lunar New Year offerings, which frequently focus on Chinese celebrations. *Jennifer Mattson*



**Older Brother, Younger Brother**  
Nina Jaffe (Author), Wenhai Ma (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0670856459

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

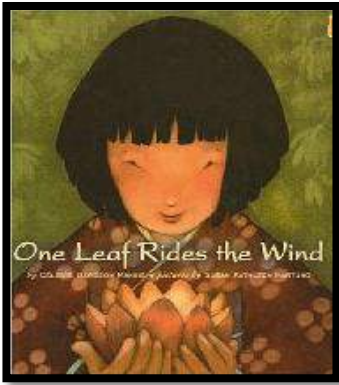
**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** Korea

#### From Booklist

The universal story of the good sibling and the bad sibling is told here in a traditional Korean version with dramatic double-page-spread illustrations. The mean brother, Nolbu, drives out the younger good brother, Hungbu, who wanders with his family in search of shelter. Hungbu helps a small swallow and is rewarded with untold riches. His jealous brother ill-treats the bird and is punished by evil spirits and howling demons. He falls weeping into his good brother's arms, and afterward they all live together in peace and harmony. The open watercolor paintings express the conflict and reconciliation between the characters as well as their connection with the natural world around them. *Hazel Rochman*





### **One Leaf Rides the Wind: Counting in a Japanese Garden**

Celeste Davidson Mannis (Author), Susan Kathleen Hartung (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0142401958

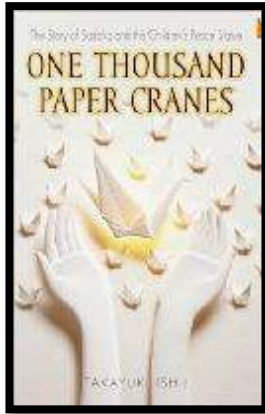
**Audience:** Preschool - Grade 2

**Keywords:** picture book, poetry, numbers

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

This counting book, which follows a Japanese girl as she explores a traditional garden, offers an introduction to haiku and aspects of Japanese culture. The child finds one leaf, two carved dogs flanking the entrance to a temple, three pots of bonsai trees, four startled birds, five tiers on the roof on a pagoda, six sandals outside the teahouse, seven sweet cakes, eight lotus blossoms, nine koi fish, and ten stone lanterns. A double-page panoramic view of the garden at the end allows readers to find and count the objects again. Three lines of haiku are used for each number. Accompanying each poem is a brief paragraph explaining, for example, why a pagoda has five roofs or describing an aspect of the tea ceremony. The book as a whole is elegantly and respectfully presented and the counting aspect is especially well crafted, capturing the meandering focus of a small child. *Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA*



### **One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue**

Ishii Takayuki (Author)

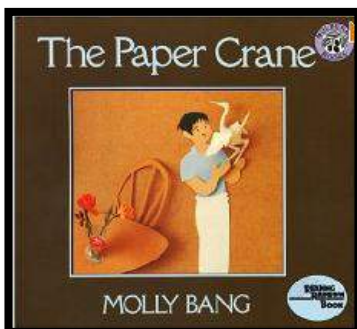
**ISBN:** 978-0440228431

**Audience:** Grades 2-4

**Keywords:** Hiroshima, atomic bomb, World War II, origami, peace, true story

**Region:** Japan

The inspirational story of the Japanese national campaign to build the Children's Peace Statue honoring Sadako and hundreds of other children who died as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima. Ten years after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Sadako Sasaki died as a result of atomic bomb disease. Sadako's determination to fold one thousand paper cranes and her courageous struggle with her illness inspired her classmates. After her death, they started a national campaign to build the Children's Peace Statue to remember Sadako and the many other children who were victims of the Hiroshima bombing. On top of the statue is a girl holding a large crane in her outstretched arms. Today in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, this statue of Sadako is decorated with thousands of paper cranes given by people throughout the world.



### **The Paper Crane**

Molly Bang (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0688073336

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

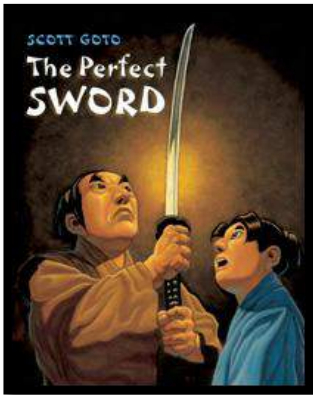
**Keywords:** origami, art

**Region:** Japan

#### **From Publishers Weekly**

Collaborating with her distinguished mother Betsy Bang and working on her own, Molly Bang has received awards including two Caldecott Honors for *Ten, Nine, Eight* and *The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher*. She has another front contender in this amazingly ingenious book. A restaurant owner and his son lose their clientele when a new superhighway bypasses their

street. When a poor man comes to them one evening, they gladly serve him a fine meal for pay. Before leaving, he gives his hosts a paper crane which will be a living, dancing bird when they clap their hands. The dancing crane brings crowds to the restaurant and prosperity to the kind owners as well as a joyful surprise to readers at the story's end. In the color pictures, one sees everything in three-dimensions, an artistic effect created by lovely collages and paintings. A sandwich on a plate, roses in a vase, etc., seem real enough to pick up.



### **The Perfect Sword**

Scott Goto (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1570916984

**Audience:** Grades 3-5

**Keywords:**

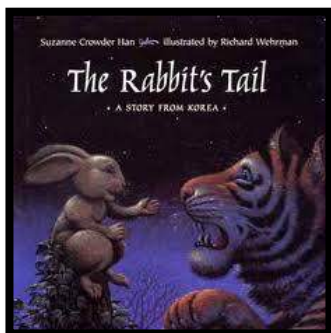
**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

Told from the perspective of young Michio, a master swordsmith's apprentice, *The Perfect Sword* is a moral tale about the virtues that make a person worthy of something perfect. After Michio and his Sensei create the perfect sword (or, at least, as close to perfect as can exist), they interview many samurai, warriors, and nobles who want to possess it. But many are too selfish, or too privileged, or too cruel; it is only when they meet a samurai who is kind and selfless and dedicated to bettering himself that they find the proper owner. Goto inserts his readers directly into late-1500s Japan, giving them a feel for the culture and history. Notes on the tradition of sword making and a glossary help readers to learn more about the world in which the story is set. This book is sure to attract browsers with its excellent illustrations and hold readers with its simple story, beautifully told.—*Alana Abbott, James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford, CT*



N/A



### **The Rabbit's Tale: A Story from Korea**

Suzanne Crowder Han (Author), Richard Wehrman (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0805045802

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

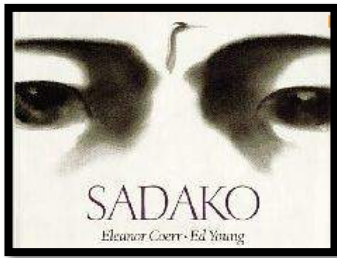
**Keywords:** picture book, folktale, animals

**Region:** Korea

#### **From School Library Journal**

Inside a house on the edge of a village, a mother playfully tries to quiet her crying baby with a threat: "the tiger will get you." Meanwhile, a hungry tiger lurks outside. When the child finally stops crying with the offer of a dried persimmon, the tiger, who can only hear the exchange, assumes she has called on a creature scarier than he is. Terrified, he slinks into an outlying stall.

Mistaking the tiger for an ox, a thief slips a rope around his neck and mounts him. The tiger in turn believes his rider is the dreadful dried persimmon. After a wild ride, the thief escapes. When the tiger tries to explain his adventure to a rabbit, the rabbit searches for the thief and loses his long tail. A source note explains that the picture book is adapted from a story in Han's *Korean Folk and Fairy Tales* (Hollym, 1992) and describes other versions. *Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams*



### **Sadako**

Eleanor Coerr (Author), Ed Young (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0698115880

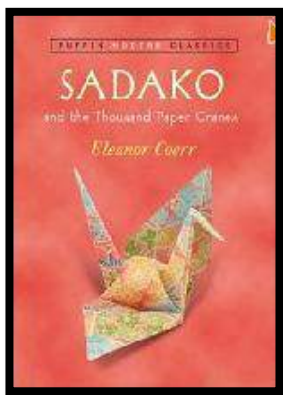
**Audience:** Grades 2-6

**Keywords:** Hiroshima, atomic bomb, World War II, origami, true story, peace

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

This is the same story as the author's *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (Putnam, 1977), told through an entirely new text. In this abbreviated version, the beautiful, limpid prose and crisp dialogue further telescope Sadako's fight with leukemia, "the atom-bomb disease," adding greater impact to her death. What was an epilogue in the novel is here an integral, if anticlimactic, part of the text due to the exceptional flow of the illustrations. Young's pastels vividly capture all the moods of the narrative, place, and characters. The use of light, most obvious as Sadako lays dying, is particularly noteworthy, as is the crane motif as a recurring symbol of hope. A masterful collaboration that will attract many new friends for Sadako. *John Philbrook, San Francisco Public Library*



### **Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes**

Eleanor Coerr (Author), Ronald Himler (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0142401132

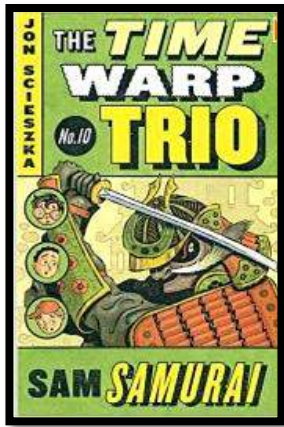
**Audience:** Grades 2-6

**Keywords:** Hiroshima, atomic bomb, World War II, origami, true story, peace

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

Based on the true story of a young Japanese girl who contracts leukemia as a result of the atom bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, the story follows Sadako as a healthy schoolgirl winning relay races, through her diagnosis with the atom bomb sickness, to her long stay in the hospital. It is in the hospital that she first begins making origami cranes to pass the time. Her ultimate goal is to make 1000, but she dies with only 644 completed. Sadako's classmates finish making the remaining cranes, and all 1000 are buried with her. *Paula L. Setser, Deep Springs Elementary School, Lexington, KY*



### Sam Samurai (The Time Warp Trio)

Jon Scieszka, (Author), Adam McCauley (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0142400883

**Audience:** Grades 2-5

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Japan

#### From School Library Journal

The Time Warp Trio is off again! This time, Sam, Fred, and Joe are working on a haiku writing assignment when they accidentally trigger their time travel Book and are transported back to old Japan. According to the rules, they can't return to the 21st century until they find the Book in the past. Unfortunately, it tends to hide in difficult and dangerous places – and important features like its "Auto Translator" keep malfunctioning. Haiku verses are sprinkled through the text. Elements of Japanese history blend with wild anachronisms and off-the-wall humor in an adventure that will be welcomed by children. The short text and snappy humor make the story a good choice for reluctant readers. *Elaine E. Knight, Lincoln Elementary Schools, IL*



### Sayonara, Mrs. Kackleman

Maria Kalman (Author and illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0140541595

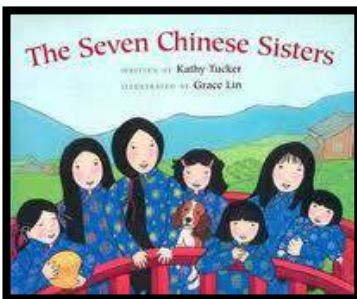
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** travel, art, culture, picture book

**Region:** Japan

#### From Publishers Weekly

While watching a performance of *The Mikado*, Alexander suggests to his older sister Lulu that perhaps they should visit Japan. Lulu, eager to avoid her piano lesson and her teacher, the dreaded Mrs. Kackleman, is only too happy to agree. The two arrive in Tokyo (without parents, you understand), and are bundled off in a red taxi driven by a gloved man with "sharp black hair." Images of houses and people, food and customs jumble together in a wild stream-of-consciousness travelogue that springs from the minds and lips of the irrepressible brother and sister. A man sitting on a park bench and a frog in a kimono reciting a haiku are as riveting as a visit to a Japanese school or communal bath house. The book's carefully orchestrated yet extravagantly kinetic paintings are crammed with details and characters ready to spill off each page. *Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.*



### Seven Chinese Sisters

Kathy Tucker (Author), Grace Lin (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0807573105

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

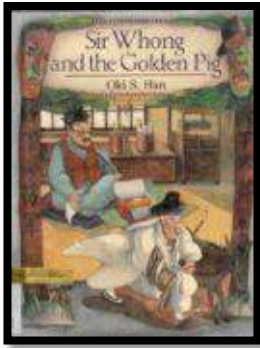
**Keywords:**

**Region:** China

#### From Booklist

Good old-fashioned storytelling distinguishes Tucker's thoroughly engaging tale of courage, individual talent, and teamwork. Each of the seven Chinese sisters has a noteworthy skill: the eldest rides a scooter as fast as the wind; the second knows karate; the third can count to 500 and beyond; the fourth can talk to dogs; the fifth can catch any ball; the sixth cooks delicious noodle soup. The baby's talents are as yet undiscovered. One day, a hungry red dragon from a faraway mountain smells the soup and flies straight to the sisters' house. Distracted by plump Seventh Sister, he snatches her and steals her away (Her first word is "HELP!"). Then the sisters kick into action, each utilizing her unique talent in the rescue mission. Lin expertly captures the drama and humor of the story with delightful paintings that reveal lovely Chinese landscapes and a quirky, not-too-scary dragon. A wonderful read-aloud. *Karin Snelson*





### **Sir Whong and the Golden Pig**

Oki S. Han (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0803713444

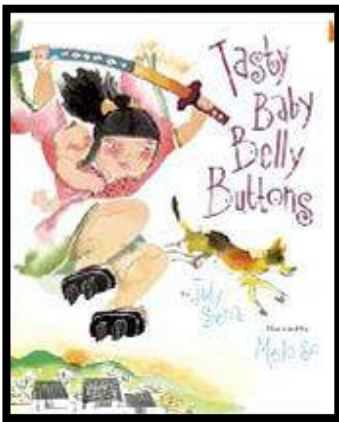
**Audience:** Grades 1-6

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Korea

#### **From School Library Journal**

A Korean folktale of a trickster out-tricked. Sir Whong is renowned in his village for his gentility, generosity, and wealth. Mr. Oh appears one day and asks to borrow a large sum of money. Since he is a stranger to Sir Whong, Mr. Oh offers a golden pig as collateral. Receiving the money, he departs to joyously squander it. The golden pig is soon discovered to be a fake and Sir Whong concocts a simple yet ingenious stratagem to get his money back, providing a delightful resolution to this cautionary tale. The text is simple and to the point; the limpid prose admirably advances the story while providing small touches of local color. Han's watercolors are folksy and bright, containing many loving details of traditional Korean country life. Folktale collections won't want to be without Sir Whong, social studies classes will mine it for its authenticity, and individual readers will treasure it as a satisfying story of justice well done. *John Philbrook, San Francisco Public Library*



### **Tasty Baby Belly Buttons**

Judy Sierra (Author), Meilo So (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0679893691

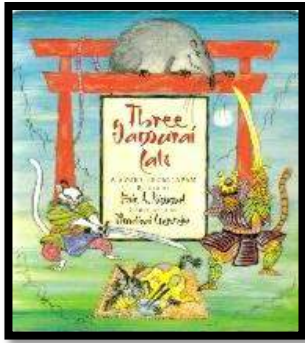
**Audience:** Kindergarten to Grade 3

**Keywords:** Picture Book

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

Some people may quake at the idea of giants kidnapping babies so that they can eat their belly buttons, but these things happen in Japanese folklore. This tale is a variation of "Momotaro," the tale of the boy born from a peach; in this story, it is a brave melon princess, Uriko, who uses her talents and her bravery to save the babies from the oni (giants). She gradually collects animals to help her, luring them with millet dumplings. Throughout the narrative, Sierra incorporates descriptive sound words traditionally used in Japanese storytelling to draw readers into the action and uses just the right combination of droll and dramatic elements. An author's note explains how this story came to be. The pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations, both detailed and fluid, are the perfect accompaniment to this deliciously scary adventure. *Carolyn Jenks, First Parish Unitarian Church, Portland, ME*



### Three Samurai Cats: A Story from Japan

Eric A Kimmel (Author), Mordicai Gerstein (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0823418770

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

**Keywords:** picture book

**Region:** Japan

#### From School Library Journal

Here's an adaptation of an adaptation of a story Zen masters used to illustrate how unconventional approaches to problems can be disarmingly effective. When a *daimyo*'s castle is besieged by an enormous, ferocious rat, the lord beseeches the abbot of a nearby monastery to send a samurai cat to drive the beast away. The first and second samurai to confront him are overwhelmed by the rodent's martial-arts skills, but the third, a tattered, disreputable-looking old feline, allows the rat's greed to work against him and emerges triumphant. Kimmel's telling is reasonably successful and the message to "Draw strength from stillness. Learn to act without acting. And never underestimate a samurai cat!" is conveyed without any element of preachiness. Gerstein's lively cartoon illustrations are at their best in depicting the loathsome rat. The *daimyo* and the abbot are depicted as dogs, but there's no question as to who has the upper paw. *Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY*



### Two of Everything

Lily Toy Hong (Author and Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0807581575

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 4

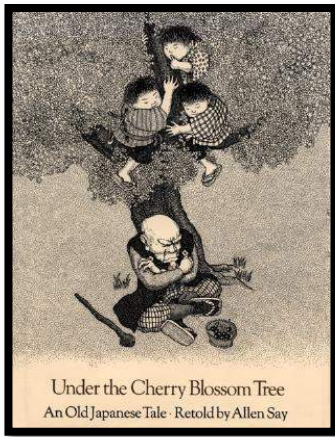
**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** China

#### From School Library Journal

A Chinese folktale with a perfect blend of humor and wisdom. One spring morning, Mr. Haktak, a poor farmer, unearths a brass pot in his garden. Placing his coin purse inside for safekeeping, he carries his discovery home to his wife. After she accidentally drops her hairpin inside, Mrs. Haktak reaches into the pot and, to her amazement, pulls out two identical hairpins and two matching coin purses. Quickly deducing the magic secret, husband and wife work feverishly to duplicate their few coins, creating enough gold to fill their hut. The happy couple believes their luck has finally changed for the better--until Mrs. Haktak falls head first into the pot. Using lively yet straightforward language, Hong tells this story with an engagingly playful tone. Never ready to despair, the quick-thinking woman takes charge and imaginatively solves each problem, rapidly moving the plot to a fitting resolution. *Joy Fleishhacker, New York Public Library*





## Under the Cherry Blossom Tree

Allen Say (Author, Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0618556151

**Audience:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

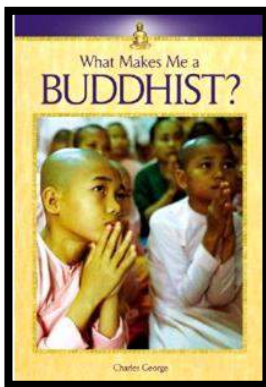
**Keywords:** picture book, folktale

**Region:** Japan

An adapted short tale from Japanese *rakugo* comedy traditions, this is the story of a miserly old landlord despised by his tenants who one day discovers that a cherry tree is growing out of his head. Gorgeous illustrations show how the old man handles this surprise, and how the villagers deal with the unexpected and get their peaceful revenge.



N/A



## What Makes Me a Buddhist?

Charles George (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0737722697

**Audience:** Grades 3-5

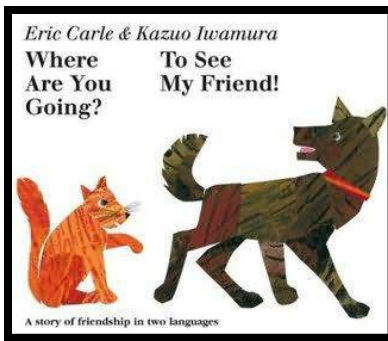
**Keywords:** religion, Buddhism, photography

**Region:** Asia

### From Booklist

Reviewed with Charles George's *What Makes Me a Hindu?*

There are many series about world religions, and they are often indistinguishable in terms of format and coverage: oversize, generic photographs; generalities with no clear delineation of how various denominations within a larger group differ. Books in the *What Makes Me A...* series use a compact format to full advantage. An attractive, colorful design is the background for a map and numerous color photographs and diagrams. But best of all is the straightforward organization and the clarity of the text. Each book in the series contains the same chapter divisions: "How Did My Religion Begin?" "What Do I Believe?" "How Do I Practice My Faith?" and "What Holidays Do I Celebrate?" The solid addendum "for further exploration" offers books and Web sites that seem to be at kids' interest level. Both *Buddhist* and *Hindu* serve as excellent introductions and will add historical context for readers who already follow these faiths. *Ilene Cooper*



### Where Are You Going? To See My Friend!

Kazuo Iwamura (Author) and Eric Carle (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0439416597

**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:** language, animals, picture book

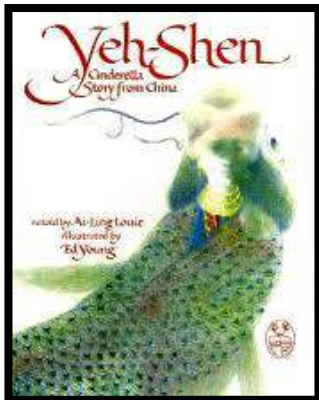
**Region:** Japan

#### From School Library Journal

This lively and rhythmic, bilingual picture book is told in dialogue, with rebuslike symbols used to identify speakers. It details an energetic romp with a dog, cat, rooster, goat, rabbit, and a child, all of whom become friends. Carle's familiar collage technique is employed in the book's first half, while Iwamura's gentle watercolor illustrations, combined with the Japanese text, make up the second half. The two texts are divided by a gatefold that includes the music and lyrics to the song "Where Are You Going? To See My Friend!" in English and Japanese. An irresistible, spirited ode to friendship. --*Andrea Tarr, Corona Public Library, CA*



N/A



### Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China

Ai-Ling Louie (Author), Ed Young (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0698113886

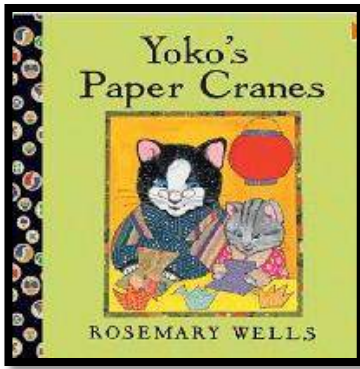
**Audience:** Grades 1-4

**Keywords:** folktale

**Region:** China

Yeh-Shen is orphaned and left to live with her stepmother who is jealous of her beauty. She grows up working for her stepmother and befriendng a fish that she feeds at the pond. Once her stepmother realizes she has a secret friend, she tricks Yeh-Shen and kills the fish. Yeh-Shen is devastated but learns that the fish's bones are magical and can grant her every wish. Yeh-Shen asks the bones for food to help her survive. However, when a festival draws near, she wishes to go to the festival and the bones oblige by giving her magical shoes, which when worn provide beautiful clothes, jewelry, and hair. The story then follows in the usual Cinderella pattern. Chinese motifs are present in the illustrations, which are vivid and colorful. *Adapted from <http://supergirllibrarian.blogspot.com>*





### **Yoko's Paper Cranes**

Rosemary Wells (Author, Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-1423119845

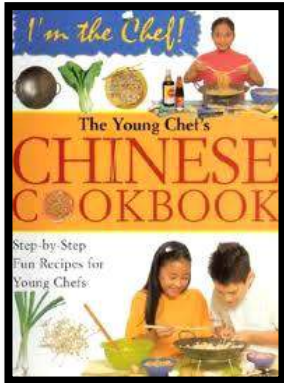
**Audience:** Preschool – Grade 2

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

This much-anticipated follow-up to *Yoko* (Hyperion, 1998) focuses on the beloved kitten's connection to the grandparents that she and her parents left behind in Japan when they relocated to the United States. The story begins by recounting the treasured hours she spent in the garden with Obaasan, her grandmother, feeding the cranes. Little Yoko learns that the cranes stay only a few months in the garden. The disappointment that she feels at the birds' seasonal departure is mitigated somewhat by the origami cranes and other creatures that Ojisan, her grandfather, teaches her to make. Once in America, the child corresponds weekly via letters and then on Obaasan's birthday, sends a special present of three lovingly folded origami cranes and the promise that soon she will return to visit them—just like the cranes. Recognizable motifs from traditional Japanese art are found throughout the visual narrative. A perfect gem. *Rosalyn Pierini, San Luis Obispo City-County Library, CA*



### **The Young Chef's Chinese Cookbook (I'm the Chef! Series)**

Frances Lee (Author)

**ISBN:** 978-0778702948

**Audience:** Grade 4 and up

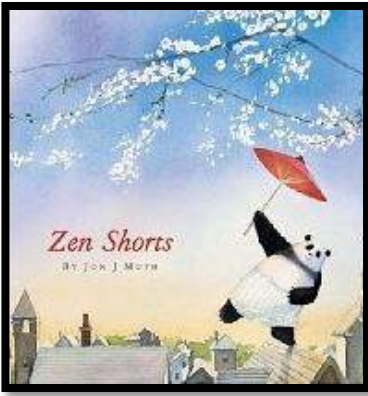
**Keywords:**

**Region:** China

#### **From School Library Journal**

These delightful cookbooks are a feast for the eye and the palate. Each offers 15 easy recipes representative of the featured cuisine, ranging from appetizers to main dishes, soups, side dishes, and desserts. The emphasis is on fun and the large, colorful photographs that are liberally splashed across each spread depict children enthusiastically engaged in preparing delectable dishes. Each volume includes a description of a festival, some background on the observance, and a special food associated with it. The recipes are clearly written and well illustrated. Kitchen safety is emphasized in the "Tips & Tricks" sidebars, and each book includes a disclaimer that while the recipes have been tested and declared safe for youngsters to prepare, adult supervision is strongly recommended. A glossary defines both cooking terms and words related to the cuisine. *Joyce Adams Burner, Hillcrest Library, Prairie Village, KS*





**Zen Shorts** (Caldecott Honor Book)  
Jon J. Muth (Illustrator)

**ISBN:** 978-0439339117

**Audience:** Kindergarten - Grade 4

**Keywords:**

**Region:** Japan

#### **From School Library Journal**

Beautifully illustrated in two distinct styles, this book introduces readers to a Zen approach to the world, wrapped in a story about three siblings and their new neighbor, a panda. One by one, the children visit Stillwater, enjoying his company and listening to him tell a brief tale that illustrates a Zen principle. The tales invite the children to consider the world and their perceptions from a different angle. Richly toned and nicely detailed watercolors depict the "real world" scenes, while those accompanying the Zen lessons employ black lines and strokes on pastel pages, blending Western realism with Japanese naturalism. Taken simply as a picture book, *Zen Shorts* is interesting and visually lovely. As an introduction to Zen, it is a real treat, employing familiar imagery to prod children to approach life and its circumstances in profoundly "un-Western" ways. An author's note discusses the basic concept of Zen and details the sources of Stillwater's stories. - *Coop Renner, Hillside Elementary, El Paso, TX*