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 Children's Booklist 2023: Celebrating Asian Characters Boardbooks & Picturebooks



A Dupatta Is...

by Marzieh Abbas This vibrant picture book celebrates the dupatta—a traditional shawl worn in South Asian culture, which is fun, functional, and

carries the sounds and smells of family and identity.



I Am Golden

by Eva Chen This moving ode to the immigrant experience and self-love for Chinese American children, is a jubilant celebration

of accepting who you are.



Niki Nakayama: a Chef's Tale in 13 Bites

by Jamie Michalak Using the structure of a traditional kaiseki

American chef's hunger for success in 13 "bites."



Leila in Saffron

by Rukhsanna Guidroz A colorful journey of self-discovery and identity follows the experiences of a little girl who visits her grandmother's house for their culturally inspired weekly family dinner.



The Yellow âao dáai

by Hanh Bui When she accidentally tears her grandmother's very special yellow áo dài while practicing the Vietnamese Fan Dance for her school's International Day, Naliah

learns how to mend it as well as how to believe in herself.



Eyes That Speak to the Stars

by Joanna Ho

A young Asian boy, who notices that his eyes look different from his friends', realizes that his eyes—like his father's, grandfather's, and younger brother's—rise to the skies, speak to the stars and are visionary.



Hush! : a Thai Lullaby

by Minfong Ho

Vivid ink and cutpaper illustrations accompany the bedtime story in rhyme of one mother's efforts to keep all the animals from the mosquito to the elephant quiet when their noise threatens to wake up her

baby. A Caldecott Honor Book.



Bharatanatyam in Ballet Shoes

by Mahak Jain

Paro comes from a dancing family. At home, she dances Bharatanatyam with her mom, and now she's excited to learn ballet. But what if she can't dance like the other kids in her class? Ballerinas move like fairies. while

Bharatanatyam dancers seem like queens. Paro can't be both... can she?



Kimchi, Kimchi Every Day

by Erica Kim Whether round and crunchy like a kimchi

pancake or pinched and plump like a kinchi dumpling, there are so many ways to enjoy this Korean traditional dish. Explore the

different ways to eat kimchi in this fun, rhyming tale that also teaches the days of the week.

Celebrating Asian Characters

Boardbooks & Picturebooks



Dim Sum, Here We Come!

by Maple Lam

In this yummy celebration of togetherness, love, family and food, a Chinese American girl and her younger sister attend their weekly dim sum family gathering.



Hundred Years of Happiness by Thanhha Lai

When her grandmother gets trapped in her cloudy memories, An and her grandfather Ong come up with a plan to bring her back to a happy moment so she can remember her wedding wish with Ong: one hundred years of happiness.



Up to My Knees!

by Grace Lin Mei plants a seed and watches it grow. Soon the little plant is up to her toes, then her knees, then her waist. How tall will it get? Engages young children in exploring informal

measurement. Part of the Storytelling Math board book series.



Grandpa Grumps

by Katrina Moore Planning all kinds of activities to share with her Yeh-Yeh when he visits from China for

the first time, young Daisy is disappointed by her grandfather's grumpy demeanor and tries all sorts of ways to make him smile.



Chaiwala!

by Priti Birla Maheshwari When their train makes a ten-minute stop at the station in Jaipur, a young girl and her mother hurry to get in line for a cup of chai. The girl orders two cups, and then delights

in watching the chaiwala at work.



Bee-bim Bop! by Linda Sue Park

In bouncy, rhyming text, a hungry Korean-American child tells about helping her mother make bee-bim bop--a traditional Korean dish of rice, meat, and vegetables.



A Different Pond

by Bao Phi

Bao Phi and his father wake up early in the morning to fish for food on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis and Bao's father tells him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam.



It's Diwali!

by Kabir Sehgal

A best-selling mother-son duo helps readers count up to 10 and back down again to the tune of "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" while sharing the traditions and festivities of

Diwali, the Festival of Lights.



Dijichan's

When Lola Visits

by Michelle Sterling

For one young girl, summer is the season of days spent at the pool, and of picking golden limes off the trees. But summer doesn't start until her grandmother from the Philippines comes for her annual visit.

Ojichan's Gift

by Chieri Uegaki

Every year when Mayumi and her family visit Japan, she and her grandfather tend a garden made only of gravel and stones, but when her grandfather grows too old to care

for the garden, Mayumi gives him a gift they both can cherish.



Natsumi's Song of Summer

by Robert Paul Weston

This sweet and gentle picture book celebrates summer in Japan, as one little girl shares her love for insects with her cousin who is visiting from America.



Amy Wu and the Warm Welcome by Kat Zhang

Amy Wu does her best to make her new classmate feel welcome in this warmhearted and playfully illustrated follow-up picture

book to Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao and Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon.



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