

# Asia

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## Chapter Books (J Fiction) --- Grades 3-8

### [BLUE FINGERS: A Ninja's Tale](#)

by Whitesel, Cheryl

*In Japan, in 1545, having failed apprenticeship as a dye maker, Koji is captured and forced to train as a ninja, where he remains disloyal until he discovers samurai have burned his former village.*

### [BOY AND THE SAMURAI](#)

by Haugaard, Eric

*Having grown up as an orphan of the streets while 16th-century Japan is being ravaged by civil war, Saru seeks to help a samurai rescue his wife from imprisonment by a warlord so they can all flee to a more peaceful life.*

### [Demon in the Teahouse](#)

**Series Title:** [Samurai Mystery #2](#)

by Hoobler, Dorothy

#### **J Fiction**

*In 18th-century Japan, 14-year-old Seikei, a merchant's son in training to be a samurai, helps his patron investigate a series of murders and arson in the capital city of Edo, each of which is associated in some way with a popular geisha.*

### [DRAGON'S CHILD](#)

by Yep, Laurence

*In 1922, ten-year-old Gim Lew reluctantly leaves his village in China to accompany his father to America, but before they go he must prepare for a grueling test that he must pass--without stuttering--at California's Angel Island, where strict officials strive to keep out unwanted immigrants. Includes facts about immigration from China and the experiences of the author's family.*

### [EDUCATION OF PATIENCE GOODSPEED](#)

by Frederick, Heather

*Acting as her father's assistant navigator on a high-sea adventure in 1836, Patience is discouraged when all the women and children are forced to go ashore as the ship heads into more dangerous waters, forcing Patience to enter a boarding school in Hawaii while learning to adjust to her new surroundings on her own. Sequel to VOYAGE OF PATIENCE GOODSPEED*

### [GHOST IN THE TOKAIDO INN](#)

**Series Title:** [Samurai Mystery #1](#)

by Hoobler, Dorothy

*While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a*

*samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in 18th-century Japan.*

### [GOODBYE VIETNAM](#)

by Whelan, Gloria

#### **J FICTION WHE**

*13-year-old Mai and her family embark on a dangerous sea voyage from Vietnam to Hong Kong to escape the unpredictable and often brutal Vietnamese government.*

### [HIROSHIMA \[Yep\]](#)

by Yep, Laurence

#### **J Fiction**

*Describes the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, particularly as it affects Sachi, who becomes one of the Hiroshima Maidens. The author 'bases his... narrative on true-life accounts written by survivors of the Hiroshima bombing.'*

### [HOMESICK, MY OWN STORY](#)

by Fritz, Jean

*The author's fictionalized version, though all the events are true, of her childhood in China in the 1920's.*

### [I RODE A HORSE OF MILK WHITE JADE](#)

by Wilson, Diane

*Oyuna tells her granddaughter the story of how love for her horse enabled her to win a race and bring good luck to her family living in Mongolia in 1285.*

### [IN DARKNESS, DEATH](#)

**Series Title:** [Samurai Mystery #3](#)

by Hoobler, Dorothy

*In 18th-century Japan, young Seikei becomes involved with a ninja as he helps Judge Ooka, his foster father, investigate the murder of a samurai.*

### [JAHANARA: Princess of Princesses](#)

**Series Title:** [Royal Diaries](#)

by Lasky, Kathryn

#### **J FICTION LAS**

*Beginning in 1627, Princess Jahanara, first daughter of Shah Jahan of India's Mogul Dynasty, writes in her diary about political intrigues, weddings, battles, and other experiences of her life.*

### [KAZUNOMIYA: Prisoner of Heaven](#)

**Series Title:** [Royal Diaries](#)

by Lasky, Kathryn

#### **J FICTION LAS**

*Princess Kazunomiya, half-sister of the Emperor of Japan, relates in her diary and in poems the confusing events occurring in the Imperial Palace in 1858, including political and romantic intrigue.*

## [KITE FIGHTERS](#)

by Park, Linda Sue

*In Korea in 1473, 11-year-old Young-sup overcomes his rivalry with his older brother Kee-sup, who as the first-born son receives special treatment from their father, and combines his kite-flying skill with Kee-sup's kite-making skill in an attempt to win the New Year kite-fighting competition.*

## [Kite Rider](#)

by McCaughrean, Geraldine

### **J Fiction**

*In 13th-century China, after trying to save his widowed from a horrendous 2nd marriage, 12-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan*

## [LADY OF CH'IAO KUO: Warrior of the South](#)

**Series Title:** [Royal Diaries](#)

by Yep, Laurence

### **J FICTION YEP**

*In 531 A.D., a 15-year-old princess of the Hsien tribe in southern China keeps a diary which describes her role as liaison between her own people and the local Chinese colonists, in times of both peace and war.*

## [MASTER PUPPETEER](#)

by Paterson, Katherine

*A 13-year-old boy describes the poverty and discontent of 18th century Osaka and the world of puppeteers in which he lives.*

## [MY BROTHER, MY SISTER, AND I](#)

by Watkins, Yoko

*Living as refugees in Japan in 1947, while trying to locate their missing father, 13-year-old Yoko and her older brother and sister must endure a bad fire, injury, and false charges of arson, theft, and murder. Sequel to SO FAR FROM THE BAMBOO GROVE*

## [NEELA, Victory Song](#)

**Series Title:** [Girls of Many Lands](#)

by Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee

### **J FICTION DIV**

*In India in 1939, 12-year-old Neela meets a young freedom fighter at her sister's wedding and soon after must rely on his help when her father fails to return home from a march in Calcutta against British occupation.*

## [OF NIGHTINGALES THAT WEEP](#)

by Paterson, Katherine

*In the 1100's, the vain young daughter of a samurai finds her comfortable life ripped apart when opposing warrior clans begin a struggle for imperial control of Japan.*

### [OLD MAN MAD ABOUT DRAWING: A Tale of Hokusai](#)

by Place, Fracois

*In the 1800's, Tojiro, a young seller of rice cakes in the Japanese capital of Edo, later known as Tokyo, is amazed to discover that the grumpy and shabby old man who buys his cakes is a famous artist renowned for his sketches, prints, and paintings of flowers, animals, and landscapes.*

### [SAMURAI'S TALE](#)

by Haugaard, Eric

*In turbulent 16th-century Japan, orphaned Taro is taken in by a general serving the great warlord Takeda Shingen and grows up to become a samurai fighting for the enemies of his dead family.*

### [SEESAW GIRL](#)

by Park, Linda Sue

*Impatient with the constraints put on her as an aristocratic girl living in Korea during the 1600's, 12-year-old Jade Blossom determines to see beyond her small world.*

### [SIGN OF THE CHRYSANTHEMUM](#)

by Paterson, Katherine

*In Japan in the 1100's, a teen-ager comes to know himself through contacts with social ills and political unrest while searching for his father in Japan's capital.*

### [SINGLE SHARD](#)

by Park, Linda Sue

*Tree-ear, a 13th-year-old orphan in medieval (1100's) Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. Newbery Award Winner 2002.*

### [SONDOK: Princess of the Moon and Stars](#)

**Series Title:** [Royal Diaries](#)

by Holman, Sheri

#### **J FICTION HOL**

*In a series of messages placed in her grandmother's ancestral jar, a 7th century princess and future ruler of the Korean kingdom of Silla vents her frustration at not being permitted to study astronomy because she is a girl.*

### [SPRING PEARL: The Last Flower](#)

**Series Title:** [Girls of Many Lands](#)

by Yep, Laurence

#### **J FIC YEP**

*Called boyish by her new family for being able to read and write, 12-year-old, orphaned Spring Pearl's "odd ways" help save the family during the 1857 Opium War in Canton, China.*

### [The Sword that Cut the Burning Grass](#)

**Series Title:** [Samurai Mystery](#)

by Hoobler, Dorothy

## **J Fiction**

*In his latest adventure in 18th-century Japan, 14-year-old samurai apprentice Seikei, with the help of a servant girl and an imperious old man, sets out to rescue the young Emperor Yasuhito from his kidnappers.*

### [TULKU](#)

by Dickinson, Peter

*In the early 1900's, a 13-year-old boy escapes from slaughter by the Boxers in China and joins forces with an English botanist and her escort, traveling with them to Tibet where the power of Buddhist monks transforms the lives of all of them.*

### [WHEN MY NAME WAS KEOKO](#)

by Park, Linda Sue

*With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.*

## **Books for Teens (YA Fiction)**

### [ANILA'S JOURNEY](#)

by Finn, Mary

*In late 18th-century Calcutta, India, half-Indian half-Irish Anila Tandy finds herself alone with nothing but her artistic talent to rely on, searching for her father who is presumed dead.*

### [BLOOD STONE](#)

by Gavin, Jamilla

#### **YA FICTION GAV**

*In the early 17th century, young Venetian Filippo Veroneo travels from Venice to Afghanistan to rescue his imprisoned father and stops in India to raise the ransom by selling his father's beautiful diamond to the ruler Shah Jehan, who later uses the stone as the model for the Taj Mahal.*

### [CLIMBING THE STAIRS](#)

by Venkatraman, Padma

*In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, 15-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.*

### [EXAMINATION](#)

by Bosse, Malcolm J.

*15-year-old Hong and his older brother Chen face famine, flood, pirates, and jealous rivals on their journey through 15th century China as Chen pursues his calling as a scholar and Hong becomes involved with a secret society known as the White Lotus.*

### [LONG SEASON OF RAIN](#)

by Kim, Helen

*When an orphan boy comes to live with her family, 11-year-old Junehee begins to realize that the demands placed on Korean women can destroy their lives.*

TREE OF HEAVEN

by Binstock, R.C.

*Set against the violence of Japan's invasion of China in the 1930's, a love story tells of a Chinese woman who becomes the servant of a Japanese officer after he rescues her, and the strange intimacy that develops between them.*