

Picture Books Around the World - ASIA

Afghanistan

[Four feet, two sandals](#)

by Williams, Karen Lynn.

J PIC+

Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers.

[The roses in my carpets](#)

by Khan, Rukhsana

JEASY

When a young boy and his mother and sister come to a refugee camp to escape the war in Afghanistan, he finds some comfort in the beauty of the carpets he is learning to weave.

Cambodia

[The caged birds of Phnom Penh](#)

by Lipp, Frederick

JEASY

A young Cambodian girl saves her money to buy a bird on which to make a wish for her poor family's future.

China

[Grandma lives in a perfume village](#)

by Fang, Suzhen

JEASY FAN

Xiao Le's grandmother lives in a faraway village. A visit with Grandma is always a special event, but this time she is frail. With encouragement from his mom, Xiao Le plays with and helps Grandma. When Grandma dies shortly thereafter, Xiao Le comforts his mom--reminding her that when it rains, Grandma is washing her clothes in the sky ... and that although the Perfume Village in heaven cannot be reached by train, it can be accessed by the heart.

[Ruby's wish](#)

by Bridges, Shirin Yim.

JEASY BRI

In China, at a time when few girls are taught to read or write, Ruby dreams of going to the university with her brothers and male cousins.

[The elephant's pillow](#)

by Roome, Diana Reynolds.

JEASY

Sing Lo, a wealthy boy living in Peking, goes to visit the late emperor's Imperial Elephant and tries to cheer him up.

[The little stone lion](#)

by Xiong, Kim

JEASY

A little stone lion, smaller than a cat, tells about the Chinese village that it guards.

[The story of paper](#)

by Compestine, Ying Chang.

JEASY

After the Kang brothers get in trouble at school, they devise a way to make paper, which will make things easier for both their teacher and themselves. Includes a historical note and a recipe for home-made paper.

[The Warlord's fish](#)

by Pilegard, Virginia

J PIC+

In ancient China, an artist and his young apprentice are kidnapped and taken into the desert, where their captors' caravan is lost until the artist's carved wooden goldfish points the way to safety.

India

[Chachaji's cup](#)

by Krishnaswami, Uma

JEASY

A boy learns about his family history and the Partition of India from his great uncle, through stories told over a beloved old teacup.

[Elephants never forget!](#)

by Ravishankar, Anushka

JEASY

A lonely elephant meets a herd of buffaloes and decides to stay with them, but when they meet up with some elephants, he must make an important decision.

[Maya](#)

by Jain, Mahak

JEASY JAI

The electricity in Maya's house has gone out again. Worse, she is afraid of the dark -- and her fear has been even worse since her father died. Now it feels as if the darkness will never go away. Maya's mother distracts her with a legend about the banyan tree, which saved the world from the first monsoon by drinking up the floodwaters, and growing tall and strong.

[Monsoon](#)

by Krishnaswami, Uma

JEASY

A child describes waiting for the monsoon rains to arrive and the worry that they will not come. <div class="clear"></div>

[My mother's sari](#)

by Rao, Sandhya

JEASY

Tulika. A little girl is fascinated by her mother's sari and finds many uses for it.

[Out of the Way! Out of the Way!](#)

by Krishnaswami, Uma

JEASY KRI

When a boy spots a young tree in the middle of the path that runs through the village, he puts rocks around the base of the tree to protect the tree from being trampled.

Indonesia

[Komodo!](#)

by Sis, Peter

JEASY

A young boy who loves dragons goes with his parents to the Indonesian island of Komodo in hopes of seeing a real dragon.

Japan

[Basho and the river stones](#)

by Myers, Tim

JEASY

Tricked by a fox into giving up his share of cherries, a famous Japanese poet is inspired to write a haiku and the fox, ashamed of his actions, must devise another trick to set things right.

[Emily's balloon](#)

by Sakai, Komako

JEASY

A little girl's new friend is round, lighter than air, and looks like the moon at night. <div class="clear"></div>

[Hachiko : the true story of a loyal dog](#)

by Turner, Pamela S.

JEASY

Relates the true story of a dog who accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continued to wait for him there every day for many years.

[I lost my dad](#)

by Gomi, Taro

JEASY

A small boy loses his Dad while browsing in the toy section of a department store. <div class="clear"></div>

[The hungriest boy in the world](#)

by Namioka, Lensey

JEASY

After swallowing the Hunger Monster, Jiro begins eating everything in sight, until his family finds a way to lure the monster out of Jiro's stomach.

[The Snow Day](#)

by Sakai, Komako

JEASY

A little rabbit enjoys having a day off from kindergarten and spending time with his mother during a snowstorm, but his father's flight home is cancelled until the snow stops falling.

[The wakame gatherers](#)

by Thompson, Holly

JEASY

When Nanami's Gram from Maine visits Japan, Nanami's Japanese grandmother, Baachan, takes them to the seashore to gather wakame seaweed.

[Wabi Sabi](#)

by Reibstein, Mark

JEASY

Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name.

[Who made this cake?](#)

by Nakagawa, Chihiro

JEASY

While a boy and his parents go for an outing, little people invade the house and use their big construction equipment to bake a cake.

Micronesia

[The biggest soap](#)

by Schaefer, Carole Lexa

JEASY

When Kessy, who lives in the Truk Islands, is sent by his mother to buy laundry soap, he hurries back to listen to her storytelling, discovering that his own experience makes a good story too.

Nepal

[Himalaya](#)

by Tenzing Norbu, Lama

J PIC+

When an aging Himalayan grandfather assumes responsibility for raising his fatherless grandson, he battles age, the elements, and his own pride to train his grandson for leadership.

[I, Doko : the tale of a basket](#)

by Young, Ed

JEASY

A Nepalese basket tells the story of its use through three generations of a family. <div class="clear"></div>

[Secret of the snow leopard](#)

by Tenzing Norbu, Lama

J PIC+

Tsering, the boy hero of Himalaya, returns in this touching story of courage and persistence. On a trip with his new stepfather, Tsering is warned not to approach the mountain pass where his father was killed. But as the child and grandchild of two hotheaded men, and driven by anger at his father's untimely death, Tsering decides to follow his instincts and goes off in the night to climb. In his ascent, Tsering makes precious discoveries that will change his life forever.

North and South Korea

[Pool](#)

by Yi, Chi-hyon

JEASY YI

Two shy children meet at a noisy pool and dive beneath the crowd into a magical undersea land, where they explore a fantastical landscape and meet various creatures.

[Tiptoe tapirs](#)

by Kim, Hanmin

JEASY KIM

Tapir and Little Tapir are the quietest creatures in a very noisy jungle, but when a leopard is threatened by a hunter they teach him how to move with a very soft step, and the other animals follow suit.

[While we were out](#)

by Lee, Ho Baek.

JEASY

When someone leaves the patio door unlocked it's just the opportunity the family's pet rabbit needs to go exploring.

Pakistan

[Ruler of the courtyard](#)

by Khan, Rukhsana

JEASY

After confronting what she believes to be a snake in the bath house, Saba finds the courage to overcome her fear of the chickens in the courtyard.

Singapore

[Nellie Bly's monkey : his remarkable story in his own words](#)

by Blos, Joan W.

JEASY BLO

McGinty the monkey and his new owner, a woman journalist, travel from Singapore to New York where he finally takes up residence at the Menagerie.

Taiwan

[On my way to buy eggs](#)

by Ch'en, Chih-yuan

JEASY

When her father sends her out for eggs before she can go out to play, Shau-yu finds plenty of excitement while walking to the store.

Thailand

[Peek! : a Thai hide-and-seek](#)

by Ho, Minfong

JEASY

A father and daughter play hide-and-seek in the midst of the animals near their house in Thailand. <div class="clear"></div>

[The man who caught fish](#)

by Krudop, Walter

JEASY

A stranger with a bamboo pole magically catches fish and hands them out to villagers, saying "One person, one fish," but the king will not be content until he receives a whole basket of fish.

Tibet

[Little dog Moon](#)

by Trottier, Maxine

JEASY

Moon, a Tibetan terrier, lives in a monastery in the mountains of Tibet. At his master's request, he guides two small children on a perilous trek to freedom in Nepal.

Vietnam

[Ten mice for Tet!](#)

by Shea, Pegi Deitz

JEASY

A village of mice prepares for Tet, or Vietnamese New Year, as different numbers of mice give gifts, cook food, and celebrate in other traditional ways.