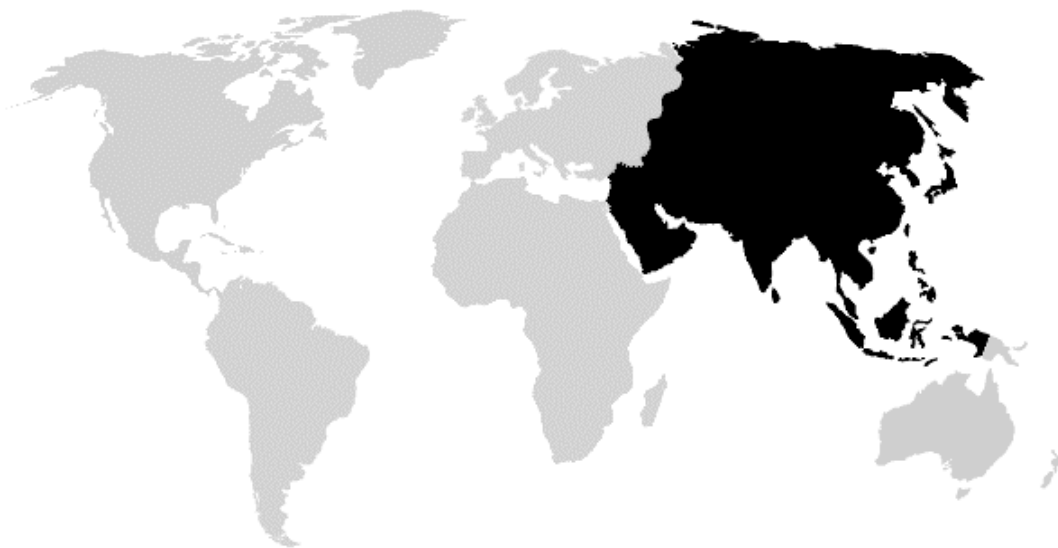


## **Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States**



### **Growing Up in Asia and the Middle East**

#### **Afghanistan**

Latifa. *My Forbidden Face: Growing Up Under the Taliban: A Young Woman's Story*. Hyperion, 2001.

Gr. 6-8. A sixteen-year-old girl's life changes dramatically as the Taliban takes over the rule of Afghanistan. Latifa is Afghani.

#### **China**

Gower, Catherine. *Long-Long's New Year: A Story About the Chinese Spring Festival*. Illus. by He Zhihong. Tuttle Publishing. 2005.

K-Gr. 3. Accompanying his grandfather to a nearby market town in hopes of selling their cabbages, hard-working Long-Long earns enough money to buy presents for his family. Catherine Gower lived in China for two years. He Zhihong was born in China and studied traditional Chinese painting in Beijing before moving to Paris.

Ma Yan. *The Diary of Ma Yan: The Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl*. HarperCollins, 2005.

Gr. 5-8. In her diary, Ma Yan records her school experiences and friendships, the financial struggles her family goes through to keep her in school, and her dreams of giving her family an easier life. Short sections explaining details of rural life in China are included. Ma Yan lives in China.

Russell, Ching Yeung. *Moon Festival*. Illus. by Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang. Boyds Mills, 1997.

K-Gr. 2. A girl spends the day preparing for the annual Moon Festival with family and friends in her village. That evening she and her grandmother wish for her parents to return from where they live far away. Ching Yeung Russell grew up in China and now lives in the United States. Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang grew up in Shanghai, now lives in the United States, and frequently returns to China.

So, Sungwan. *In a Chinese City* (A *Child's Day* series). Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2001.

Gr. 2-4. The author traces Ren Yikang's day from breakfast to bedtime through text and photographs, telling about her family, school, and neighborhood. Additional notes about China and the Mandarin language, a map, references for further reading, and an index are included. Born in China, Sungwan So now lives in the United States.

## Guam

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Keeper of the Night*. Henry Holt, 2003.

Gr. 7-9. After her mother's suicide, Isabel finds herself caring for her family. As their grief becomes harder for her to cope with, she begins to lose her own memories of her mother. Her friends and love of her town and its traditions help her continue, until a near-tragedy brings the family help. Kimberly Willis Holt lived in Guam for two years while growing up.

## India

Bond, Ruskin. *Binya's Blue Umbrella*. Illus. by Vera Rosenberry. Boyds Mills, 1995.

Gr. 3-5. Binya, a young girl growing up in mountain village in northern India, trades her lucky leopard-claw necklace for a tourist's blue umbrella. Soon the entire village is enchanted by her new toy, and some become jealous that she owns such a beautiful object. Ruskin Bond was born in India and has lived there most of his life.

Das, Prodeepta. *In an Indian Village* (A *Child's Day* series). Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 1999.

Gr. 2-4. Using text and photographs, the author shows Geeta's life from morning to night, including her friends, school, and favorite foods. Additional materials include a map, historical and cultural information about India, a glossary, and an index. Prodeepta Das was

born in India and now lives in the United Kingdom. He visits India regularly.

Godden, Rumer. *Premlata and the Festival of Lights*. Illus. by Ian Andrew. Greenwillow, 1996.  
Gr. 4-6. Distraught that her mother has no money to buy *deepas* to set out for Diwali, Premlata devises a plan to go to the nearest city to get the lights herself. Her adventures help her discover her bravery and uncover the true source of her family's poverty. Rumer Godden lived in India for several years.

Heydlauff, Lisa. *Going to School in India*. Photographs by Nitin Upadhye. Shakti for Children/Charlesbridge, 2005.

Gr. 3-6. Heydlauff highlights the diversity of India in a series of vignettes of children's school experiences across India, including street children, girls attending night school, and Kashmiri schools in Muslim and Buddhist areas. Upadhye's photographs show the children at school and in the places they live. Lisa Heydlauff lives in India. Nitin Upadhye grew up in South India.

Krishnaswami, Uma. *Monsoon*. Illus. by Jamel Akib. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003.

PreS-Gr. 1. As a young girl in the city eats dinner, goes to the market with her mother, watches TV, and plays with her brother, she anticipates the approaching monsoon season. Uma Krishnaswami grew up in India.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Shiva's Fire*. HarperCollins, 2000.

Gr. 5-9. Since the day of her birth, a series of strange events and miracles have followed Parvati. When a guru searching for new students finds out about her nearly magical talent for dance, she must make the difficult choice of leaving her family and village life to follow her dharma. Suzanne Fisher Staples lived in India for four years, working as a news reporter and editor.

## Iraq

Al-Windawi, Thura. *Thura's Diary: My Life in Wartime Iraq*. Viking, 2004.

Gr. 6-8. Thura's diary entries tell of her life in Iraq during the bombing and eventual fall of Baghdad as well as her struggle to return to school and normalcy. Thura Al-Windawi is Iraqi.

## Israel

Grossman, Laurie M. *Children of Israel*. Carolrhoda, 2001.

Gr. 4-6. This book provides an introduction to the diverse cultures, geography, and history of Israel through the eyes of its children. Laurie M. Grossman lives in Israel.

Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonatan*. Trans. by Yael Lotan. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2000.

Gr. 4-8. A Palestinian boy and an Israeli boy find friendship and solace in the unlikely setting of an Israeli hospital. Samir's reflections on his home life provide insight into life for Arab families in the occupied West Bank of Jerusalem. Daniella Carmi is Israeli and lives in

Jerusalem.

Levine, Anna, *Running on Eggs*. Cricket, 1999.

Gr.4-6. Living in contemporary Israel, young track star Karen (a Jewish girl) befriends an Arab schoolmate and must deal with the tensions associated with their disparate cultures. Anna Levine lives in Israel.

## Japan

Takabayashi, Mari. *I Live in Tokyo*. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

PreS-Gr. 2. Seven-year-old Mimiko describes the celebration of special occasions throughout the year. Captioned illustrations, a map, and a glossary of Japanese words and phrases provide information about life in this modern city. Mari Takabayashi was born in Tokyo and attended college there before moving to the United States.

Yumoto, Kazumi. *The Friends*. Trans. by Cathy Hirano. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1996.

Gr. 4-6. Kiyama and his friends spend the summer before junior high studying for their entrance exams and spying on an elderly neighbor. As they slowly befriend the man, they begin to answer questions they have about death, fear, and transitions in their own lives. Kasumi Yumoto lives in Japan.

Yumoto, Kazumi. *The Spring Tone*. Trans. by Cathy Hirano. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999.

Gr. 5-8. Tomomi Kiriki, resisting the thought of starting junior high after her spring vacation, spends her break with her younger brother exploring unknown areas of her hometown. Through the help of her grandfather and an unusual new acquaintance, she begins to accept her approaching adulthood.

## Lebanon

Boueri, Marijean. *Lebanon 1-2-3: A Counting Book in Three Languages*. Illus. by Mona Trad Dabaji. Publishing Works, 2005.

PreS-Gr. 2. Two children visit their grandparents' home, where they enjoy a day with extended family and neighbors. Large, colorful paintings illustrate this simple counting book, while a trilingual text comments on the scenes in English, French, and Arabic, three languages widely spoken in Lebanon. Mona Trad Dabaji is a Lebanese artist.

## Micronesia

Schaefer, Carole Lexa. *The Biggest Soap*. Illus. by Stacey Dressen-McQueen. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004.

PreS-Gr. 1. Kessy's mother sends him to the store to buy soap on laundry day. His route takes him past friends and family going about their daily play and work. When he comes

back, he turns these encounters into a tall tale worthy of a master storyteller. Carole Lexa Schaefer lived on the island of Tol in the Micronesian state of Chuuk (Truk) during her Peace Corps service.

## Nepal

*We Need to Go to School: Voices of the Rugmark Children.* Compiled by Tanya Roberts-Davis. Greenwood, 2001.

Gr. 4-6. In poems and short essays, children who worked in the carpet factories of Nepal recount their experiences there, their home lives before working, and the way their lives changed after Rugmark inspectors placed them in schools. A glossary, resource list, and background information on Nepal, the factories, and the Rugmark organization are included. Tanya Roberts-Davis has lived with the children in Nepal rehabilitation centers.

## Pakistan

Khan, Rukhsana. *The Roses in My Carpets.* Illus. by Ronald Himler. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1998.

K-Gr. 2. A Pakistani refugee camp is the backdrop for this story of a young Arab boy and the carpets that he weaves. Rukhsana Khan was born in Pakistan and lived there until she was three.

Khan, Rukhsana. *Ruler of the Courtyard.* Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Viking/Penguin, 2003.

K-Gr. 3. Saba is afraid of the chickens in her family's courtyard, but she discovers her courage when she finds a snake in the bathhouse. The author combines details of Saba's rural life with the universal experience of overcoming one's fears.

Khan, Rukhsana. *Silly Chicken.* Illus. by Yunmee Kyong. Viking/Penguin, 2005.

PreS-Gr. 1. Rani is jealous of a pet chicken she thinks her mother loves more than her, but eventually finds a pet of her own. The chicken's minor disruptions of Rani's life are shown in the text and in the bright and lively illustrations.

## South Korea

Choi, Yangsook. *Peach Heaven.* Illus. by author. Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005.

PreS-Gr.1. Yangsook Choi recounts a memory from her childhood of a storm that caused the sky to rain peaches, and the inventive way the children found to bring the fruit back to the farmers. Choi's illustrations show her town, house, family and friends, adding local specificity. She grew up in South Korea and now lives in the United States.

## Taiwan

Chen, Shih-Yuan. *On My Way to Buy Eggs*. Illus. by author. Kane/Miller, 2003.

PreS-K. On her way to the Traditional Store to go shopping for her father, Shau-yu plays with different objects she finds on the street, including glasses that make her look like her mother. In the store, she and the shopkeeper pretend that she is her mother. Shih-Yuan Chen lives in Taiwan.

## Thailand

Glass, Tom. *Even a Little is Something: Stories of Nong*. Illus. by Elena Gerard. Linnet Books, 1997.

Gr. 4-6. This series of episodic stories shows eleven-year-old Nong's life with her mother and older sister in northeastern Thailand. The stories tell of her friends, school, and adventures in trying to earn money. Tom Glass lives in Thailand.

Ho, Minfong. *Hush! A Thai Lullaby*. Illus. by Holly Meade. Orchard, 1996.

PreS. In repeating rhymes, a mother instructs local animals to be quiet so her baby can sleep. Meanwhile, the baby wakes and plays in the house and a cat wanders through the yard and outbuildings. The collage illustrations add many details, from fabric texture to the interior of the house, and show the northern Thai setting. Minfong Ho grew up in Thailand and now lives in the United States.

Ho, Minfong. *Peek! A Thai Hide-and-Seek*. Illus. by Holly Meade. Candlewick, 2004.

PreS. As a father plays hide-and-seek with his daughter, they wander through their house and yard and into the jungle, encountering many animals along the way. Making the setting visually concrete, Meade's illustrations include details of mosquito netting, a family shrine, and the furniture in the garden.

## Vietnam

Huynh, Quang Nhuong. *Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam*. Illus. by Jean and Mou-sien Tseng. HarperCollins, 1997.

Gr. 4-6. The author describes his childhood friendship with the family's water buffalo and recounts their adventures and experiences together in rural Vietnam. Huynh Quang Nhuong was born and grew up in Mytho, Vietnam, and now lives in the United States.

## Middle East Region

Ellis, Deborah. *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*. Groundwood, 2004.

Gr. 6-8. In these first-person accounts recorded by Deborah Ellis, children on each side of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict describe their daily lives.

***The Space Between Our Footsteps: Poems and Paintings from the Middle East.*** Selected by Naomi Shihab Nye. Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Gr. 6-8. This collection of poems from over 100 authors from nineteen different Middle Eastern countries reflects thoughts and feelings about hope, pain, family, war, and peace.

## South Asia Region

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. ***Under the Persimmon Tree.*** Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005.

Gr. 6-9. After an American bomb kills her mother, Najmah crosses the Afghan border to the Pakistani city of Peshawar to wait out the war and search for her brother and father, who were conscripted by the Taliban. There she meets Nusrat, an American who teaches refugee children as she waits for news of her husband, a doctor in Afghanistan. Suzanne Fisher Staples lived in Pakistan for three years, working as a news reporter and editor.

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***Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States*** is a project of the International Relations Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. We undertook this project in memory of Zena Sutherland, a past International Relations Committee member with a longstanding commitment to high standards for children's books and to understanding other cultures around the world.

Through *Growing Up Around the World*, we hope to make books that accurately depict contemporary life in other countries more widely available to American children. The project includes bibliographies representing five regions: Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Middle East; Australia and New Zealand; and Europe.

Because the primary goal of the project is to identify fiction and nonfiction that will help young people in the United States understand the lives of children living in other countries today, the bibliographies virtually exclude genres such as fantasy and historical fiction. Rather than including the best books about other countries written by outsiders to those countries, the list seeks to identify children's books written or illustrated by people who have lived for at least two years within those cultures. With very few exceptions, we limit the lists to books written in the last ten years and currently available in the United States. From time to time, the lists may be updated on the ALSC Web site.

We gratefully acknowledge assistance given by leaders and members of organizations such as the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) as well as individual librarians and children's literature specialists across the country and around the world.

**The Association for Library Service to Children  
International Relations Committee  
December 2005**