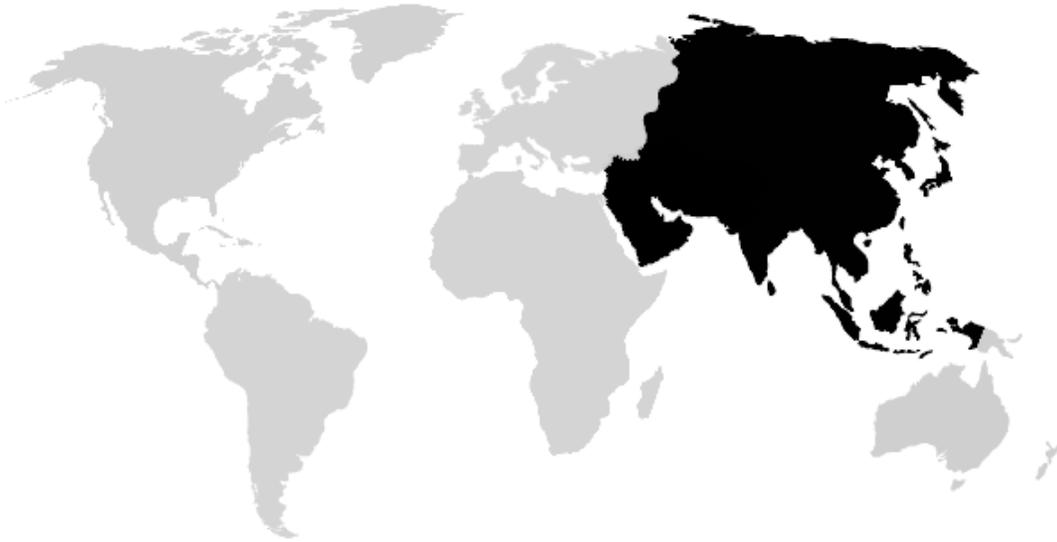


Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States



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

Das, Prodepta. *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. Prodepta Das was born in India and now lives in the United Kingdom. He visits India regularly.

Gavin, Jamila. *Fine Feathered Friend*. Illustrated by Dan Williams. Crabtree, 2002.

Gr. 2-5. Raju is a Bombayite, a city boy, and likes it that way. He shows us the delights of the city and rails against country life when forced to spend a summer on the farm. He is captivated, however, by a chick that hatches from an egg he has filched from the hen's nest. As he cares for the chick, who regards him as its mother, he gradually warms to the other animals and life on the farm. Gavin was born and raised in India.

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, 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.

Perkins, Mitali. *Rickshaw Girl*. Charlesbridge, 2007.

Gr. 2-5. Young Naima has a talent for an artform called *alpana*, but yearns to earn money to supplement the meager income from her father's rickshaw business. Her surreptitious attempts finally lead to success as a rickshaw painter. The author was born in India and has lived in many countries including Bangladesh

Rao, Sandhya & Sabnani, Nina. *My Mother's Sari*. North-South Books, 2006.

Gr. K-2. From a child's perspective, a mother's sari can be used for napping, playing, swinging—and even nose-wiping! Combining drawing, painting, and colored copies of vividly shimmering saris, the authors capture the dreamy quality of saris, and even show you how to put one on. The author and illustrator live in India.

Sheth, Kashmira. *Koyal Dark, Mango Sweet*. Hyperion, 2006.

Gr. 7-9. Jeeta rebels against restrictive conventions of her middle class Mumbai family that include an arranged marriage. The author shows daily life in great detail, and explores the reasons for the traditions. Sheth 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. 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 Spring Tone*. Trans. by Cathy Hirano. Farrar, 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. Kasumi Yumoto lives in Japan.

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, 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.

South Korea

Choi, Yangsook. *Peach Heaven*. Illus. Frances Foster/Farrar, 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. 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. *Peek! A Thai Hide-and-Seek*. Illus. by Holly Meade. Candlewick, 2004. PreS. As a father plays hide-and-peek 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. Minfong Ho grew up in Thailand and now lives in the United States.

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.

Johnson, Julia. *Saluki: Hound of the Bedouin*. Illustrations by Susan Keeble. Stacey International, 2005.

Gr. 3-5. Based on a family history and an age-old tradition, this story shows everyday life in the desert and the place that Saluki dogs play in that life. Though that traditional lifestyle is quickly disappearing, nomads still exist in some parts of the Arab desert world, as does the tradition of breeding and training Salukis. The author has lived in Dubai for over 30 years.

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, 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. Suzanne Fisher Staples lived in Pakistan for three years.

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