

Asian Literature

Can be referring to Asian setting, content, characters or are written by Asian Australians

1. **When My Name was Keoko** - Linda Sue Park **[11-14 years]**
The story of the Kim family in Korea in WWII. The Japanese have occupied Korea since 1910 and want Koreans to change names to Japanese. Quietly resisting, the Kim family remain Korean in their homes and in their hearts.
Told by Sun-hee, (10), and her brother Tae-yul, (13), who alternate as narrators of separate chapters.

Works well with...

2. **Yoko's Diary** - Linda Sue Park_ (Japanese POV)
Not only shows the hopes, beliefs and daily life of a young girl in wartime Japan but is a touching account of the consequences of the first nuclear bombing of a city.
 - both have young female protagonists
 - both present own country's perspective in a valid way
3. **A Single Shard** - Linda Sue Park **[11-14 years]**
Set in a 12th century Korean potters village it is the story of 12 year old orphan, Tree-ear, who sees a master potter creating beautiful pots and dreams of making his own. His difficult and dangerous journey changes his life forever.
4. **Pennies for Hitler** - Jackie French **[13-18 years]**
This novel is a sensitive and evocative portrayal of a young boy caught up in the complexities of WW2.
Ending includes Japanese / Asian references
There is the inclusion of comprehensive notes after the story has concluded.
5. **Marrying Ameera** - Roseanne Hawke **[14-18 years]**
The story of an Australian Girl with a Pakistani father who goes to Kashmir thinking that she is going to her cousin's wedding and discovers it is her own. Powerful and confronting.
6. **Through My Eyes Shahana** - Roseanne Hawke **[11-14 years]**
Set in Kashmir which has had four generations of victims in this conflict. It is the first in a series of books that explore the fragile worlds of children living in contemporary war zones.
7. **Mountain Woolf** - Roseanne Hawke **[14-18 years]**
Child trafficking, set in Pakistan. Deals with social justice for disenfranchised young people who have no voice or power.
8. **The Best Day of My Life** – Deborah Ellis **[11-15years]**
An absorbing, emotionally engrossing story about a young Indian girl who is cast out by her family when she develops leprosy.
9. **Cloud tea Monkeys** – Mal Peet **[5-7 years]**
Inspired by Chinese legends. Freshly presents the karmic rewards of kindness with a richly descriptive tone and stunning illustrations
10. **Inside out and Back Again** - Thanhh Lai **[11-14 years]**
Vietnamese. Is a novel in verse based on the author's experiences of leaving war-torn Vietnam and going to the US.
www.uqp.uq.edu.au/store/images/Hi-Res/teachernotes/1225/2980pdf

11. **When the Hip Chicks went to war** – Pamela Rushby **[14-18 years]**
 Young 16 year old girls join entertainment troupe to Vietnam during the war. One of the girls has a brother in Vietnam serving as a soldier and she wants to find him. This is also her journey about finding her brother.

12. **Vietnam Diary** – Mark Wilson **[5-18 years]**
 Two brothers, Leigh and Jason, are inseparable. But when Jason is conscripted and sent to fight in Vietnam, they are divided not just by distance, but by their beliefs about the war.

13. **Thai – No – Mite** – Oliver Phommavanh **[12-15 years]**
 Australian born to Thai Parents returns “home” to Thailand to visit family. Full of humour and puns. Episodic.

14. **The Happiness of Kati** – Jane Vejjajiva **[10-12 years]**
 Thailand – rural/city contrast in this touching story of a 9 year old girl who has lived with her grandparents for 5 years and discovers that her mother has a terminal illness and would like to see her.

15. **Chook Chook** series – Wai Chim **[5-10 years]**
 China – “Little and Lo in the City”, “Mei’s Secret Pets”. Heartfelt tales of family, friendship and belonging set against the backdrop of China.

16. **The Keeper** - Roseanne Hawke **[10-12 years]**
 A young boy, Joel, lives alone with his grandmother in South Australia. Sticking up for his best friend, Mai Pham (Vietnamese) and fighting battles with the school bully, Shawn, get him into trouble with the principal. He advertises in the local newspaper for a father, thinking his troubles will disappear.

17. **Davy and the Duck** – Margaret Wild and Julie Vivas **[5-7 years]**
 A gentle and moving story about the love between a little boy and the duckling that stays with him all of its life. (said it was valid in this space but am not sure why).

18. **The Wishbird** – Gabrielle Wang **[8-10 years]**
A Ghost in my suitcase – Gabrielle Wang **[9-13 years]**
The Pearl of Tiger Bay – Gabrielle Wang **[9-13 years]**
Little Paradise – Gabrielle Wang **[13-16 years]**
 Chinese author - Her stories are a blend of Chinese and Western culture with a touch of fantasy.

19. **Phyllis Wong and the Secrets of Mr Okyto** - Geoffery McSkimming **[11-14 years]**
 The clever and resourceful young magician, Phyllis Wong, helps solve numerous crimes

20. **Young Samuri – Way of the Warrior** – Chris Bradford **[11-14 years]**
 Set in Japan in 17th century. An exciting, action-packed martial arts adventure which is part of a series which is fast paced and intriguing.

21. **Kumiko Series** – Briony Stewart **[8-10 years]**
 A contemporary fantasy series which follows the adventures of a young Japanese girl, Kumoto, who is guarded by the dragon Tomodo.

22. **The Arrival** – Shaun Tan **[5-18 years]**
 Highly acclaimed picture book about migrants’ experiences in a new country – pictures only. Outstanding book for visual literacy skills.

23. **Happy Valley** – Patrick White **[15-18 years]**
Involves a Chinese family in the novel which is based on his experiences as a jackaroo in NSW in the early 1930's. It paints the picture of a community in a desolate landscape and was first published in 1939. It was not republished in English until after his death. Based on his own experiences as a Jackaroo.
24. **The Mountain** - Drusella Modjeska **[15-18 years]**
Set in Papua New Guinea and written in two parts, this novel takes us deep into this fascinating, complex country, whose culture and people cannot escape the march of modernity that threatens to overwhelm them.
25. **American Born Chinese** – Gene Luen Yang **[11-18 years]**
Graphic novel. A young adolescent second generation American born Chinese boy dealing with issues of identity and acceptance. Interwoven is the mythological tale of the Monkey King.
26. **Growing up Asian in Australia** - Alice Pung **[14-18 years]**
Unpolished Gem – Alice Pung (Junior Fiction) **[12-18 years]**
A Collection of moving and often hilarious personal accounts, essays, short stories and poetry about growing up Asian, and Australian.
27. **Kampung Boy** – Lat **[12-18 years]**
Graphic novel about a young boy's experience growing up in rural Perak (Malaysia) in 1950's.
28. **Pyongyang, A Journey in North Korea** – Guy Disele **[14-18 years]**
A graphic novel which is an informative, personal, and accessible look at a dangerous and enigmatic country.
29. **Refuge - Many dreams, One Land** – Jackie French **[12-15 years]**
Centres around a 14 year old Afghani boy who spent much of his life in Pakistan refugee camps before making the voyage from Indonesia to Australia
30. **Tales from Outer Suburbia** – Shaun Tan **[5-18 years]**
Fifteen very short illustrated stories. Each one is about a strange situation or event that occurs in an otherwise familiar suburban world
31. **The Happiest Refugee** – Anh Do **[12-18 years]**
Anh Do's entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. But nothing could quench their desire to make a better life in a country where freedom existed. Both humorous and sad.
32. **Little Refugee** – Ahn Do, Suzanne Do and Bruce Whatley (illustrator) **[6-10 years]**
Anh Do's inspirational story about his family's incredible escape from war-torn Vietnam and his childhood in Australia, told especially for children.
33. **Chinese Cinderella** – Adeline Yen Mah **[11-18 years]**
The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter is a book by the Chinese-American physician and author Adeline Yen Mah describing her experiences growing up in China during the Second World War
34. **Falling Leaves** - Adleine Yen Mah **[14-18 years]**
The memoir of an unwanted Chinese daughter.