

APAAL
Asian Pacific American Award for Literature
Picture Book Category
Winners

Compiled by Jerry Dear
 APIA Biography Project (2025)



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)


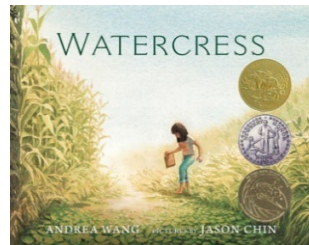
The Asian Pacific American Award for Literature (APAAL), created in 2001 by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), was designed to honor and recognize individual works related to APIA experiences and cultures, regardless of the author's ethnicity or background.

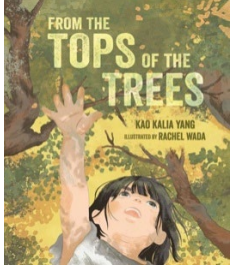

In 2016, this was updated to award writers and illustrators of APIA descent. The APAAL, now conferred at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, consists of awards in five major categories: Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, Young Adult Literature, Children's Literature, and Picture Books. In 2024, APALA established a separate poetry category. Committees consist of roughly four to five APALA members who focus on each category to determine outstanding works published each year based on criteria such as cultural authenticity, artistic and literary quality, and originality in writing voice and style. Listed below in chronological order are books by APIA authors and illustrators who have won the APAAL in the Picture Book category.

Fourteen titles with an asterisk * indicate the book's theme is about APIAs in an American setting or from an American perspective, and not about life located in an Asian or Pacific Island nation.

Year	Book Title with SFPL Call No.	Book Cover
2001	Wong, Janet S. * <i>The Trip Back Home</i> . Illustrated by Bo Jia, Harcourt, 2000. [SFPL Call No. jPS Wong]	
2003	Wong, Janet S. * <i>Apple Pie 4th of July</i> . Illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine, Harcourt, 2002. [SFPL Call No. jPS Wong]	

2006	<p>Park, Linda Sue. <i>Firekeeper's Son</i>. Illustrated by Julie Downing, Clarion Books, 2004.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS PARK]</p>	
2009	<p>Reibstein, Mark. <i>Wabi Sabi</i>. Illustrated by Ed Young, Little, Brown, 2008.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS REIB]</p>	
2010	<p>Gilmore, Dorina Lazo. * <i>Cora Cooks Pancit</i>. Illustrated by Kristi Valiant, Shen's Books, 2009.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS LAZO]</p>	
2012	<p>Young, Ed. * <i>The House Baba Built: An Artist's Childhood in China</i>. Little, Brown, 2011.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. j741.6409 YOUN]</p>	
2015	<p>Uegaki, Chieri. * <i>Sixth Violin</i>. Illustrated by Qin Leng, Kids Can Press, 2014.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS UEGA]</p>	
2016	<p>Bahk, Jane. * <i>Juna's Jar</i>. Illustrated by Felicia Hoshino, Lee & Low Books, 2014.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS BAHK]</p>	

2017	<p>Yum, Hyewon. * <i>Puddle</i>. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS YUM]</p>	
2018	<p>Phi, Bao. * <i>A Different Pond</i>. Illustrated by Thi Bui, Capstone Young Readers, 2017.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS PHI]</p>	
2019	<p>Lê, Minh. * <i>Drawn Together</i>. Illustrated by Dan Santat, Disney-Hyperion, 2018.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS LE]</p>	
2020	<p>Robeson, Teresa. * <i>Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom</i>. Illustrated by Rebecca Huang, Sterling Children's Books, 2019.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jB WU]</p>	
2021	<p>Leung, Julie. * <i>Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist</i>. Illustrated by Chris Sasaki, Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. j759.13 WONG]</p>	
2022	<p>Wang, Andrea. * <i>Watercress</i>. Illustrated by Jason Chin, Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2021.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS WANG]</p>	

2023	<p>Yang, Kao Kalia. <i>From the Tops of the Trees.</i> Illustrated by Rachel Wada, Carolrhoda Books, 2021.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jB YANG]</p>	
2024	<p>Leung, Julie. * <i>The Truth About Dragons.</i> Illustrated by Hanna Cha, Henry Holt, 2023.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS LEUN]</p>	
2025	<p>George, Kaylin Melia. * <i>Aloha Everything.</i> Illustrated by Mae Waite, Red Comet Press, 2024.</p> <p>[SFPL Call No. jPS GEOR]</p>	