Imagining an APIA World

APIA Children's Book Authors & Illustrators

An Activity Book

12th Annual Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month Celebration





IMAGINING AN APIA WORLD APIA Children's Book Authors & Illustrators

An Activity Book

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THE APIA BIOGRAPHY PROJECT



Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo, Directors

The Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Biography Project began in 2012 under Asian American Studies professors Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo at San Francisco State University (SFSU). The project's primary mission is to provide free and accessible APIA resources for children and adults through a website and various events. It is a Community Service Learning (CSL) project based mainly on the works created by AAS 512 (Asian American Children's/Adolescent Literature) students at San Francisco State. This year's event is funded by private donations and grants from the University's Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) and Institute for Civic and Community Engagement Call to Service.



email: apiabiography@gmail.com

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2025 APIA Event Cosponsors

SFPL - SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY



San Francisco Public Library

Established in 1878, the San Francisco Public Library, a 27-branch library system, serves San Francisco through its diverse and extensive collections, programs, and exhibits. In 2013, the APIA Biography Project launched its inaugural event at the Merced Branch library. In subsequent years, the Magazines and Newspapers Center at the Main Library collaborated with the APIA Biography Project to celebrate APIA Heritage Month. Then in 2022, the Library's Children's Center and Chinese Center joined to support this annual program. SFPL champions community engagement in its mission to "[connect] our diverse communities to learning, opportunities and each other."

website: sfpl.org

TACT - The Association of Chinese Teachers



Founded in 1969, The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) is a non-profit organization in San Francisco. Over the years, it has been involved in issues such as affirmative action, bilingual education, curriculum development, and educational advocacy for the APIA community. TACT awards scholarships to high school seniors and holds yearly professional development events. Beginning in 2013, TACT has been cosponsoring the annual APIA Heritage Month celebration with the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Main Public Library.

website: tactsf.org

SQUARE AND CIRCLE CLUB



Square and Circle Club was founded in San Francisco Chinatown in 1924 by seven young ladies to aid flood and famine victims in China. Since that compassionate beginning and to this day, the Club has continued its tradition of supporting and caring for the needs of the community. Through the years, in addition to volunteering and assisting numerous community organizations and individuals, Square and Circle has grown and evolved as a multi-tasking philanthropic organization. It is the first and oldest Chinese/Asian American women's service organization in the nation. The Club became an APIA Heritage Month cosponsor in 2016 and is now also serving as the Project's fiscal agent.

website: squareandcircleclub.org

APALA – Asian Pacific American Librarians Association



The Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, formerly the Asian American Librarians Caucus, was founded in 1980 to serve and address APIA and library related issues of information professionals working in all fields. The organization exists to provide a forum for discussing issues, exchanging ideas, supporting and encouraging library services to APIA communities, recruiting and mentoring librarians, and providing a vehicle to cooperate with other associations and organizations that share similar or allied interests. As an affiliate of the national American Library Association, APALA strives to enhance "leadership opportunities through informed dialogue that addresses the needs of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander library workers and those who serve these communities."

website: www.apalaweb.org

Imagining an APIA World APIA Children's Book Authors & Illustrators

Introduction

Lorraine Dong

2025 APIA Wall of Fame

The Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Biography Project proudly presents our 12th annual APIA Wall of Fame in 2025. This year's theme celebrates the APIA authors and illustrators who have created picture books on the API experience in America. API Americans live in a country that is not in Asia or the Pacific Islands. They are minorities living in a mainland America that is predominantly Eurocentric. For this year's APIA Wall of Fame, we have 5 APIA Caldecott Medalists and 14 APIA Caldecott Honor Book winners (pp. 7-9). Not to exclude other equally prominent APIA picture book authors/illustrators, the Wall recognizes 24 more APIA authors/illustrators who have had at least five books published by 2023 (pp. 32-55), the cutoff date of our research. We apologize in advance if we have omitted anyone on our Wall. We also have another listing of APIA picture book awards established by an APIA organization. The Asia Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) has been presenting their own APIA picture book awards since 2001 (pp. 10-11). It took over two years for Asian American Studies students at San Francisco State University to research, draw, and create this Activity Book. The 2024-25 APIA Planning Committee volunteered to put everything together for our 2025 APIA Heritage Month Celebration: the April 27, 2025 live kickoff event, the Wall of Fame, the APIA website, and this Activity Book. Special thanks are extended to our donors, funders, and cosponsors.

A Brief History of APIA Picture Books in Children's Literature

The first known children's picture book in the United States was published in 1658. Up until the 19th century, American children's books about Asia and the Pacific Islands were mostly nonfiction and functioned mainly to inform American children about those "strange" lands on and across the Pacific Ocean. They were by white authors and illustrators. The concept of having Americans of any API ethnicity was foreign to America at the time.

By the beginning of the 20th century, children's literature surfaced with Asian immigrant characters. *The Jingle of a Jap* (1908) by Clara Bell Thurston is a toy story about a Japanese boy doll falling in love with a blonde, blue-eye American girl doll. Then there are books like *Sing a Song O'Six Taels* (anonymous, n.d.), a Mother Goose variant with Chinese immigrants in America drawn in exaggerated and animalistic features.

Popular picture books with an Asian setting included various renderings of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* (1894), the Aladdin story from *One Thousand and One Nights* (translated 1704), and more recently the story of Mulan (c. 4th-6th centuries). Early American children grew up with *Little Black Sambo* (1899), *The Story about Ping* (1933), *The Five Chinese Brothers* (1938), and *Tikki Tikki Tembo* (1968). Palmer Cox (d. 1924) created a Brownies series that had a Chinese Brownie, and he wrote short "Chinese" stories for children like "The Curious Case of Ah-Top" (1898). Later, Dr. Seuss included Asian characters in his picture books like *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* (1937). All the above represented APIs as written and illustrated by white individuals and none dealt with API *American* characters. These works have been criticized for how they have contributed to the inaccuracies and negative stereotypes of APIs.

After the 1968-69 Third World Liberation Student Strike at San Francisco State College (now University) and similar ethnic studies movements at other universities, the government provided grants supporting minority communities to write their own history and stories. This resulted in

the beginning of picture books written and illustrated by APIAs. *The Iron Moonhunter* (1977) received a grant from the US Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. It is a bilingual picture book written/illustrated by Kathleen Chang and translated into Chinese by Chiu Chung Liao. This is a ghost story about the Transcontinental Railroad Chinese workers. *A Heart as Strong as Mt. Fuji* (1981) received a grant four years later from the US Department of Education. Written by Linda Wing and illustrated by Hideo Yoshida, this simple bilingual picture book narrates the story of a picture bride arriving from Japan. Works like these attempted to break the negative API stereotypes of the past.

Some of the mainstream publishers who began publishing APIA picture books during this beginning period included Houghton Mifflin, Little, Brown, and Company, Scholastic, and Viking/Penguin. APIA picture book fiction began to rise in numbers in the 1980s and continued to flourish to this date with different themes.

Natural and major APIA picture book themes are immigration and adjustment. Usually, the story focuses on learning about the API character arriving in America, whereupon the immigrant introduces API culture to the non-APIA characters. A bully often accompanies this theme to pose the conflict: ignorance and racism towards the minority API immigrant. In the adjustment theme, the APIA protagonist has cultural conflicts with elders and learns that being an American does not mean the betrayal of one's ancestral heritage.

The most popular API theme in American children's literature is Chinese/Lunar New Year as celebrated in Asia. Today's stories also show how other API holidays originated and are celebrated in Asia and the Pacific Islands. The APIA picture book holiday theme attempts to show APIAs being accepted as Americans. This occurs when they are embraced after the non-APIA characters learn and accept the minority characters' ancestral API holiday, thus making both the API immigrant and holiday a part of America. For the relatively few APIA-written holiday picture books, the stories would mostly explain how API holidays are celebrated in an APIA family, but not how it is celebrated differently as minorities in America. This has changed slowly in the 1990s, as the stories begin to tell how these holidays are distinct in America. Mainstream white and other minority characters would join in the celebration, but this would also initiate a cultural lesson to introduce the API holiday to the non-APIA characters. Progress comes when APIA characters are written not as one-dimensional cultural ambassadors, but as children interacting in an APIA holiday setting. The holiday theme that comes closest to depicting APIAs as American is when APIAs celebrate "American" holidays like Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and July 4th, alongside other Americans and sometimes with an APIA twist.

Historical fiction acknowledges APIA existence in America not only in contemporary times, but also in the past. This helps to break the stereotype that APIAs are newcomers. There exists picture book fiction set in the late 1880s and the turn of the century with Chinese and Japanese American characters. Historical milestones also provide the backdrop for APIA historical fiction. Some of these stories are fictional and some are based on family histories. For Chinese America, there are settings like the first Transcontinental Railroad (1863-69) and the Angel Island Immigration Station (1910-40). A significant historical milestone in American history is the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans (1942-46), which has prompted the largest number of APIA historical picture book fiction published since the 1990s.

Picture books about APIs adopted by non-API parents have been published as early as 1966 with *The Widdles* family adopting five ethnic minority children that includes twin Hawaiian girls. Adopting Korean and Vietnamese children were the usual subjects in early API adoption stories, but Chinese girls have outnumbered all API adoptee characters beginning in the 1990s with at least one book published a year. Except for about six APIA authors/illustrators, a majority of the

authors/illustrators are non-APIAs. The latter presents their stories from the perspective of real or fictional white adoptive parents. On the other hand, adoption stories by APIAs have APIA adoptive parents and siblings, and often deal with the child's feelings.

Almost all picture book fiction about Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are set in Hawaii or the Pacific Islands, and their fiction is based within their native traditions, culture, and history. The setting for many Hawaiian American stories is in Hawaii, where different ethnic Asian or Asian American characters interact with the local Hawaiian characters. There are hardly any children's stories about Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders going to mainland America and living as minorities in the mainland. This explains why there is a lack of National Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) American representation that satisfies the criteria for their inclusion in our 2025 APIA Wall of Fame.

By the 21st century, APIA picture book authors/illustrators are no longer pigeonholed to write stories set in Asia and the Pacific Islands, or about API traditions, culture, and history. In the early days, there were only Chinese and Japanese American stories, today we have stories about Cambodian, Indian, Korean, Pakistani, Tibetan, Vietnamese, and other Asian Americans. APIA picture book fiction cherishes API traditions but focuses also on what it means to be an API *American minority*. Today's themes have expanded to be more universal: food, cooking, interand intra-ethnic friendships, fear of the unknown, mental health, and internal family issues like sibling rivalry, intergenerational clashes, and elders with Alzheimer's. Some APIA writers have even ventured to write animal stories and stories with solely non-APIA characters.

Nineteen APIA authors/illustrators have been recognized with the prestigious Caldecott Medal or Honor Book award. Plato Chan was fourteen when he received the first APIA Caldecott Honor Book in 1944 and Ed Young won the first APIA Caldecott Medal in 1990. But Allen Say's *Grandfather's Journey* (1994) was the first APIA-themed picture book to garner the Medal. By 2023, 43 distinguished APIA authors and illustrators can be identified for our Wall of Fame. Finally, in 2025, and for the first time, APALA awarded their Asian Pacific American Award for Literature (APAAL) in the Picture Book Category to a Hawaiian-themed picture book, *Aloha Everything* (2024). Much progress has been made in the past fifty years since the first picture books by APIAs surfaced in the 1970s.

Picture Books for All Children

APIAs have a huge challenge in the world of children's literature. The history of APIA picture books has had a late start in the 1970s and even more specifically for Hawaiian and Pacific Islander American picture books. The "recent" 18th-19th century arrival of Asians to America and decades of basic survival have prevented many first and second generation APIAs from pursuing a path in the world of humanities and the arts.

In 2024, the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)'s annual statistics show 18% of total children's books were by at least one Asian and a very small 0.3% of the total were by at least one Pacific Islander, versus 70% by at least one white person. In the following year, Mac Barnett became the 9th National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. His goal to elevate reverence for picture books tells us of their relatively low status in the world of literature and art.

Picture books are not trivial literature or art. Additionally, they are not only about history or pedagogy. They are unique, serious literature that creatively blends words and illustrations. Our 2025 APIA Wall of Fame exhibits forty-three heroes and heroines who dared to enter the world of children's literature. They have followed their hearts to create picture books about a minority world that is ethnic specific but universally human. More important, they have brought a world of possibilities and imagination for *all* children.

APIA CALDECOTT MEDALISTS and HONOR BOOK WINNERS

Compiled by Lorraine Dong and Nick Bartel

The Caldecott Medal was named after 19th century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott.

This medal is awarded to the most distinguished American picture book for children published in English by an American publisher in the United States. The Caldecott is given annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

Only one book receives the Caldecott Medal each year with several other books designated as Honor Books.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

The Caldecott awards began in 1938. In its 88-year existence, 19 APIA authors and illustrators have received this award, either as a medalist and/or as an Honor Book winner. Five won the Caldecott Medal; three of them also received Caldecott Honor Book awards. Another 14 APIA authors and illustrators won Caldecott Honor Books, with Taro Yashima receiving three of them.

The Caldecott is a very prestigious children's literature picture book award. The 2025 APIA Wall of Fame recognizes specifically all APIA medalists and honorees for their books, regardless of their themes. Below, in chronological order, are the APIA authors and illustrators whose works received Caldecott Medals and Honor Book recognition. Read more about these distinguished individuals in pp. 12-31.

Eleven titles with an asterisk * indicate the book's theme is about APIAs in an American setting or from an API American perspective, and not about their life located in an Asian or Pacific Island nation. A few read-aloud and video links are also provided for some of these books.

- **1944 Chan, Plato**, illustrator. *Good-Luck Horse*. Written by Chih-Yi Chan, Whittlesey House, 1943. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. j398 CHAN]
- Yashima, Taro, author and illustrator. Crow Boy. Viking, 1955. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS YASH]
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHSkaaLNz7Q [9:02]
- **Yashima, Taro**, author and illustrator. **Umbrella*. Viking, 1958. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS YASH] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz26CpNNQ6E [5:50]
- **Yashima, Taro**, author and illustrator. *Seashore Story*. Viking, 1967. Caldecott Honor Book.

- Young, Ed, illustrator. *The Emperor and the Kite*. Written by Jane Yolen, World Publishing Company, 1967. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. j398 YOLE] https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2zm9ms [8:48]
- **Say, Allen**, illustrator. *The Boy of the Three-Year Nap*. Written by Dianne Snyder, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. j398 SNYD] https://youtu.be/wRmQ9RghaZ4 [11:45]
- Young, Ed, author and illustrator. Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China. Philomel Books, 1989. CALDECOTT MEDAL. [SFPL Call No. j398 YOUN] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSrzEgrya1M [10:17] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0n1Tn1fW01A [8:56]
- **Young, Ed**, author and illustrator. *Seven Blind Mice*. Philomel Books, 1992. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS YOUN] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdozL-qvpkc [2:44]
- 1994 Say, Allen, author and illustrator. *Grandfather's Journey. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993. CALDECOTT MEDAL. [SFPL Call No. jPS SAY] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nS6qIsORvI [4:05]
- Ho, Minfong. Hush! A Thai Lullaby. Illustrated by Holly Meade, Orchard Books, 1996. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS HO]
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlAidD8k1lk [7:10]
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2zknDP0Qol [4:43]
- 2015 Santat, Dan, author and illustrator. *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend.
 Little, Brown and Company, 2014. CALDECOTT MEDAL. [SFPL Call No. jPS SANT]

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ms3Ecpfcvc [3:05]

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5oaYdcvuOQ [5:25]

Tamaki, Jillian, illustrator. **This One Summer*. Written by Mariko Tamaki, First Second Books, 2014. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. TEEN GN TAMA]

Tamaki, Mariko. **This One Summer.* Illustrated by Jillian Tamaki, First Second Books, 2014. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. TEEN GN TAMA]

2018 Bui, Thi, illustrator. **A Different Pond.* Written by Bao Phi, Capstone Young Readers, 2017. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS PHI] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPOHkZ4G3qI [8:33]

Chin, Jason, author and illustrator. **Grand Canyon*. Roaring Brook Press, 2017. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. j557.9132 CHIN] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIY0k4Q-P-U [9:00]

- **Phi, Bao**, author. **A Different Pond*. Illustrated by Thi Bui, Capstone Young Readers, 2017. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS PHI] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPOHkZ4G3q1 [8:33]
- 2019 Lin, Grace, author and illustrator. *A Big Mooncake for Little Star. Little, Brown and Company, 2018. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS LIN] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPSxvxUiqos [4:56]
- 2020 Pham, LeUyen, Illustrator. *Bear Came Along. Written by Richard T. Morris, Little, Brown and Company, 2019. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS MORR] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DXpBz8Zi2Y [3:21]
- **2021 Shimizu, Yuko**, illustrator. *The Cat Man of Aleppo*. Written by Karim Shamsi-Basha and Irene Latham, Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2020. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS LATH] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgRwreUaKQ8 [6:37]
- **2022 Chin, Jason**, illustrator. **Watercress*. Written by Andrea Wang, Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2021. **CALDECOTT MEDAL**. [SFPL Call No. jPS WANG] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlkb1w0W9y8 [5:58]
 - Wang, Andrea. *Watercress. Illustrated by Jason Chin, Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2021. Caldecott CALDECOTT MEDAL. [SFPL Call No. jPS WANG] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlkb1w0W9y8 [5:58]
- 2024 Cha, Hanna, illustrator. *The Truth about Dragons. Written by Julie Leung, Henry Holt, 2023. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS LEUN] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV01sve_gXc [5:49]
 - **Leung, Julie**, author. *The Truth about Dragons. Illustrated by Hanna Cha, Henry Holt, 2023. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS LEUN] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV01sve_gXc [5:49]
- **Mo, Cherry**, author and illustrator. *Home in a Lunchbox. Penguin Workshop, 2024. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS MO]

Shimizu, Yuko, illustrator. *Up, Up, Ever Up! Junko Tabei: A Life in the Mountains.* Written by Anita Yasuda, Clarion Books, 2024. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jB TABE]

Zhang, Gracey, illustrator. *Noodles on a Bicycle*. Written by Kyo Maclear, Random House Studio, 2024. Caldecott Honor Book. [SFPL Call No. jPS MACL] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVHQgtiX2J0 [6:07]

APAAL

Asian Pacific American Award for Literature Picture Book Category Winners

Compiled by Jerry Dear

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 new conference

illustrators of APIA descent. The APAAL, now conferred at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference,



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

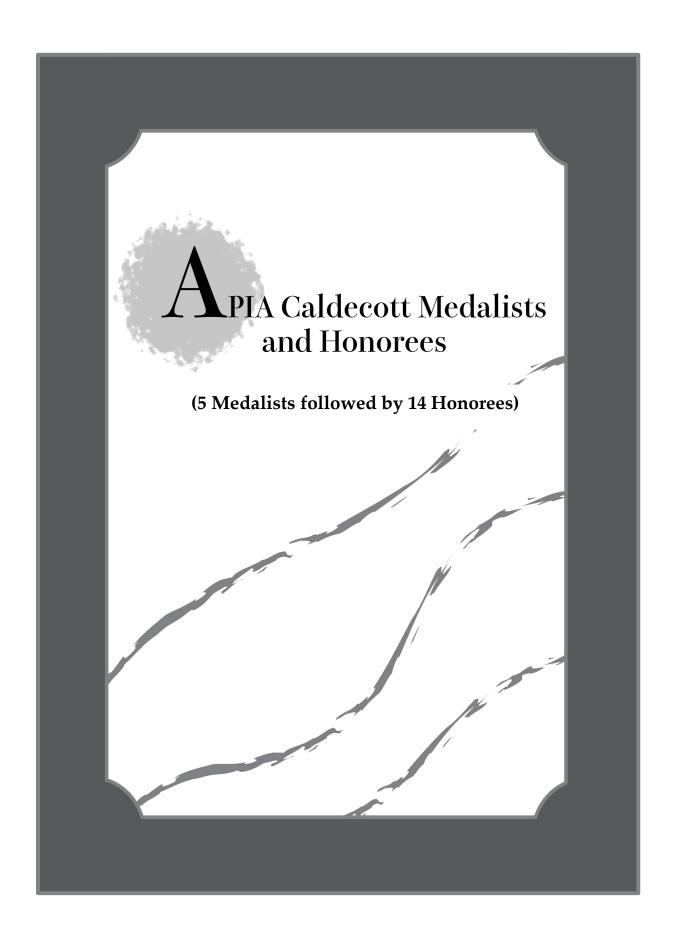
consists of awards in five major categories: Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, Young Adult Literature, Children's Literature, and Picture Books. In 2024, APALA established a separate poetry category. Committees consist of roughly four to five APALA members who focus on each category to determine outstanding 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 API American perspective, and not about life located in an Asian or Pacific Island nation.

- Wong, Janet S. *The Trip Back Home. Illustrated by Bo Jia, Harcourt, 2000. [SFPL Call No. jPS Wong]
- Wong, Janet S. *Apple Pie 4th of July. Illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine, Harcourt, 2002. [SFPL Call No. jPS Wong]
- 2006 Park, Linda Sue. *Firekeeper's Son*. Illustrated by Julie Downing, Clarion Books, 2004. [SFPL Call No. iPS PARK]
- **2009** Reibstein, Mark. *Wabi Sabi*. Illustrated by Ed Young, Little, Brown, 2008. [SFPL Call No. iPS REIB]
- **2010** Gilmore, Dorina Lazo. **Cora Cooks Pancit*. Illustrated by Kristi Valiant, Shen's Books, 2009. [SFPL Call No. jPS LAZO]
- Young, Ed. *The House Baba Built: An Artist's Childhood in China. Little, Brown, 2011. [SFPL Call No. j741.6409 YOUN]
- 2014 Jiang, Ji-li. *Red Kite, Blue Kite*. Illustrated by Greg Ruth, Disney/Hyperion Books, 2013. [SFPL Call No. jPS JIAN]

- 2015 Uegaki, Chieri. *Sixth Violin. Illustrated by Qin Leng, Kids Can Press, 2014. [SFPL Call No. jPS UEGA]
- 2016 Bahk, Jane. *Juna's Jar. Illustrated by Felicia Hoshino, Lee & Low Books, 2014. [SFPL Call No. jPS BAHK]
- **2017** Yum, Hyewon. **Puddle*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. [SFPL Call No. jPS YUM]
- 2018 Phi, Bao. *A Different Pond. Illustrated by Thi Bui, Capstone Young Readers, 2017. [SFPL Call No. ¡PS PHI]
- 2019 Lê, Minh. *Drawn Together. Illustrated by Dan Santat, Disney-Hyperion, 2018. [SFPL Call No. jPS LE]
- 2020 Robeson, Teresa. *Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom. Illustrated by Rebecca Huang, Sterling Children's Books, 2019. [SFPL Call No. jB WU]
- Leung, Julie. *Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist.

 Illustrated by Chris Sasaki, Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019. [SFPL Call No. j759.13 WONG]
- Wang, Andrea. *Watercress. Illustrated by Jason Chin, Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2021. [SFPL Call No. jPS WANG]
- Yang, Kao Kalia. From the Tops of the Trees. Illustrated by Rachel Wada, Carolrhoda Books, 2021. [SFPL Call No. jB YANG]
- Leung, Julie. *The Truth About Dragons. Illustrated by Hanna Cha, Henry Holt, 2023. [SFPL Call No. jPS LEUN]
- **2025** George, Kaylin Melia. **Aloha Everything*. Illustrated by Mae Waite, Red Comet Press, 2024. [SFPL Call No. jPS GEOR]





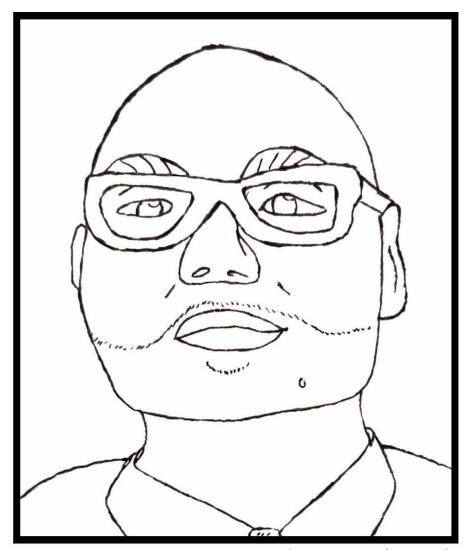
Alex Acosta (SFSU 2023)

JASON CHIN

Chinese American
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT MEDAL (2022) and Honor Book (2018)
APAAL (2022)

Born: 1978 (Brookline, Massachusetts)

Jason was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, and later moved to Lyme, New Hampshire. This was the home to Caldecott medalist Trina Schart Hyman, who later became his mentor. Jason is the author and illustrator of many acclaimed books. He won the Caldecott Honor Book and Sibert Honor for *Grand Canyon* (2017) and received the Caldecott Medal, a Newbery Honor, and an APAAL for illustrating *Watercress* (2022) written by Andrea Wang.



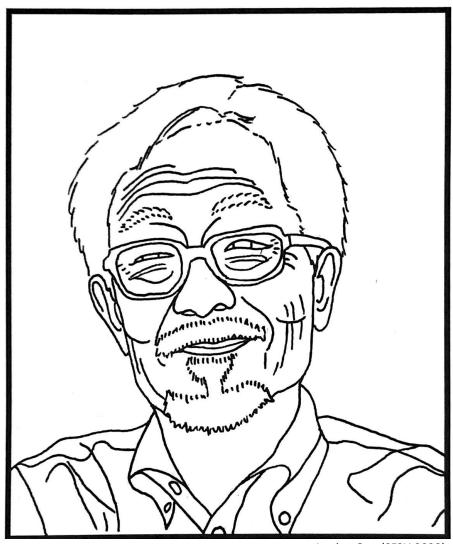
Deannakayte D. Marucut (SFSU 2023)

DAN SANTAT

Thai American
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT MEDAL (2015)
APAAL (2019)

Born: October 2, 1975 (Brooklyn, New York)

Dan's parents immigrated from Thailand in 1968. They wanted him to be a doctor, but after graduating with a degree in microbiology, he proceeded to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration. He is the creator of Disney Channel's hit animated series, *The Replacements* (2006). Dan received a Caldecott Medal for *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend* (2014). Five years later, he won the APAAL in the Picture Book category for illustrating *Drawn Together* (2018) by Minh Lê.



Justine Ong (SFSU 2023)

ALLEN SAY

(James Allen Koichi Moriwaki Seii)
Japanese and Korean American
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT MEDAL (1994) and Honor Book (1989)

Born: August 28, 1937 (Yokohama, Japan)

Allen's mother was a Japanese American raised in California. His father was a Korean orphan adopted by an English family. Allen was raised in Shanghai, China. The parents divorced when he was eight years old. Four years later, he left with his father for California. Comic books inspired Allen to draw and tell stories. He won many awards for his twenty-plus books, including the Caldecott Honor Book for illustrating *The Boy of the Three-Year Nap* (1988). In 1994, Allen's *Grandfather's Journey* (1993) became the first APIA-themed picture book to receive the Caldecott Medal.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

ANDREA WANG

Chinese American
Author
CALDECOTT MEDAL (2022)
APAAL (2022)

Born: 1970 (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Andrea's parents were immigrants from Hong Kong and Taiwan. For a short while, they lived in Ohio where one of Andrea's poems in the second grade was published in the newspaper. After earning a master's degree and working as an environmental consultant, Andrea took online classes to earn a master's degree in creative writing for young people. Her third picture book was semi-autobiographical and entitled *Watercress* (2021). In 2022, it won the Caldecott Medal and APAAL (Picture Book Category).



Heather Aren't (SFSU 2024)

ED (TSE CHUN) YOUNG

Chinese American
Illustrator and Author
CALDECOTT MEDAL (1990) and Honor Books (1968, 1993)
APAAL (2012)

Born: November 28, 1931 (Tianjin, China)

Died: September 29, 2023 (Hastings-on-Hudson, New York)

Ed came to America initially to study architecture at City College of San Francisco and University of Illinois. But in 1957, he earned a BA in art instead. Ed illustrated around 100 books and received over 50 book awards, most notably one Caldecott Medal and two Caldecott Honor Books. In 1990, he became the first APIA to win the Caldecott Medal for Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China (1989). Ed also received the APAAL (Picture Book Category) for The House Baba Built: An Artist's Childhood in China (2011).



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

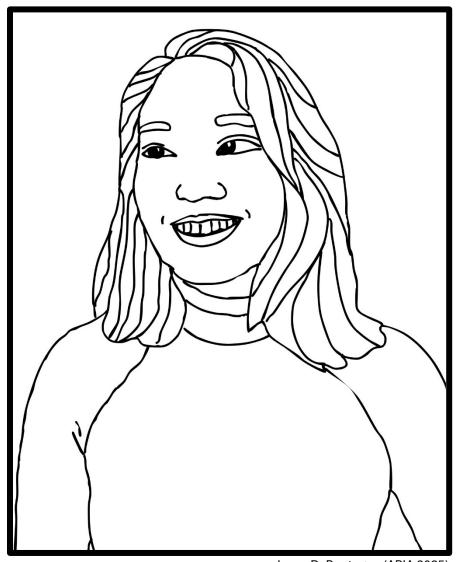
THI BUI

Vietnamese American Illustrator

CALDECOTT Honor Book (2018)

Born: 1975 (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)

Thi is one of six children. In 1978, she was among the "boat people" who fled from Vietnam to America. Thi became a schoolteacher and one of the founders of Oakland International High School, the first public high school in California for recent immigrants. Thi wrote her autobiography in her first graphic novel, *The Best We Could Do* (2017). She won the Caldecott Honor Book for illustrating *A Different Pond* (2017), a book written by Bao Phi about a Vietnamese American father-and-son relationship.



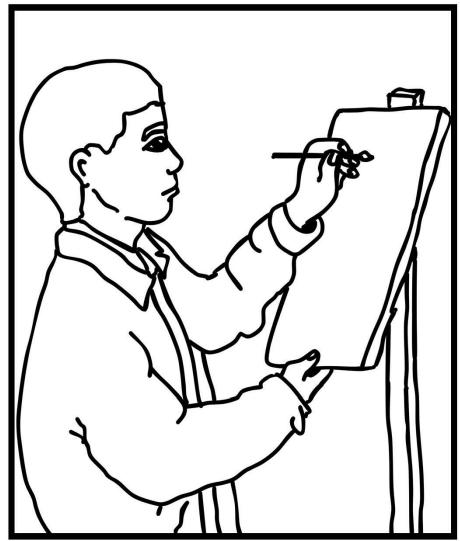
Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2025)

HANNA CHA

Korean American
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT Honor Book (2024)
APAAL (2024)

Born: date unknown (South Carolina)

Hanna's parents were in South Carolina for her father's PhD studies when Hanna and her brother were born. They grew up in the South until the second grade when the family returned to Korea. Five years later, the parents decided it was better for the children to study in the United States. Hanna attended the Rhode Island School of Design majoring in illustration. Her debut book, *Tiny Feet between the Mountains* (2019), was her college graduation project. Hanna illustrated the Caldecott Honor Book titled *The Truth about Dragons* (2023) by Julie Leung. It also received the APAAL in the Picture Book category.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

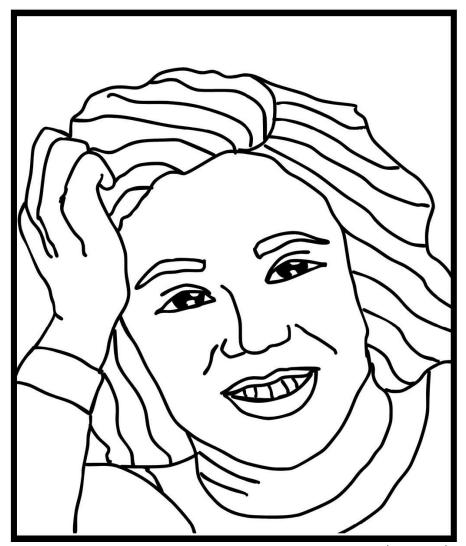
PLATO CHAN

Chinese American Illustrator

CALDECOTT Honor Book (1944)

Born: March 14, 1930 (New York) Died: January 18, 2006 (Philadelphia)

Born in New York, Plato grew up in Germany, France, and England. He began drawing at age eighteen months and had his first public exhibition in Paris at age six. During World War II, his father, a Chinese diplomat, was interned in a German camp and the family returned to New York. The mother Chih-yi Chan, a Chinese national, adapted a Chinese tale for Plato to illustrate. This became *The Good-Luck Horse* (1943). For this book, Plato was the youngest at age fourteen and the first APIA to receive a Caldecott Honor Book.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

MINFONG HO

Chinese American
Author

CALDECOTT Honor Book (1997)

Born: January 7, 1951 (Rangoon/Yangon, Burma/Myanmar)

Minfong's parents were of Chinese descent and taught Chinese language and culture to their daughter. Minfong grew up near Bangkok, so Thai language and culture also became an integral part of her life. She began writing after leaving home to study economics at Cornell University. Minfong's fictional stories are mainly set in Southeast Asia. One of her goals in writing is to accurately represent Thailand, Burma/Myanmar, and China. Her picture book, *Hush! A Thai Lullaby* (1996), was a Caldecott Honor Book.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2025)

JULIE LEUNG

Chinese American Author CALDECOTT Honor Book (2024) APAAL (2021, 2024)

Born: May 31, 1987? (New York, New York)

Julie grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia during the 1990s. Her parents ran a Chinese restaurant where she worked after school and on weekends. Her main entertainment was reading library books. Julie graduated with English and journalism degrees from the University of Georgia. Her award-winning picture books include historical nonfiction about Chinese Americans like Tyrus Wong, Hazel Ying Lee, and I.M. Pei. Julie's book entitled *The Truth about Dragons* (2023) is a Caldecott Honor Book and earned her a second APAAL (Picture Book Category) in 2024.



Caitlyn Alycia Carnecer (SFSU 2024)

GRACE LIN

Chinese American
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT Honor Book (2019)

Born: May 17, 1974 (New Hartford, New York)

Grace's parents did not want Grace to go into art but in sixth grade she placed fourth place in a national book contest. She also wanted to be an ice skater and would draw herself twirling and swirling. Grace eventually wrote and illustrated over twenty-five award-winning books for children and young adults. She received a Caldecott Honor Book for *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* (2018). Grace's social justice work was recognized by President Barack Obama when she was named the Champion of Change for Asian American and Pacific Islander Art and Storytelling in 2016.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

CHERRY MO

Chinese American
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT Honor Book (2025)

Born: date unknown (Hong Kong)

Cherry grew up in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States at age ten. She was a very shy girl. Cherry's parents supported her for six years to take a break from pursuing art to figure out her path in life. To help get her first book deal, Cherry joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, took a children's book course from Children's Book Academy, and signed up with an agent. She then published her debut picture book titled *Home in a Lunchbox* (2024). It is based on her own experience of moving from Hong Kong to America as a child. The book earned the Caldecott Honor Book in 2025. Cherry hopes her stories will bring a sense of comfort and belonging to young readers.



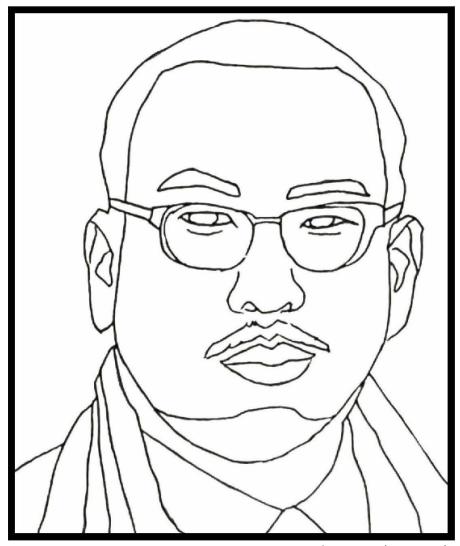
Dorian Mendoza (SFSU 2023)

LeUYEN PHAM

Vietnamese American
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT Honor Book (2020)

Born: September 7, 1973 (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)

LeUyen is an award-winning author and illustrator who based many of her stories on real-life experiences. She started her own business at age nine, selling her drawings of Star Wars characters for a quarter to a dollar each. LeUyen's first book *Big Sister, Little Sister* (2005) focuses on the relationship with her sister and *Outside, Inside* (2021) addresses mental health and illness during COVID-19. Initially, her mother wanted her to become a lawyer, but LeUyen endured and became an art major in college. She won the Caldecott Honor Book award for *Bear Came Along* (2019).



Christy Tang (SFSU 2024)

BAO PHI

Vietnamese American
Author

CALDECOTT Honor Book (2018)
APAAL (2018)

Born: 1975 (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)

Bao is an award-winning writer and performance poet who writes about overcoming racial and racist divisions. It was not until he became a father that he was motivated to write diverse picture books to represent his culture. His first picture book *A Different Pond* (2017) reflects his childhood experience growing up as a refugee. It won the Caldecott Honor Book award and the APAAL for the Picture Book Category. Bao reinforces family bonding by reading to his daughter every night.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

YUKO SHIMIZU

Japanese American
Illustrator and Author
CALDECOTT Honor Books (2021, 2025)

Born: 1965 (Tokyo, Japan)

Yuko is a multi-award-winning illustrator who grew up in the United States and Japan. When young, she wanted to draw manga but her parents did not want her to study art. After studying advertising and marketing, Yuko returned to illustration and eventually received two Caldecott Honor Books for *The Cat Man of Aleppo* (2020) and *Up, Up, Ever Up! Junko Tabei: A Life in the Mountains* (2024). She often reminds people that she is *not* the Yuko Shimizu who created Hello Kitty. In 2024, illustrator and author Yuko Shimizu was inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

JILLIAN TAMAKI

Japanese and Egyptian Canadian
Illustrator and Author
CALDECOTT Honor Book (2015)

Born: April 17, 1980 (Ottawa, Ontario)

Jillian had a hard time growing up as the only mixed-heritage child in her school. Her father is Japanese Canadian and her mother is Egyptian American. She used that experience alongside her interest in the female experience to create diverse characters for her readers. With her cousin Mariko Tamaki, Jillian co-created a graphic novel about the awkwardness of youth and won the Caldecott Honor Book and the Governor General's Award for *This One Summer* (2014). She grew up reading Archie comics and newspaper strips as a child.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

MARIKO TAMAKI

Japanese and Jewish Canadian Author

CALDECOTT Honor Book (2015)

Born: 1975 (Toronto, Canada)

Mariko is a multi-award-winning graphic novel writer and performance artist. She had a difficult time growing up as an adolescent. Her work addresses issues of queerness, body image, and depression. With her cousin Jillian Tamaki, Mariko co-created a graphic novel that addresses the awkwardness of youth. It was entitled *This One Summer* (2014) and won the Caldecott Honor Book and the Governor General's Award. Mariko was subsequently asked to write for Marvel and DC Comics, and has worked on *She-Hulk*, *Supergirl*, *Wonder Woman*, and *Spiderman and Venom*.



Joyce Liang (SFSU 2024)

TARO YASHIMA

(IWAMATSU Atsushi)
Japanese American
Author and Illustrator

CALDECOTT Honor Books (1956, 1959, 1967)
Born: September 21,1908 (Kagoshima, Japan)

Died: June 30, 1994 (Glendale, California)

An opponent of Japanese militarism, Taro left for America in 1939 with his wife to avoid the draft in Japan. He then joined the US Army in World War II and worked as an artist for the US government. Taro was inspired to write and illustrate picture books when he was bedridden with ulcers and began telling stories to his daughter. Taro wrote and illustrated three Caldecott Honor Books: *Crow Boy* (1955), *Umbrella* (1958), and *Seashore Story* (1967).



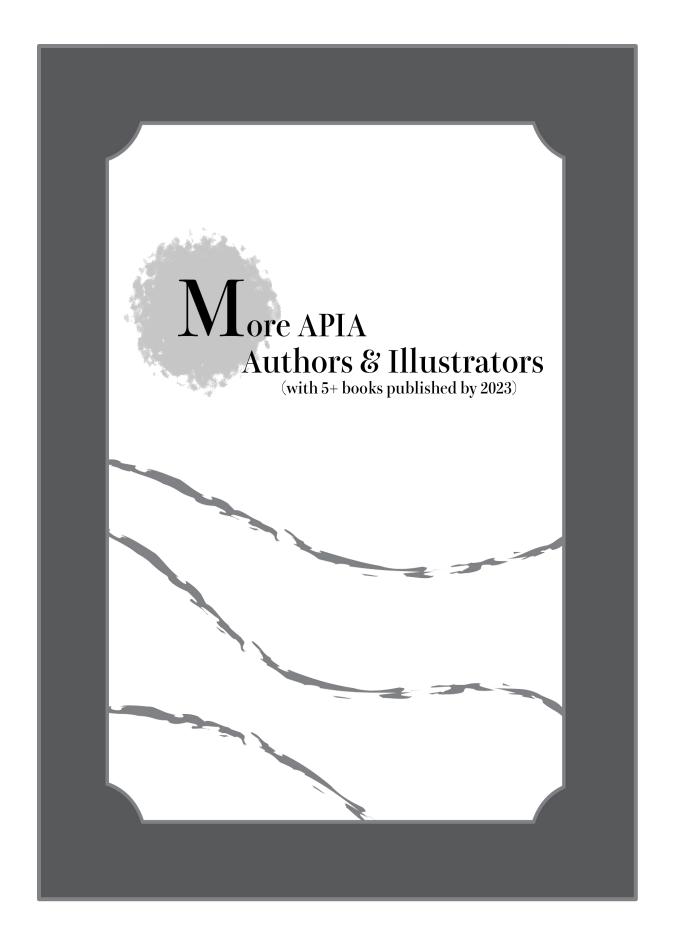
Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2025)

GRACEY ZHANG

Chinese Canadian
Author and Illustrator
CALDECOTT Honor Book (2025)

Born: date unknown (Vancouver, Canada)

Gracey is an award-winning illustrator, author, and animator with a BFA in illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. She was raised in Coquitlam, a suburb of Vancouver, and is now based in New York. Gracey has always loved drawing which led her to study illustration. Her debut author/illustrator book titled *Lala's Words* (2021) won many praises and awards. Three years later, she illustrated *Noodles on a Bicycle* (2024). It is a historical picture book about bicycle food deliverers in Tokyo. This work became a Caldecott Honor Book in 2025.





Marissa Vazquez (SFSU 2023)

José Aruego Filipino American Author and Illustrator

Born: August 9, 1932 (Manila, Philippines) **Died:** August 9, 2012 (New York, New York)

José began his career practicing law. He later studied art in New York City in the late 1950s. As an artist for over fifty years, José received many outstanding book awards from the *New York Times*, the American Library Association, and other organizations. His most well-known books are *Whose Mouse Are You?* (1970), *Leo the Late Bloomer* (1971), and *Gregory the Terrible Eater* (1980).



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

OLIVER CHIN Chinese American

Author

Born: May 1969 (Los Angeles, California)

Oliver is an author, editor, and co-founder of Immedium Books (2004), an independent publisher of diverse children's picture books based in San Francisco. Immedium has published over fifty books since 2005, increasing the representation of Asian American characters in media. Oliver wrote multiple series: Tales from the Chinese Zodiac (2010-21) that is currently reprinted bilingually, Julie Black Belt (2008, 2013), Awesome Asian Americans (2020, 2022), and The Asian Hall of Fame (2017, 2018, 2019, and 2023). With Immedium, he continues to write and publish books, even inspiring a hit animated television series called *The Octonauts* that aired on the Disney Channel.



Raquel Macchia (SFSU 2024)

YANGSOOK CHOI

Korean American
Author and Illustrator

Born: March 1, 1967 (Seoul, South Korea)

Yangsook grew up in Korea and later moved to the United States to study art. Since then, she has written and illustrated many books for young readers. Her books have received many awards and recognitions from the *New York Times*, the American Library Association, the International Literacy Association, and many other organizations. Among her notable picture books is *The Name Jar* (2001) that tells the story of a young Korean girl who moves to America and how she learns to become proud of her name and where she comes from.



Crystal Hu (SFSU 2023)

GYO FUJIKAWA

Japanese American Author and Illustrator

Born: November 3, 1908 (Berkeley, California) **Died:** November 26, 1998 (New York, New York)

Gyo's family and teachers encouraged Gyo to pursue art. She attended art school and traveled to Japan. When she returned to Los Angeles in 1939, Walt Disney Studios hired her to design promotional materials for *Fantasia* (1940). World War II began, and her family was sent to the incarceration camps. Heartbroken but undeterred, Gyo continued to thrive and designed many Walt Disney books and created several books on diversity and inclusion. Her first book, *Babies* (1963), featured children of different ethnicities and touched upon Gyo's difficult experiences and life.



Edmond Wong (SFSU 2023)

SHEILA HAMANAKA

Japanese American Author and Illustrator

Born: 1949 (New York, New York)

Sheila has been illustrating children's books since 1987 and is known for her books on peace and multiculturalism. She has received many outstanding awards, including the American Library Association Notable Book Award and the Jane Addams Peace Award, among others. Her award-winning book, *The Journey* (1990), is based on a mural she painted about the Japanese American incarceration camps. Her other well-known book, *All the Colors of the Earth* (1994), celebrates the diversity of children and their parents.



Noelle Nelson-Guerrero (SFSU 2024)

YUMI HEO

Korean American Author and Illustrator

Born: 1964 (Wonju-si, Korea)

Died: 2016 (White Plains, New York)

Yumi was born and raised in Korea, where she moved frequently due to her father's military assignments. She received her BA in graphic design before moving to the United States in 1989 to receive her MFA in illustration in New York. She is an award-winning author and illustrator of more than thirty children's books, including *One Afternoon* (1994), *Ten Days and Nine Nights: An Adoption Story* (2009), *Polka Dot Penguin Pottery* (2011), and many more.



Erika Balakid (SFSU 2023)

JOANNA HO

Chinese American Author

Born: date unknown (St. Paul, Minnesota)

Joanna is the daughter of immigrants from Taiwan and China and the mother of two children. She is a writer and educator who is passionate about discussing anti-bias, anti-racism, and equity. As a *New York Times*-bestselling author of many books, she is well-known for her debut book, *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* (2021). Since then, she has won various awards, including a Golden Kite Award and a Golden Poppy Award.



Bo Lian (SFSU 2024)

FELICIA HOSHINO

Japanese American Author and Illustrator

Born: 1968 (San Francisco, California)

Felicia is a prize-winning illustrator of multiple children's books, including the Jane Addams Peace Award Winner *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow* (2006) and *Juna's Jar* (2015). She takes a unique mixed-media approach to her work, creating her illustrations with a combination of pen and ink, watercolor, acrylic, pencils, and/or collaged tissue paper. Felicia's picture book *Sora and the Cloud* (2011) marks her writing and illustrating debut and showcases her unique art style.



Alexandra Guerrero (SFSU 2023)

UMA KRISHNASWAMI

Indian American Author

Born: June 27, 1956 (New Delhi, India)

Uma is the author of more than twenty-five books for young readers, including picture books, early readers, novels, and chapter books. Her books were chosen for recognition by CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center) Choices, Parents' Choice, and APALA. Uma's earliest well-known picture book was *Monsoon* (2003). In addition to being an author, she is a faculty emerita of Vermont College of Fine Arts. A dual citizen of the United States and Canada, Uma currently lives in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, where she knits and writes.



Cherlyn Mayodong (SFSU 2023)

MINH LÊ Vietnamese American Author APAAL (2019)

Born: October 13, 1979 (Middletown, Connecticut)

Minh struggled with language barriers as a child of Vietnamese refugees. Listening to bedtime stories of Vietnam helped him adjust but also directed his future interest in creating diverse picture books. Minh won the APAAL (Picture Book Category) for *Drawn Together* (2019) and his *Green Lantern Legacy* (2020) was named best book of the year by the *New York Times*. His social justice work includes writing inclusive books and fighting for early childhood policies and support. In 2018, Minh was named one of the 100 Coolest Dads in America by Fatherly.com.



Xueying Zhang (SFSU 2024)

HUY VOUN LEE

Chinese Cambodian American Author and Illustrator

Born: 1969 (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)

Huy arrived as a refugee from Cambodia at the age of six and developed a love of art and origami. She has won numerous recognitions for her colorful paper art style from various best book awards to exhibitions at the Eric Carle Museum. Her books provide a voice to the refugee community from *Red*, *White*, *and Boom!* (2012) to *Like a Dandelion* (2022) that highlight the courage and resilience shown by refugees and migrants. Huy has always loved paper that allows her flexibility to create and explore.



Kyle Chan (SFSU 2024)

WILLIAM LOW

Chinese American Author and Illustrator

Born: 1959 (Bronx, New York, New York)

William is a *New York Times* bestseller who started out as an illustrator and later became an author. He is inspired by the view of New York City from his apartment windows, taking photographs and turning them into color paintings and illustrations. One of his most well-known APIA picture book is *Chinatown* (1997). William was commissioned to design and draw for public and private works that won him the American Advertising Federation's Silver Medal Award multiple times. A true New Yorker, he was born in the back of a New York taxicab.



Edward Lorenzo (SFSU 2023)

IL SUNG NA

Korean American Author and Illustrator

Born: October 22, 1982 (Seoul, South Korea)

Il Sung is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. His first book *A Book of Sleep* (2007) was his graduation project that caught the attention of book publishers. It became his first published book. Il Sung's watercolor-layered art style won him many awards including Winning Illustrator for *My Tree* (2019) at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, Italy. Recently in 2024, his *Beautiful Noise: The Music of John Cage* (2023) became the Bank Street Best of the Year. He loves going to flea markets in his spare time.



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2025)

KENARD PAK

Korean American Illustrator and Author

Born: date unknown (Baltimore, Maryland)

Kenard is originally from Baltimore. He has fond memories of growing up in the suburbs of Howard County in Maryland. His parents immigrated from Korea and ran different food businesses in downtown. Kenard wanted to be an architect when he was a child. He eventually attended Syracuse University and the California Institute of the Arts. In addition to being a picture book illustrator and author, he has worked as a Visual Development Artist for Dreamworks Animation and Walt Disney Animation. Among his many books, *Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter* won the 2018 Golden Kite Award for Picture Book Illustration, given annually by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).



Viviann Luong (SFSU 2023)

FRANCES and GINGER PARK

Korean American Authors

Born: Frances: April 3, 1955 (Cambridge Massachusetts)

Ginger: 1962 (Washington, DC)

Frances and Ginger grew up in a neighborhood that had little exposure to Korean culture outside their home. Frances wrote short stories in her spare time while Ginger wrote her thoughts and dreams in a diary. With the passing of their father, they learned about their parents' struggles and their Korean heritage which they used as inspiration. Among their well-known works are *The Royal Bee* (2000) and *My Freedom Trip* (2013), winner of the ILA (International Literacy Association) Children's Book Award. The two sisters love chocolate and are the co-owners and founders of a confectionery store called Chocolate Chocolate.



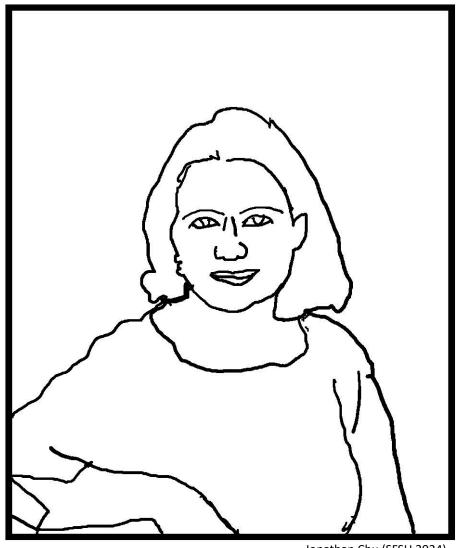
Leanna Nunn (SFSU 2024)

LINDA SUE PARK

Korean American Author APAAL (2006)

Born: March 25, 1960 (Urbana, Illinois)

Linda has authored many picture books and young adult novels. She published her first book at age nine. Linda received a Newbery Award for *A Single Shard* (2001) and an APAAL (Picture Book Category) for *Firekeeper's Son* (2004). Her father took her to the library every two weeks, so she loves books ever since she was a child. Linda continues to fight for diverse representation and sits on the advisory board of We Need Diverse Books. She is also the creator of kiBooka.com that highlights children's books created by the Korean diaspora.



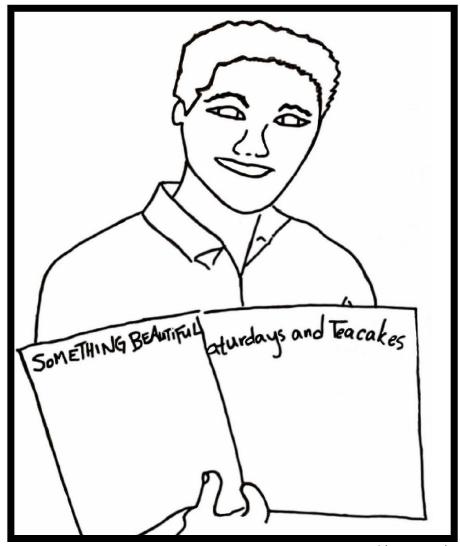
Jonathan Chu (SFSU 2024)

KASHMIRA SHETH

Indian American Author

Born: no date (Bhavangar, India)

Kashmira grew up in India with stories told by her parents and grandparents. She came to America when she was seventeen to attend Iowa State University, where she received a BS in microbiology. Kashmira developed an interest in children's literature when her two daughters were born. Her first book was *Blue Jasmine* (2004), a young adult novel based on her experience in Iowa. Kashima's first picture book is *My Dadima Wears a Sari* (2007). Both books won awards and recognitions.



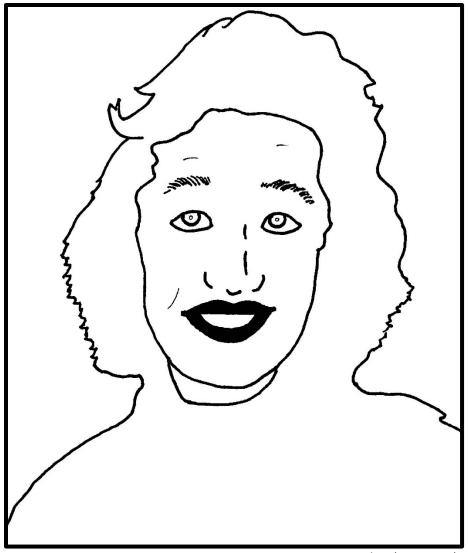
Tana Reed (SFSU 2024)

CHRIS SOENTPIET

(Gun Sup HAN) Korean American Illustrator and Author

Born: January 3, 1970 (Seoul, South Korea)

When Chris was eight years old, he and his sister were adopted by the Soentpiet family and moved from Korea to Hawai'i. Chris' high school paintings won him a scholarship to study fine arts and education at Pratt Institute in New York City. This encouraged him to pursue his passion for painting by illustrating children's books. The first book he wrote and illustrated was *Around Town* (1994). Chris won many awards for his picture books.



Reina Raskop (SFSU 2015)

YOSHIKO UCHIDA

Japanese American Author

Born: November 24, 1921 (Alameda, California)

Died: June 21, 1992 (Berkeley, California)

Yoshiko was a nisei and was deeply impacted by her World War II incarceration in Topaz, Utah. She wanted to educate the world about the camps and make sure they do not happen again. In the beginning, publishers rejected her short stories. Eventually Yoshiko became famous for her young adult novels about the Japanese American incarceration experience. *The Bracelet* (1976) is her most known picture book about this historical period. Yoshiko won numerous awards for her books.



Emily Schwartz (SFSU 2023)

JANET SIU WONG

Korean and Chinese American Author APAAL (2001, 2003)

Born: September 30, 1962 (Los Angeles, California)

Janet's father was born and raised in China and her mother was born and raised in Korea. Her father wanted her to be a lawyer, but she did not like being a lawyer. One day, Janet was inspired while shopping for picture books for her niece's birthday. She then took a class on children's literature and published her first picture book of poetry, *Good Luck Gold* (1994). Janet received two APAAL (Picture Book Category) for *The Trip Back Home* (2000) and *Apple Pie 4th of July* (2002).



Andrew Germond (SFSU 2024)

PAUL YEE Chinese Canadian Author

Born: October 1, 1956 (Spalding, Saskatchewan, Canada)

Paul's parents died when he was young. He was raised mainly by his mother's older brother and wife, and he grew up in Vancouver Chinatown. Paul's Chinese language background and his work at the Vancouver City Archives influenced him to write about the Chinese Canadian experiences in picture books. He has received many awards. Among his most well-known books are *Ghost Train* (1996) and *Tales from Gold Mountain: Stories of the Chinese in the New World* (1989).



Joyce D. Bantugan (APIA 2024)

LAURENCE YEP

Chinese American Author

Born: June 14, 1948 (San Francisco, California)

Laurence grew up in a predominantly African American neighborhood. He helped at his father's grocery store every day and began writing science fiction when in high school. Laurence is most known for his young adult novel series: Golden Mountain Chronicles, Chinatown Mysteries, Tiger's Apprentice, City Trilogy, and Dragon's Guide. He received two Newbery Honors for his novels, *Dragonwings* (1975) and *Dragon's Gate* (1993). In the 1990s, Laurence began writing picture books that retold Chinese folktales. *Butterfly Boy* (1993) was among the earliest of these. Laurence received many awards for his sixty-plus children's and young adult books.



Alba Ventura (SFSU 2024)

HYEWON YUM

Korean American
Author and Illustrator
APAAL (2017)

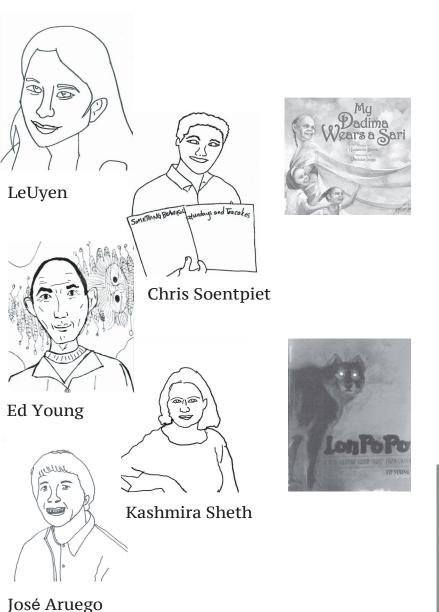
Born: September 9, 1976 (Seoul, South Korea)

Hyewon decided to be a writer and illustrator when she was in college where she discovered picture books. Her twin sister has influenced her stories and illustrations. In the beginning, Hyewon felt her English was not good enough to be a writer. But now her many books have earned over thirty awards. Her first published book *Last Night* (2009) was her graduation project and won two awards. Hyewon received an APAAL (Picture Book Category) for *Puddle* (2016), a story about a little boy bored on a rainy day.



Who Wrote/Illustrated Which Book?

Instruction: Connect the authors/illustrators to the book that they wrote/illustrated.







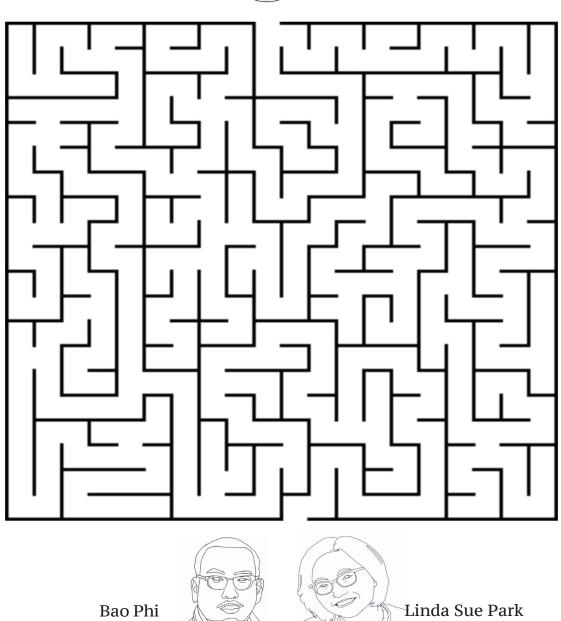


Created by: AVA TEDTAOTAO (SFSU 2024); Adapted by: KAI HEADLEY (APIA 2025)

Going for the Caldecott Medal!

Instruction: Help our APIA authors reach the Caldecott Medal.





Created by: VIVIAN LUONG (SFSU 2023); Adapted by: KAI HEADLEY (APIA 2025)

Grandfather's Journey (1993)

Allen Say won a Caldecott Medal for his picture book, *Grandfather's Journey*. He writes about his grandfather coming to America and then returning to his home in Japan. Below is a short summary of the book.









Grandfather was born in Japan. When he was a young man, he left his home in Japan to see the world. He saw many things and met many people. He loved California. He went back to Japan to get married.







Grandfather brought his bride back to California. They lived near San Francisco. They had a daughter.







When the daughter grew up, she went to Japan with her parents. The daughter got married and I was born. She was my mother.









I love my grandfather, and I love Japan. When I grew up, I went to California like my grandfather. I love California too. Now I am married and have a daughter of my own. The moment I am in one country I am homesick for the other. I think I know my grandfather now. I wrote this book about my grandfather.

Grandfather's Journey (1993) by Allen Say

Now that you have read a summary of *Grandfather's Journey* (p. 59), put the pictures and sentences in the order of the story, from the earliest (1) to the latest (4).









I love my grandfather, and I love Japan. When I grew up, I went to California like my grandfather. I love California too. Now I am married and also have a daughter of my own. The moment I am in one country I am homesick for the other. I think I know my grandfather now. I wrote this book about my grandfather.







When the daughter grew up, she went to Japan with her parents. The daughter got married and I was born. She was my mother.









Grandfather was born in Japan. When he was a young man, he left his home in Japan to see the world. He saw many things and met many people. He loved California. He went back to Japan to get married.



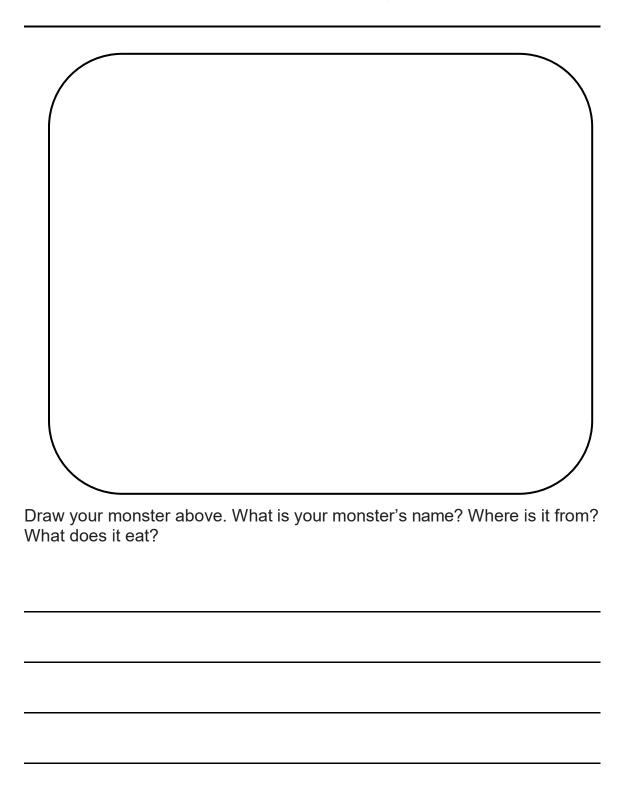




Grandfather brought his bride back to California. They lived near San Francisco. They had a daughter.

Created and Adapted by: NICK BARTEL (TACT 2025)

Draw and Create Your Own Monster



Created by: DEANNAKAYTE MARUCUT (SFSU 2023); Adapted by: KAI HEADLEY (APIA 2025)

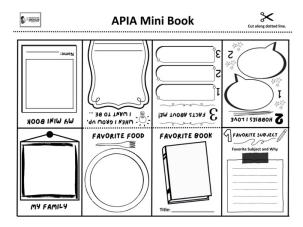
Write a Letter to an APIA Author/Illustrator

Instructions: Choose an APIA children's book author/illustrator from this Activity Book. Write a letter to him/her. You can introduce yourself and get to know the author/illustrator by asking interesting questions.
micresums questions.

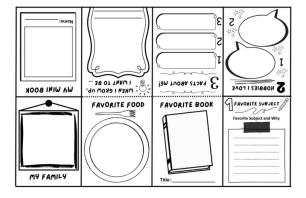
Created by: EDWARD LORENZO (SFSU 2023); Adapted by: KAI HEADLEY (APIA 2025)

Mini Book Folding Instructions

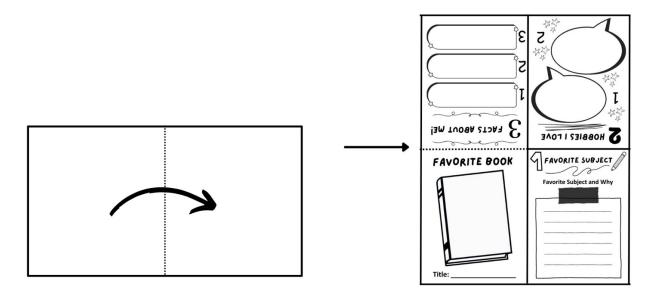
1. Cut out Mini Book Activity Page.



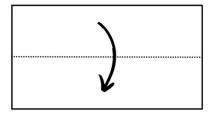
2. Fold paper along all the lines and then open.

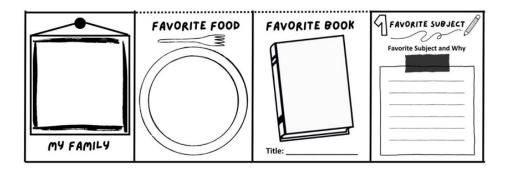


3. Fold paper in half and cut along the dotted line as shown below.



4. Open and fold paper lengthwise as shown below.

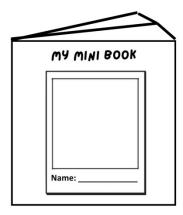




5. Push in at both ends as shown.



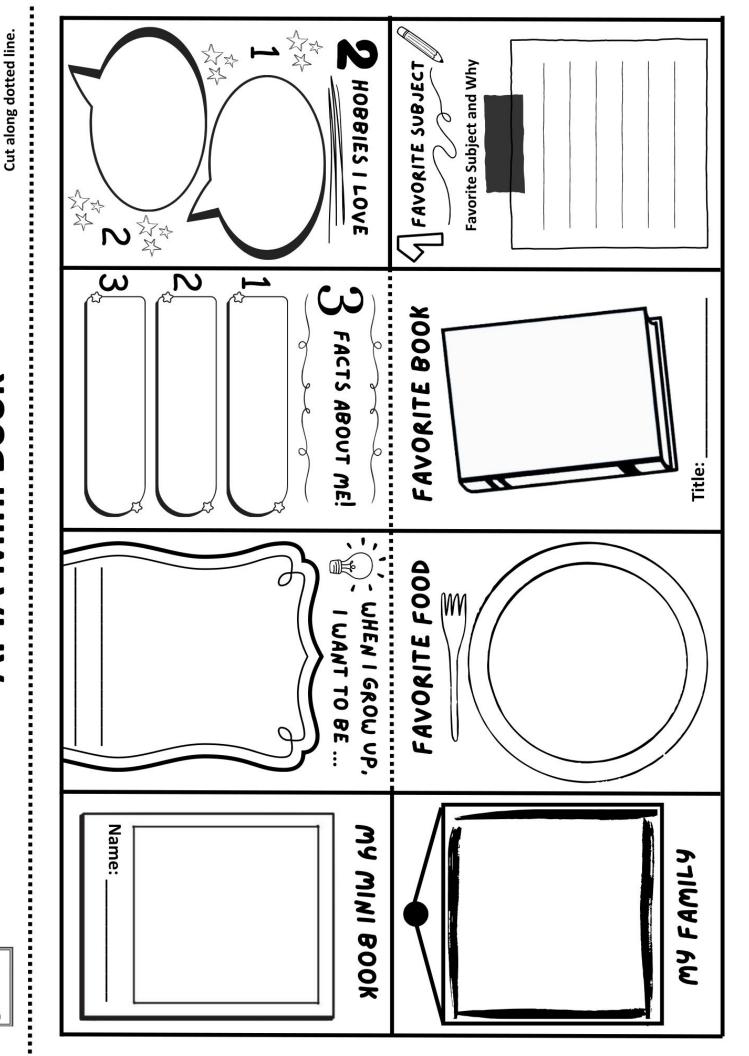
6. Fold the book and close.



Created and Adapted by: JOYCE D. BANTUGAN (APIA 2025)

APIA Mini Book

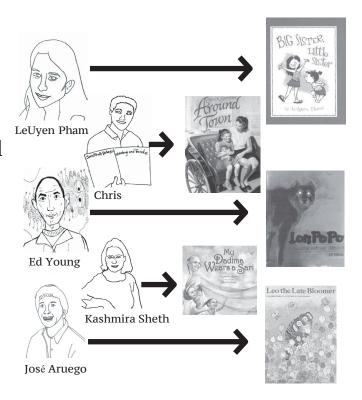




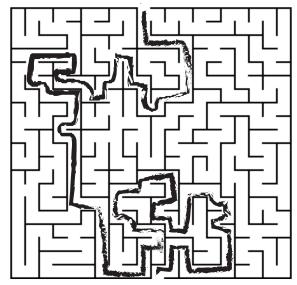
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Answer Key

Who wrote/illustrated which book? (p. 57)



Going for the Caldecott Medal! (p. 58)



Grandfather's Journey (p. 60)

From top to bottom: 4, 3, 1, 2