

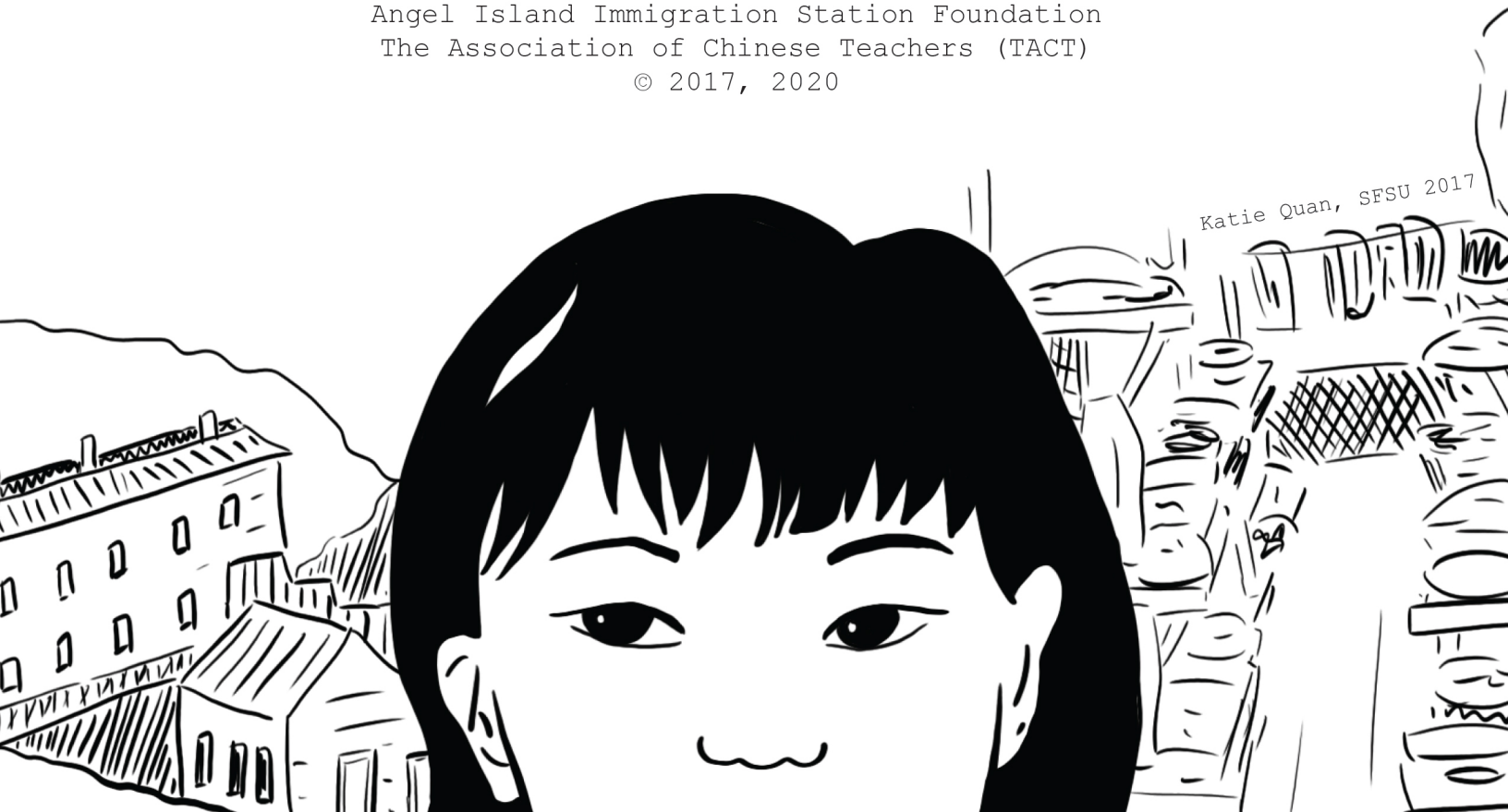
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN

Angel Island Immigrant Voices

AN ACTIVITY BOOK

IN CELEBRATION OF APIA HERITAGE MONTH (2017)

APIA Biography Project
Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University
Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation
The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT)
© 2017, 2020



**Angel Island Immigrant Voices
An Activity Book
Table of Contents**

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Preface..... | 1 |
| Resources..... | 3 |
| Voices..... | 5 |
| Activities..... | 35 |

Overall Book Design and Layout: Joyce Bantugan
Front and Section Cover Design: Katie Quan

THE APIA BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

The Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Biography Project began in 2012 under Asian American Studies Professors Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo. The project's primary mission is to provide free and accessible APIA resources for children and adults through events and a website. It is a Community Service Learning project based mainly on the works done by AAS 512 (Asian American Children's/ Adolescent Literature) students at San Francisco State University. The Project is funded by private donations, the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University, and the University's Instructionally Related Activities grant.

apiabiography@gmail.com

URL: apiabiography.sfsu.edu

ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION STATION FOUNDATION

In 1994, the Immigration Station Foundation officially changed its name to the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF). The not-for-profit foundation provides vital financial support for the preservation of the Immigration Station. It has preserved the poems on the barrack walls, created a collection of oral histories, and secured grants for the stabilization and rehabilitation of the station's hospital.

<http://www.aiisf.org>

**THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TEACHERS
(TACT)**

Founded in 1969, The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) is a not-for-profit organization in San Francisco. Over the years, it has been involved in issues such as affirmative action, bilingual education, curriculum, and teachers' working conditions. TACT awards scholarships to high school seniors and holds yearly professional development events. Beginning in 2013, TACT has cosponsored the annual APIA Heritage Month celebration with the San Francisco Public Library and the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University.

<http://www.tactsf.org>

Angel Island Immigrant Voices An Activity Book

Preface

Island 埃崙 (ai-leuhn) was what the Chinese Americans in San Francisco Chinatown called Angel Island. There was no “Angel” before “Island.”

In 1775, Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala landed 1.5 miles north of San Francisco on the island nation of the Coast Miwok. He found the island and its people to be so serene and idyllic that he named it “Isla de los Angeles,” or “Angel Island” in English. It was estimated that there were about 1,500 Coast Miwok in 1770.

Over a century later, the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted to stop all Chinese laborers from entering the United States. From 1910 to 1940, the federal government set up a detention center on Angel Island that processed about 300,000 people entering the country in the West Coast. The majority of them were Asian: 100,000 Chinese, 85,000 Japanese, 8,000 South Asians, 1,000 Filipinos, and 1,000 Koreans. At the time, the 1910 Census reported 671 Miwok living in America.

Unlike the Ellis Island Immigration Station that was set up to welcome and facilitate newcomers in the East Coast, the Angel Island station was set up with the primary goal of eliminating the Chinese from entering the West Coast. All Chinese were suspected of holding fraudulent identities (infamously known as paper sons/daughters), and were deported if they could not prove otherwise. Among the deported were American citizens.

The detainees were kept in crowded wooden barracks and in what was described as a prison-like environment. The Chinese underwent intense interrogations to prove their identity, and carved 200+ poems on the barrack walls to express their anger and frustration over the injustice. The stay on Island ran from 7 to 42 days, with almost 200 individuals detained for more than one year and 3 detained for more than two years. Records show that approximately 5% were deported after interrogation. They also reveal that 49% of the Chinese were admitted after their arrival in San Francisco without ever having set foot on Island (Lee and Yung 339-40). The detention center was closed in 1940 after a fire destroyed the administration building and women’s quarters.

On May 7, 2017, the Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Biography Project held its 5th Annual APIA Heritage Month community celebration at the San Francisco Main Public Library. The theme focused on the stories of the Asian people who went through Angel Island from 1910 to 1940. Due to a shortage of funding, it took until 2020 to finish this activity book that was intended for distribution at that event.

This activity book was put together over the years by San Francisco State University students enrolled primarily in the Asian American Children’s/Adolescent

Literature course (AAS 512). The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation gave permission for the students to draw and quote from among the detainees featured in their “Immigrant Voices” website [immigrant-voices.aiisf.org (as of April 2020)]. In addition to these biographies, the students created related curricular activities that can be used in the classroom. This section, entitled “Activities,” begins with a classic Angel Island lesson activity created for a 1977 publication by The Association of Chinese Teacher (TACT), entitled *Chinese Americans: Past and Present*.

Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo
APIA Biography Project Directors
Asian American Studies Department
San Francisco State University

The Angel Island Immigration Station Experience Resources (2020)

Compiled by Lorraine Dong, PhD, Asian American Studies Department, San Francisco State University. Revised and updated from the original booklist distributed at the 5th Annual APIA Heritage Month Celebration Event in 2017. This list of resources has been expanded to include a few new publications and works from the past for historical purposes. As with all resource listings, every work should be considered and examined critically.

*Books with an asterisk * are recommended by TACT (The Association of Chinese Teachers).

General (high school-adult)

*Angel Island Immigration Station website: www.aiisf.org

Fanning, Branwell, and William Wong. *Angel Island*. Arcadia Publishing, 2006. Images of America.

*Goh, Teow Lim. *Islanders*. Conundrum Press-Samizdat Publishing, 2016.

*Lai, Him Mark, Genny Lim, and Judy Yung, editors. *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*. U of Washington P, 1991.

*---. *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*. 2nd ed., U of Washington P, 2014.

*Lee, Erika, and Judy Yung. *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*. Oxford UP, 2010.

Leong, Jeffrey Thomas. *Wild Geese Sorrow: The Chinese Wall Inscriptions at Angel Island*. Calypso Editions, 2018.

Lim, Genny. *Paper Angels and Bitter Cane*. Honolulu: Kalamaku Press, 1991. [the play, *Paper Angels*, premiered in New York City, 1982]

Non-Fiction Published for Children and Young Adults

**Angel Island*. Special issue of *Cobblestone*, Feb. 2016. [elementary-middle school]

*Brimmer, Larry Dane. *Angel Island*. Grolier Publishing, 2001. Cornerstones of Freedom. [middle school]

Britton, Tamara L. *Angel Island*. ABCO Publishing, 2005. Checkerboard History Library Symbols, Landmarks, and Monuments. [elementary school]

Campbell, Wallis. *Angel Island*. Mondo Publishing, 2007. [elementary school]

Cruise, Roberta Ann. *Angel Island*. Harcourt, [2003]. Time for Kids Readers. [elementary school]

Flanagan, Alice K. *Angel Island*. Compass Point Books, 2006. We the People. [elementary school]

*Freedman, Russell. *Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013. [middle school]

- Greve, Tom. *Angel Island*. Rourke Educational Media, 2015. Symbols of Freedom. [elementary school]
- Kallio, Jamie. *Angel Island Immigration*. Cherry Lake Publishing, 2015. Perspectives Library. [elementary school]
- Mortensen, Lori. *Angel Island*. Illustrated by Matthew Skeens, Picture Window Books, 2009. [elementary school]

Biographies, Memoirs, and Fiction for Children and Young Adults

- Chetin, Helen 凱倫尺. *Angel Island Prisoner 1922* 天使島牢籠一九二二. Illustrated by Jan Lee 李夏霧, Chinese translation by Catherine Harvey 楊潔明, New Seed Press, 1982. [elementary-middle school]
- *Currier, Katrina Saltonstall. *Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain: An Angel Island Story*. Illustrated by Gabhor Utomo, Angel Island Association, 2005. [elementary school]
- Honeyman, Kay. *The Fire Horse Girl*. Scholastic Inc., 2016. [middle school]
- *James, Helen Foster, and Virginia Shin-Mui Loh. *Paper Son: Lee's Journey to America*. Illustrated by Wilson Ong, Sleeping Bear Press, 2013. Tales of Young Americans Series. [elementary school]
- *Lee, Milly. *Landed*. Illustrated by Yangsook Choi, Frances Foster Books, 2006. [elementary school]
- Lim, Genny 林小琴. *Wings for Lai-Ho* 飛吧, 小麗荷. Illustrated by Andrea Ja 謝詠慈, Chinese translation by Gordon Lew 劉池光, San Francisco East/West Publishing, 1982. [elementary-middle school]
- *Wong, Don. "No. 127, San Francisco Okay." Illustrated by Hideo Yoshida. *Chinese Americans: Past and Present*, by Don Wong and Irene Dea Collier, The Association of Chinese Teachers, 1977, pp. 33-36. [elementary school] – see 2017 revised version in Activities Section
- *Wong, Li Keng. *Good Fortune: My Journey to Gold Mountain*. Peachtree Publishers, 2006. [middle school]
- *Yep, Laurence, and Kathleen S. Yep. *The Dragon's Child: A Story of Angel Island*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2008. [middle school]

Media

- Ding, Loni, producer and director. *Island of Secret Memories*. 1988. [grades 3-6; 20-minute docu-drama; available from www.cetfilms.org]
- Lim, Genny. *Paper Angels*. John Lone, director. American Playhouse. PBS, 1985. Television. [high school]
- Lowe, Felicia, producer and director. *Carved in Silence*. Lowedown Productions, 1988. [high school; 45-minute docu-drama]

Voices



*Partial poem from Angel Island Immigration Station
Room 105, S-4*



Vanessa Campos (SFSU 2016)

Kanta CHANDRA

1910 from Delhi, India

After the death of her parents, thirteen-year-old Kanta ran away to America with her four siblings in order to stay together as a family. Suspected of having tuberculosis, they were detained on Angel Island for a few days. When she looked out the window of her barracks and saw San Francisco, Kanta thought, “So close but, so far.”

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/869-so-close-but-so-far/>
[April 2020]



Colleen Rocks (SFSU 2017)

Helen CHAR
1913 from Hawai'i

Helen was born in Honolulu to Chinese immigrants. She was twelve years old when she arrived on Angel Island as a domestic servant for an American military family on their way to Kansas. She eventually returned to Hawai'i and became a teacher in the public school system.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/little-girl-big-consequences/> [April 2020]



Alan Cardenas Moreno (SFSU 2017)

Young Dock CHIN

1930 from Macau

Young Dock Chin was a six-month-old baby and paper son. He stayed on Angel Island for two days after his paper parents had to pass intense interrogations. Young Dock was adopted by a wealthy childless couple living outside of San Francisco and his paper family never saw him again.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/898-the-story-of-my-paper-brother-chin-young-dock/> [April 2020]

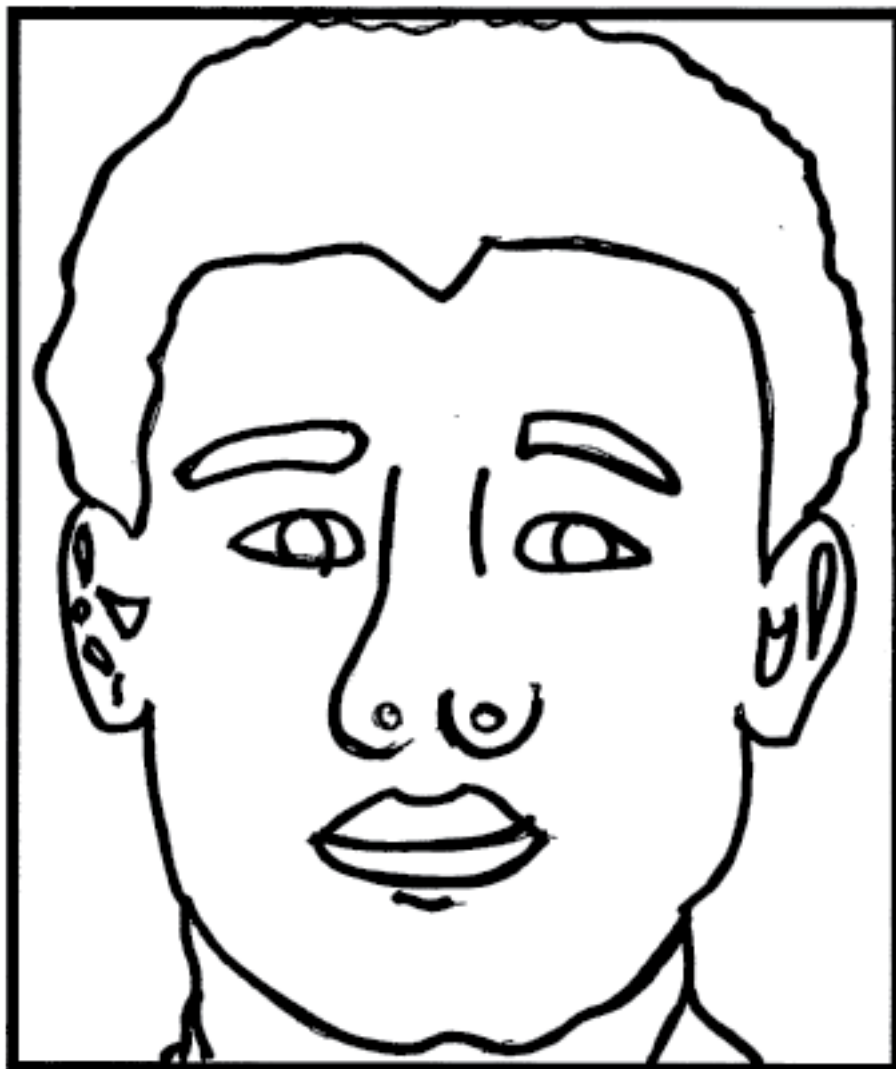


Tiffany Duong (SFSU 2017)

**Gwing DER (aka DER Nea Vick & Nelson DER)
1926 from Kaiping, China**

Gwing Der was eighteen years old when he arrived on Angel Island with his younger brother. He said it “wasn’t that bad....We just weren’t permitted outside. If you wanted to come to America, you had to comply with the laws. That was the way it was....white people didn’t like us Chinese – colored people.” Gwing settled in San Francisco.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/726-memories-of-centenarian-gwing-der-aka-der-nea-yick-a-nelson-der/> [April 2020]



Hannah Del Palacio (SFSU 2017)

Hew DIN (aka GONG Bow Gwun)
1912 from Guangzhou, China

Gong Bow Gwun emigrated from China as a paper son and spent three weeks on Angel Island. His brother also came as a paper son named Doon Ho and they had to pretend they were not related. After Doon Ho died, Bow Gwun took over his name and “somehow the name [Doon] got changed to Din.”

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/655-not-one-not-two-but-three-paper-names/> [April 2020]

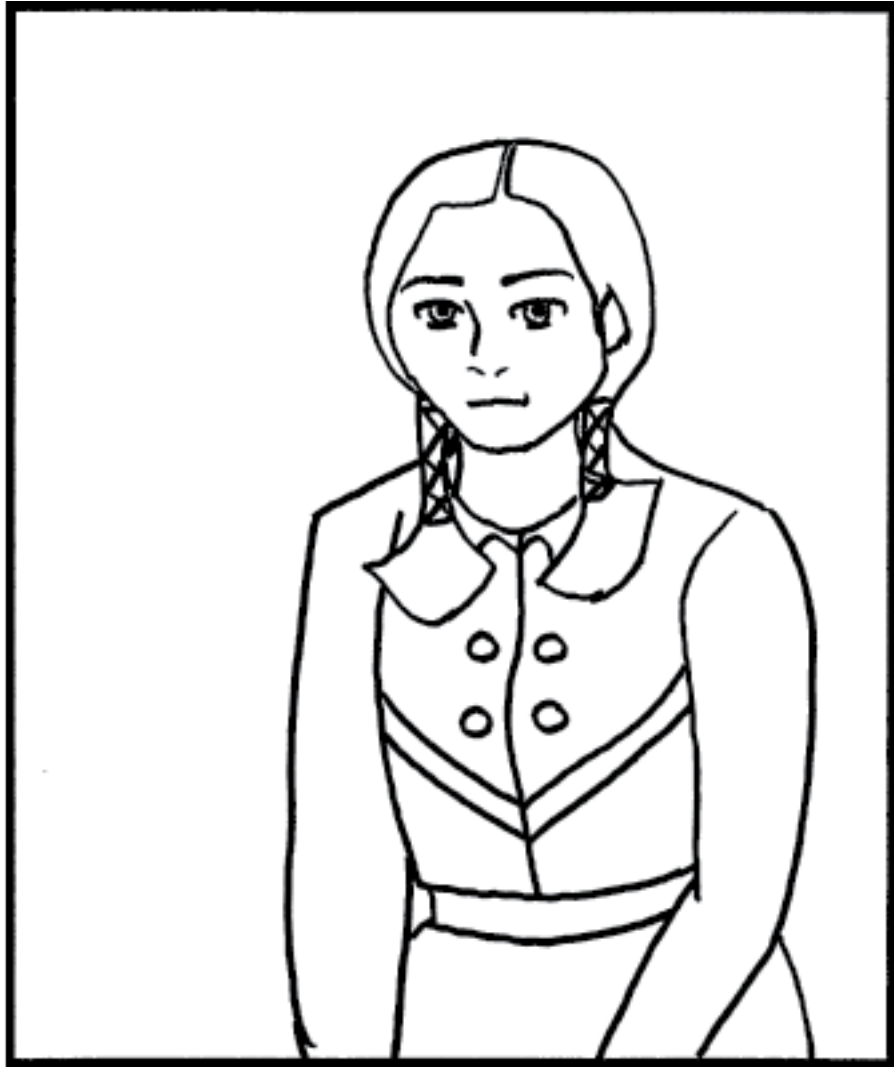


Angelina Cowan (SFSU 2017)

FONG Hong May (Helen Fong)
1925 from Guangdong, China

Hong May came to America as a twenty-two-year-old paper daughter and bride-to-be. She was confined on Angel Island for three weeks and left after two intense interrogation sessions. Hong May became the third wife of forty-two-year-old herbalist Fong Wan of Oakland. They divorced twenty-nine years later.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/869-so-close-but-so-far/>
[April 2020]



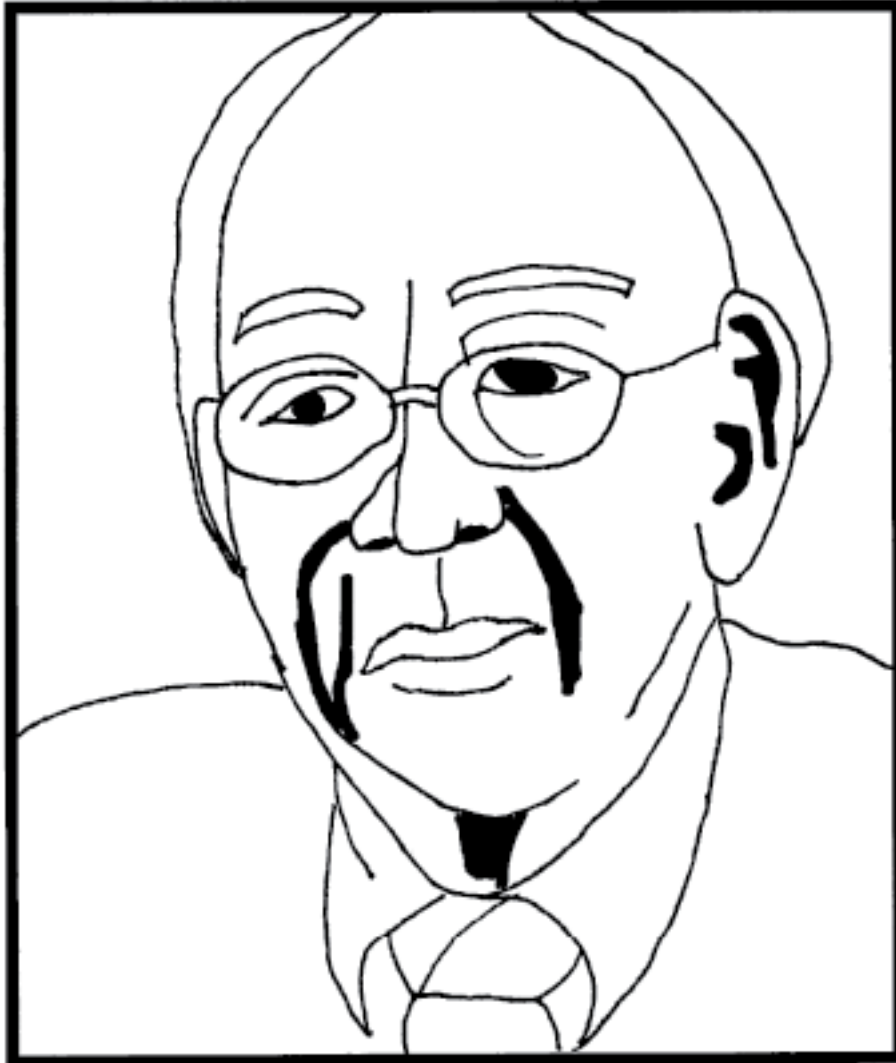
Catalina Benevides (SFSU 2016)

FUTAGAWA Masako

1937 from Japan

Masako Futagawa was born in Madera, California. As a child, she moved to Japan to have a traditional Japanese schooling. Masako returned to America as the bride of San Franciscan Masataro Nishimura. She was detained on Angel Island for several days even though she was a natural-born US citizen.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/754-a-story-of-two-japanese-american-sisters-masako-and-misako/> [April 2020]

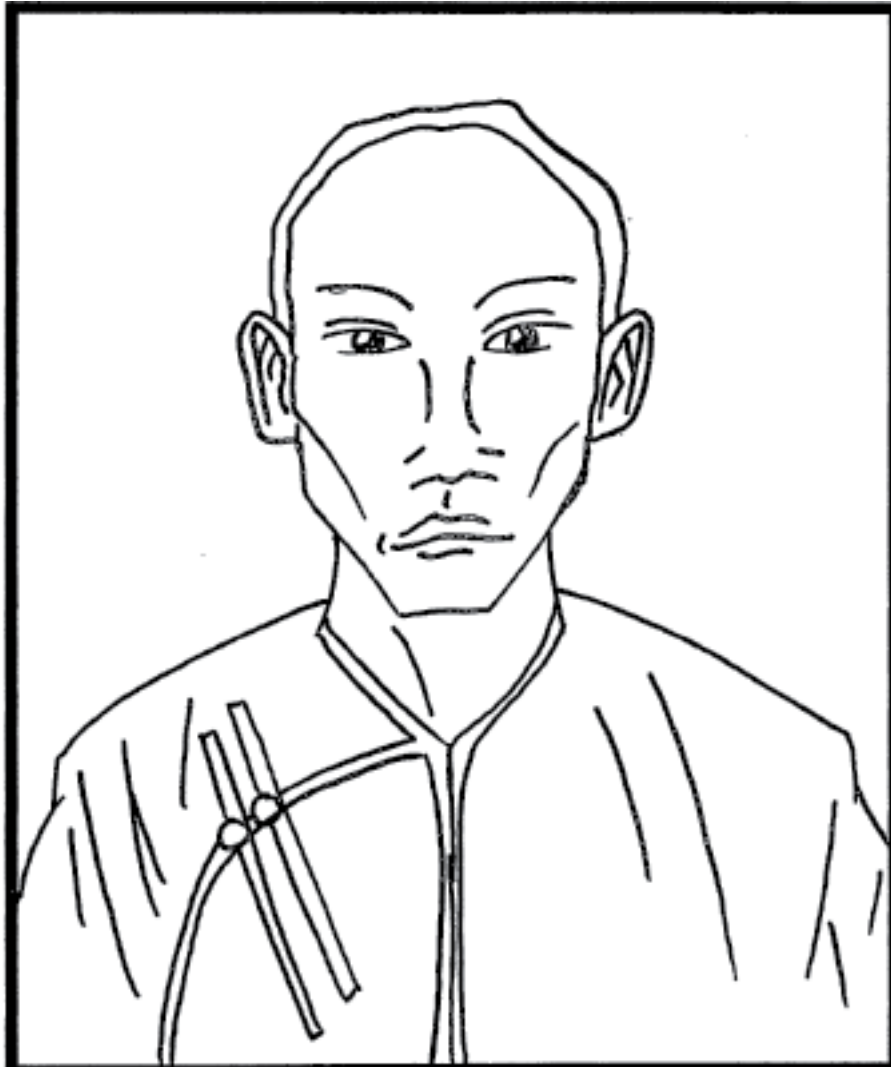


Christopher Bugaj (SFSU 2017)

Stanley GEE
1938 from Hong Kong

Stanley Gee came to America in search of a better life. He was eighteen years old when he was detained at the Angel Island Immigration Station. After his release, he had no money, had to find work, and had to learn English. One of his children, Delbert C. Gee, became Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf/stories-by-author/591-gee-stanley-3/> [April 2020]



Kevin Lei (SFSU 2017)

Shue GIN

1919 from Toisan, China

Shue went to Mexico in 1909 when he was four years old. He returned to China and in 1919, came to America as the paper son of a merchant. He was supposed to be seventeen years old when he was really twelve. On Angel Island, Shue had to answer seven pages of questions. He owned a grocery store and became a merchant in Tucson, Arizona.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/931-immigration-story-of-an-american-citizen/> [April 2020]



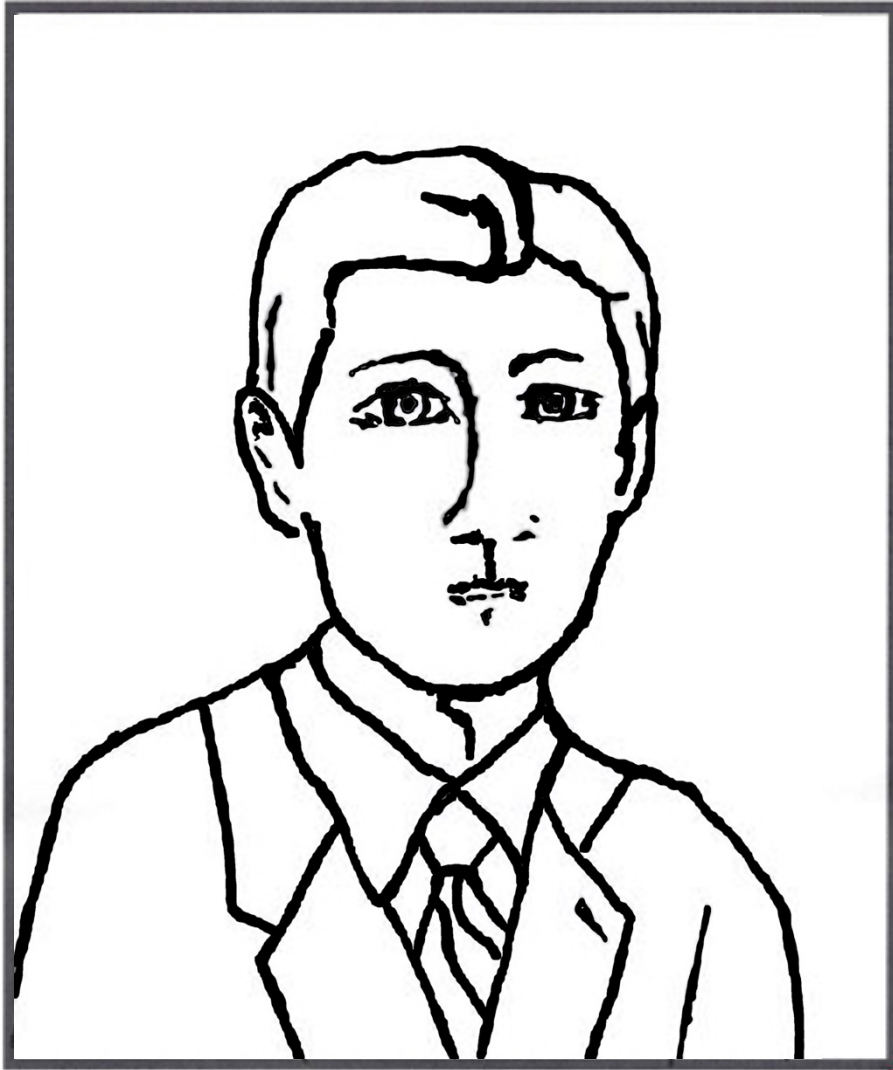
Marianne Alvarez (SFSU 2017)

Louise Lee JANG

1931 from China

Lee Sun (aka Louise) Lee was born in 1922, in Courtland, California. Her parents went to China in April 1931, and the mother returned with Louise in November that year. They were detained for several days on Angel Island. Louise recalled watching a woman carving poems on the walls of the barracks.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/839-louise-lee-jangs-journey-from-courtland-to-china/> [April 2020]



Shari Weiser (SFSU 2016)

Richard Jeong JEW
1937 from Zhongshan, China

Twelve-year-old Richard Jew came as a paper son. He stayed in the hospital on Angel Island for three weeks because doctors determined he was ill. He remembers, “we hardly ever saw meat for our meals except hot dogs.” His interrogations lasted four days. After four months, he left for Firebaugh, California, where Richard became a farmer.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/657-the-tale-of-richard-jeong-jew/> [April 2020]



Tammy Leon (SFSU 2017)

Hey Soo KIM
1917 from Jeonju City, Korea

Kim Hey Soo arrived on Angel Island as the bride of a US resident with ambitions to continue her education in America. She was admitted after only one day of detention. In 1919, her husband died from an accident. Hey Soo remarried to Lee Bum Young and joined him in a lifelong fight for Korea's independence movement.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/from-japanese-occupied-korea-to-angel-island-immigration-story-of-lee-bum-young-and-kim-hey-soo/>
[April 2020]



Sujung Nam (SFSU 2017)

Kou Yuki KITANO
1914 from Oita, Japan

Kou Yuki was twenty-four years old when she arrived on Angel Island as Motoji Kitano's picture bride. "It was not pleasant....They asked many questions and we had to submit to a physical examination. It was difficult with so many of us stuck here, behind a fence." She stayed at the Angel Island station for a few days before her husband picked her up.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/609-kitano-kou/> [April 2020]



Samantha Mui (SFSU 2016)

Bak Huen LEE
1937 from Guangdong, China

Bak Huen Lee was fifteen years old when her father sent for her. She was detained for over a month on Angel Island. “We were kept under lock and key; it was like being in jail. They lined us up like convicts for meals and fed us dry olives with sugar. People committed suicide in the bathrooms out of despair. I heard stories of ghosts.”

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/731-coming-to-america-through-the-angel-island-immigration-station/> [April 2020]



Sonia Perez (SFSU 2017)

**LEE Jee Jung (aka Margaret Lee MASTERS)
1940 from Hong Kong**

Lee Jee Jung was sixteen years old when her father Rev. Shau Yan Lee sent for her and her brother to go to America. On Angel Island, the doctors said she was not Chinese because of her curly hair. So she was put in the European women's dormitory. Jee Jung was detained for twenty-three days and never saw another Chinese person there.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/829-margaret-lee-masters-md-lee-jee-jung-from-churches-to-pediatrics/> [April 2020]



Ryan Kwong (SFSU 2017)

George Akira MAKISHIMA

1940 from Japan

Born in Elk Grove, California, George was a kibeï who went with his grandparents to live in Yamaguchi Prefecture in Japan. When he decided to return to America, he was held on Angel Island for three months. “I was staying in a huge room with a window way up in high ceiling. You couldn’t see the view. Nothing.”

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/684-george-akira-makishima-story/> [April 2020]



Justin Jones (SFSU 2016)

Atsushi MATSUZAWA
1911 from Akita-ken, Japan

Arriving in California in 1911, Atsushi became a farmer and with his wife Kazue had two daughters born in the United States before moving to Japan. With the onset of war, Atsushi returned with his daughters and was detained on Angel Island for one week. He would later be a Japanese teacher to naval officers during World War II while interned in a camp.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/956-the-matsuzawas-nisei-marye-kimoto-remembers-her-family-and-its-angel-island-experiences/> [April 2020]

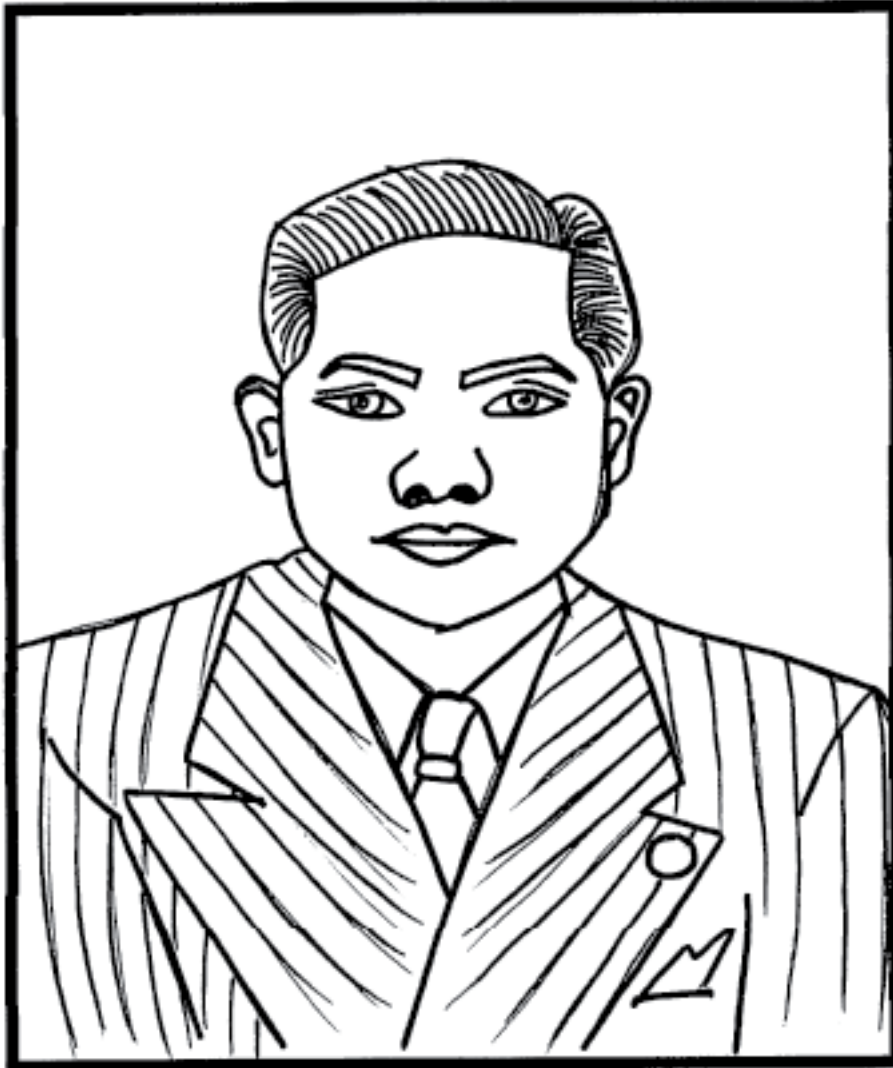


Yang Zhang (SFSU 2017)

Yoke Lon “May” PHANG
1934 from Tientsin, China

May applied to visit America for three months on her way to Jamaica. As evidence of her “non-immigrant status,” she provided references that vouched for her status. Coupled with a roundtrip ticket and \$1,000 in cash, she was verified as a “responsible citizen of Tientsin” and allowed to visit.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/may-phang-a-temporary-visitor/> [April 2020]

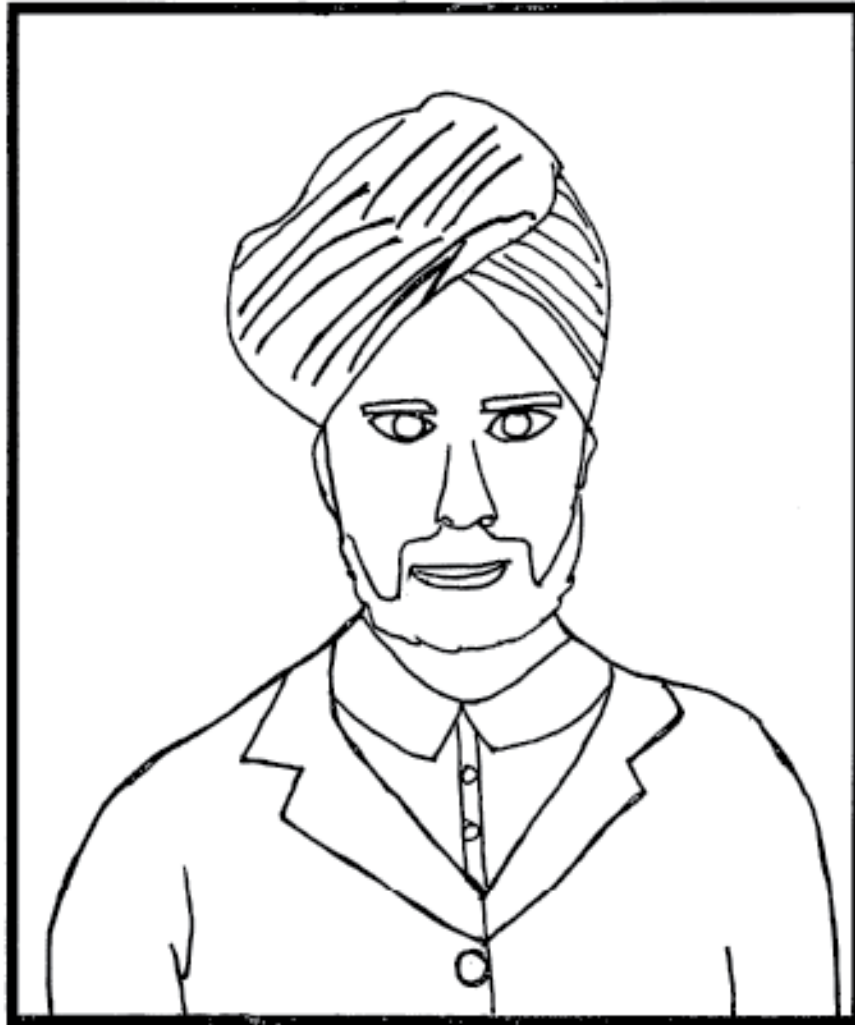


Tien Tran (SFSU 2016)

Jim (Wah Bo) QUOCK
1920 from Guangdong, China

Arriving as a paper son, Jim Quock was allowed to land after three weeks of intensive interrogations at the Angel Island Immigration Station. Jim worked in a San Francisco Chinatown restaurant starting as a dishwasher, waiter, and cook, and eventually becoming part owner.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/737-my-father-was-a-paper-son/> [April 2020]



Melanie Pon (SFSU 2017)

Kehar SINGH

1913 from Nomachar, Punjab (India)

Attempting to start a new life, Kehar Singh arrived in San Francisco via stops in Manila and Shanghai where he worked for Shell Oil Company. Unable to pay the \$5 port fee, he was turned back. When he finally reached Angel Island in 1913, he was detained and then landed, going to Clovis, California and farming several hundred acres of land.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/946-becoming-american-the-journey-of-early-sikh-pioneer-kehar-singh/> [April 2020]



Kathryn Chin (SFSU 2017)

Benson WONG
1928 from Toisan, China

Benson Wong arrived as a twelve-year-old paper son, and was immediately quarantined for thirty days on Angel Island. “The first thing they do is the physical examination. And they found out I had *sai dei*, little sores all over the body [scabies].” Benson would later be drafted into the US Army in World War II and opened a Chinese restaurant in San Francisco.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/my-stay-in-the-hospital-on-angel-island/> [April 2020]



Meifeng Yu (SFSU 2016)

Helen Hong WONG
1928 from Hong Kong

Helen Hong Wong and her husband went to America and were detained on Angel Island for a month. “We all answered wrong at the immigration hearing. They asked all kinds of questions, about the type of stove we used in the village, and even how many steps in the stairs. How could anyone remember all that?”

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/747-reminiscences-of-a-gold-mountain-woman/> [April 2020]

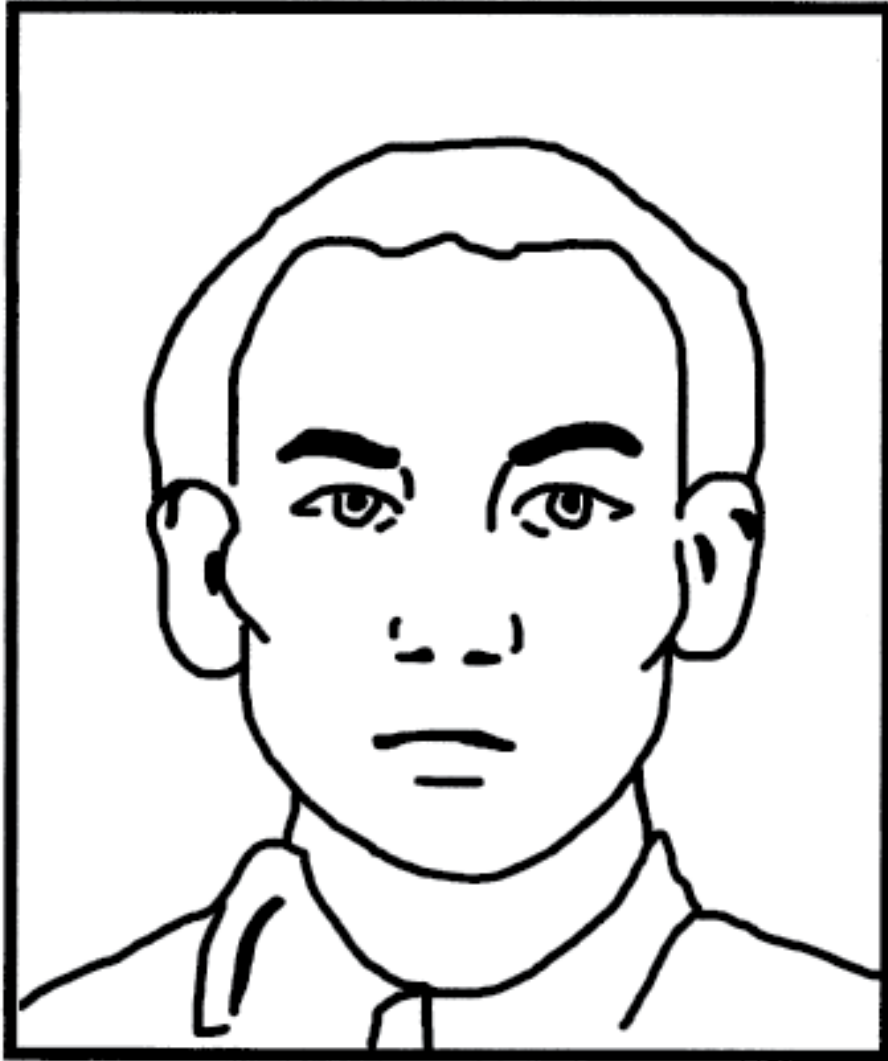


Frank Yang (SFSU 2017)

Li Keng Gee WONG
1933 from Toisan, China

Seven-year-old Li Keng Gee Wong was detained on Angel Island for six days where her mother posed as her aunt. “The windows and doors were barred by chicken wire. Lights hung down from the high ceiling. Despite the lights, the building was dark, bleak, gray, and depressing. I felt as if I were in a prison.”

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/882-li-keng-wong/> [April 2020]



Michelle Wakeman (SFSU 2016)

Moon Tung WONG
1927 and 1929 from Toisan, China

Moon Tung Wong entered San Francisco as a paper son. When someone reported his false papers, he was removed from Francisco Middle School, held at Angel Island for a month, and deported. He re-entered under another paper son name and went straight to Chicago. Then he and his family moved to Los Angeles where they opened a laundry business.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/734-eat-more-potatoes-and-go-back-to-china-the-life-of-moon-tung-wong/> [April 2020]



Evelyn Garcia (SFSU 2016)

Poy (James) WONG
1915 from Guangzhou, China

Fourteen-year-old Poy Wong was interrogated and detained on Angel Island for forty-five days. To pass the time he had a tattoo that he later regretted. Poy traveled to Augusta, Georgia and subsequently owned the Wong Woey Too Grocery Store. He was the youngest and first Chinese to purchase a 1921 Model T convertible that he got for \$400.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/597-wong-poy-james-3/>
[April 2020]



Jacob Polley (SFSU 2017)

Tyrus (Gaing Yoo) WONG

1920 from Toisan, China

Entering as a paper son, nine-year-old Tyrus was separated from his father during interrogation on Angel Island. To comfort him, a guard gave him gum to pass the time. Tyrus was taken to Los Angeles where his love of art was encouraged. Hired by Walt Disney in 1938, his artistic style inspired *Bambi's* visual look.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/587-wong-tyrus-3/> [April 2020]



Sonia Chen (SFSU 2017)

Sook Han (Jennie) WU
1940 from Zhongshan, China

After traveling on a ship by herself, eleven-year-old Sook Han Wu was held on Angel Island for three weeks. One night she woke up to find the women's dormitory on fire. Sook Han grabbed her belongings to escape and then returned to drag her bunkmate to safety. Sook Han worked thirty-five years in San Francisco Chinatown's Far Eastern Bakery.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/1052-jennie-wus-angel-island-story/> [April 2020]



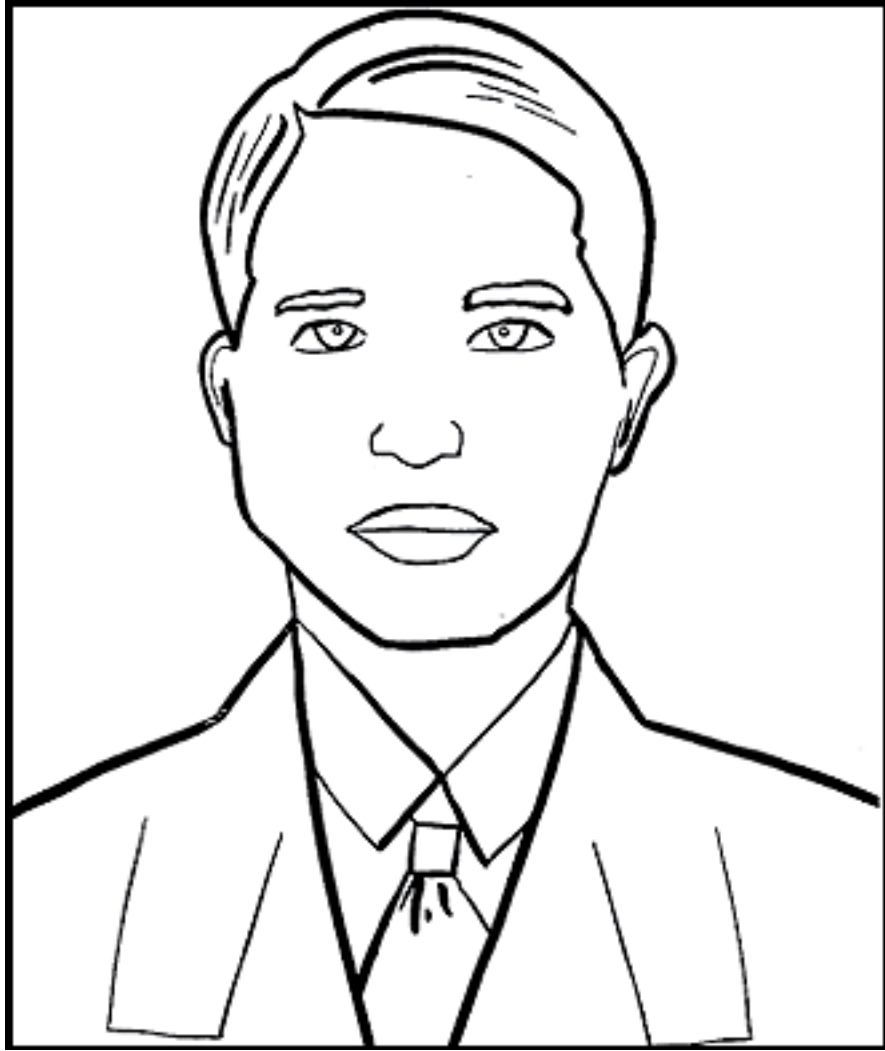
Raquel A. Christian (SFSU 2016)

YAP Tai Chong

1931 from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Entering as a “Section 6” certificate holder that exempted him from the Chinese Exclusion Act, Tai Chong did not face the same type of interrogations and scrutiny. He worked for a wealthy business magnate. His position as a private secretary and his status as a “temporary visitor” allowed him easily to enter the United States.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/1040-world-tours-and-section-six-the-story-of-yap-tai-chong-traveler/> [April 2020]



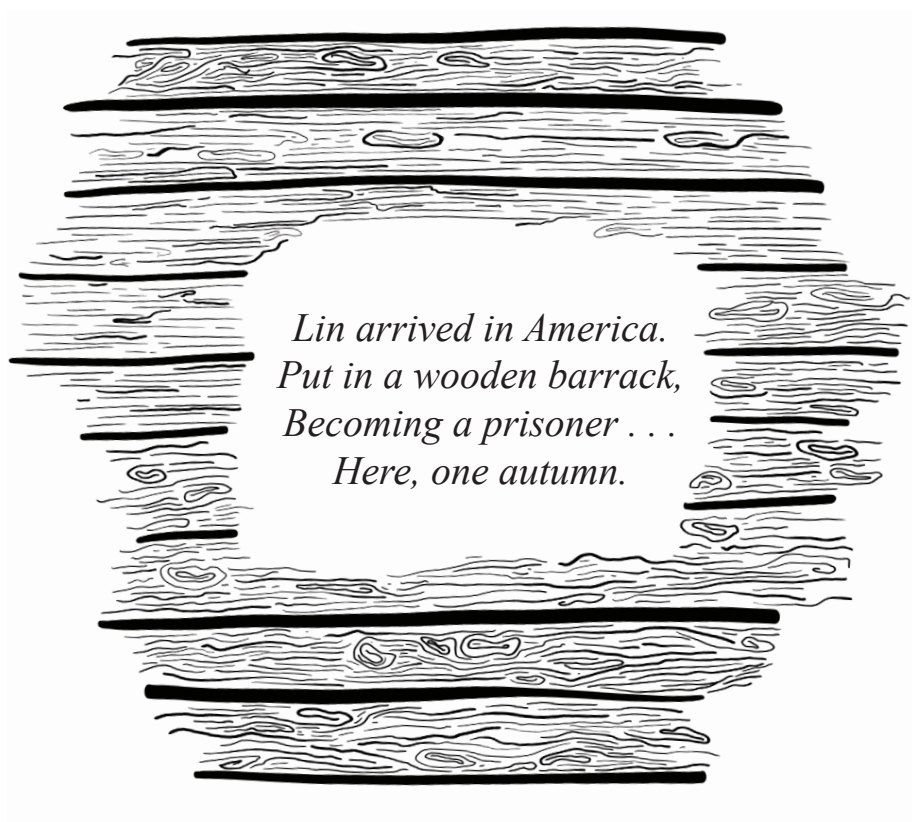
Katie Quan (SFSU 2016)

Chan Teung YEE
1928 from Guangzhou, China

After spending six months on Angel Island, Chan Teung was permitted to enter San Francisco where he worked in a laundry before opening his own. In 1937, he returned to China to marry and with the birth of his son in 1938, returned to America. The family was separated during World War II and not reunited in the United States until 1952.

<https://immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/stories-by-author/604-yee-chan-teung/>
[April 2020]

Activities



*Lin arrived in America.
Put in a wooden barrack,
Becoming a prisoner . . .
Here, one autumn.*

*Partial poem from Angel Island Immigration Station (translation)
Room 105, S-4*

No. 127, San Francisco, Okay

by Don Wong

Illustrated by Hideo Yoshido

from *Chinese Americans Past and Present*, The Association of Chinese Teachers, © 1977 tactsf.org

Note: Some images from the original document have been revised and updated.



From 1910 to 1940, Angel Island in San Francisco Bay served as an immigration station for Chinese coming to America. The stay at Angel Island could last from weeks to months, or even years.

The Chinese were forced to stay at Angel Island for questioning. The immigration officials asked questions about their family, friends, and village. A person was freed when the officials believed that he was telling the truth. The American government wanted only a select group of Chinese to come. They believed that they could catch those Chinese who were not allowed to come by questioning them. This story tells about what happened to 15-year-old Siu Lun Wong in December 1920 at Angel Island.

Siu Lun Wong had just finished two hours of questioning by immigration officers. He was tired and relieved as he walked down the hallway to his **barracks**. A guard followed closely behind him. "Stop here," the guard ordered Siu Lun. He waited for the guard to unlock the door to his barracks. The door swung open and he entered. The guard slammed the door behind him.

The barracks where Siu Lun lived

was home for about 100 men and boys while they stayed on Angel Island. Siu Lun walked slowly through the rows of bunk beds to find his; he lay down on it. He closed his eyes. The endless series of questions echoed in his head. *How many gold teeth does your grandmother have? Are you telling the truth? Who lives two doors to the left of your house? How far is the well from your house?*

Siu Lun must have answered more than a hundred questions in all. Maybe the immigration people were finally starting to believe him. This was the third time that Siu Lun had been questioned. The first time, he was confused and kept giving wrong answers. The officers asked him the same questions over and over. The second time he was less nervous but still made mistakes.

He stared at the frame of the bunk above him. Thirteen marks were scratched on the metal frame. Siu Lun had kept track of the days by scratching a mark for each day. He pulled out a nail from under his mattress and drew another line in the frame.

A voice called to him. "Siu Lun, how was the questioning?" It was Wah Sun. He had been on Angel Island for 44 days and slept in the bunk across from Siu Lun. Wah Sun was 10 years older than him. Siu Lun said, "I think they believe me now."

"Don't be too sure," Wah Sun warned him. "Look at me. My papers are in order and I have answered every question right. But still I am not free to go. I overheard the guards saying that they think I'm lying because I am always nervous during the questioning."

"Wah Sun, don't worry. They will let you go," Siu Lun said. "What are they giving us for dinner tonight?"

"Boiled beef and vegetables," Wah Sun told him.

Siu Lun frowned. The food was cooked in a pressure cooker. The vegetables were mushy and the meat was dry and stringy. Most of the Chinese on Angel Island were not accustomed to eating this food. Siu Lun said, "I hope I don't get sick again."

"Siu Lun, while you were away this morning, I wrote a poem in ink on the wall," Wah Sun revealed. "Tomorrow I am going to carve it out."



He pointed at the poem on the wall. Siu Lun asked him to read it to him. Siu Lun had never finished school in China so he didn't read very well.

***"America is a strong country but it
has no justice.***

***In this prison we were robbed of
our freedom.***

***Without a chance to explain, it is
really horrible.***

***I bow my head and think in vain
But there is nothing I can do."***

"Wah Sun, your poem shows much anger in your heart," Sun Lun commented.

"Yes, that's how I feel about this place," grumbled Wah Sun.



The door opened. A guard walked in. He banged his **billy club** against an iron pole that supported the bunk beds. The talking among the men and boys slowly died. Their attention was on the guard. He shouted, "Number 249, 249. Come with me." A man went to the guard and left with him. He was going to be questioned. Each person was given a number when they arrived on Angel Island. Siu Lun's number was 127.

Siu Lun lay back on his bunk bed, his arms folded behind his head. He thought about his mother. Tears rolled down her face the morning he left their village to come to America. It was over two months ago. She made him wear the cotton jacket that she made. She said, "Think of me and China when you wear it." Siu Lun had the jacket folded as a pillow under his head. His fingers felt the rough cloth.

The door to the barracks opened again. A guard appeared and banged his billy club against the iron pole. Everyone in the room stopped what they were doing. The guard shouted, "Number 127, 127. San Francisco okay!"

That was Siu Lun's number. He jumped out of his bunk bed. He couldn't believe it! Quickly he scrambled to gather his belongings into his bag. He put on his jacket. Wah Sun came over to him and said, "Good luck, Siu Lun."

Siu Lun answered back, "I hope they let you go soon. Goodbye, Wah Sun." They shook hands and embraced.

Siu Lun hurried through the open doorway. The guard told him to go to the office to pick up his papers. Siu Lun went to the office and gave his number. The clerk handed him his **entry permit** and other papers. The clerk said, "Hurry or you'll miss the boat to Frisco!"

He ran out the front door and down the gravel path to the wharf.

The steamboat blew its horn twice to tell everyone that it was ready to leave. Siu Lun was aboard as they pulled the **gangplank** away from the dock. He was out of breath as he stood at the railing. He looked at the barracks on Angel Island. He thought that he saw Wah Sun waving from a window. His two weeks of waiting and questioning was over, but how much longer would Wah Sun have to wait?

He could see San Francisco as the boat rounded the island. His father would be waiting for him at the dock. Siu Lun was going to

meet his father for the first time. His father had left China soon after Siu Lun was born. Siu Lun had only

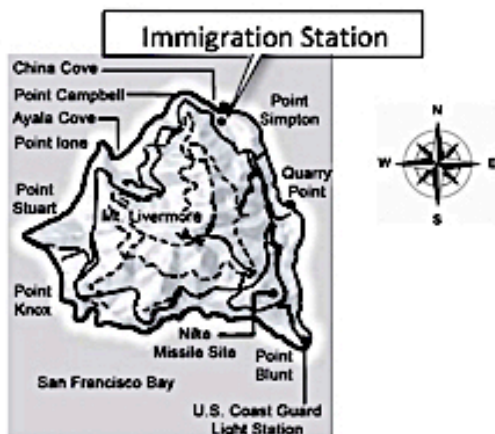
seen a picture of him that his mother had. He was very excited as he stood at the railing.

Questions

1. Angel Island was a place where
 - [A] Chinese were brought to learn English.
 - [B] Siu Lun wanted to live.
 - [C] immigration officials questioned Chinese entering the U.S.
2. The food made Siu Lun sick because
 - [A] the food was greasy.
 - [B] he had never eaten steak and potatoes before.
 - [C] the food was steam cooked.
3. What did Wah Sun mean by "America is a strong country but it has no justice" in his poem?
 - [A] America treats the Chinese unfairly.
 - [B] America is a country filled with robbers.
 - [C] The U.S. has a large army and no police.
4. Why didn't they let Wah Sun go?
 - [A] They thought he was lying.
 - [B] The officials hadn't questioned him yet.
 - [C] His number was too high.
5. How did Siu Lun know that he was free to go?
 - [A] He received a letter.
 - [B] The guard called his number.
 - [C] Wah Sun told him.



From transparency site



Adapted from a S.F. Chronicle image / U.S.G.S.

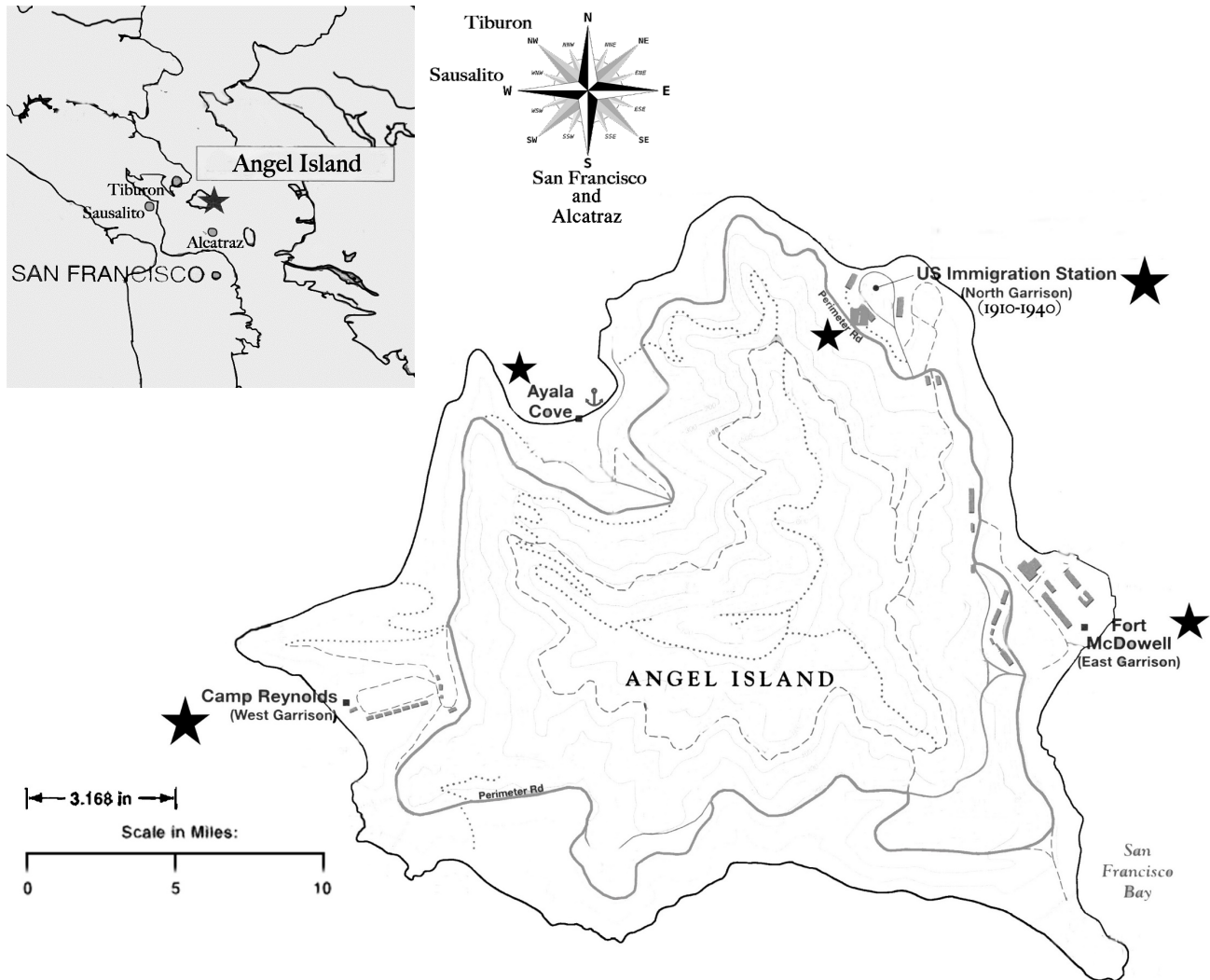
Angel Island Immigration Station Quiz

Instruction: Circle the right answer for the following questions.

1. Where was Angel Island Immigration Station located?
 - a. San Francisco Bay, California
 - b. San Bruno, California
 - c. San Leandro, California
2. What year did Angel Island Immigration Station open?
 - a. 2010
 - b. 1910
 - c. 2016
3. What caused Angel Island Immigration Station to close?
 - a. Hurricane Matthew (2016)
 - b. A tsunami hit Angel Island (1990)
 - c. A fire destroyed the station's Administration Building (1940)
4. What was the purpose of the Angel Island Immigration Station?
 - a. It was a processing and detention station for immigrants.
 - b. It was a prison for criminals.
 - c. It was a hospital for the diseased.

Angel Island Map

Instruction: Here are two maps of Angel Island. Look at the maps and answer the questions below.



1. Where was the immigration station located on Angel Island?
 - a. Northwest
 - b. Northeast
 - c. Southwest
 - d. Southeast
2. Ayala Cove is named after Juan Manuel de Ayala who landed on Angel Island in 1775. How many miles is the cove from the former Angel Island Immigration Station?
3. What is the closest to Angel Island if you were to escape? San Francisco? Alcatraz? Tiburon? Sausalito?

Angel Island Interrogation

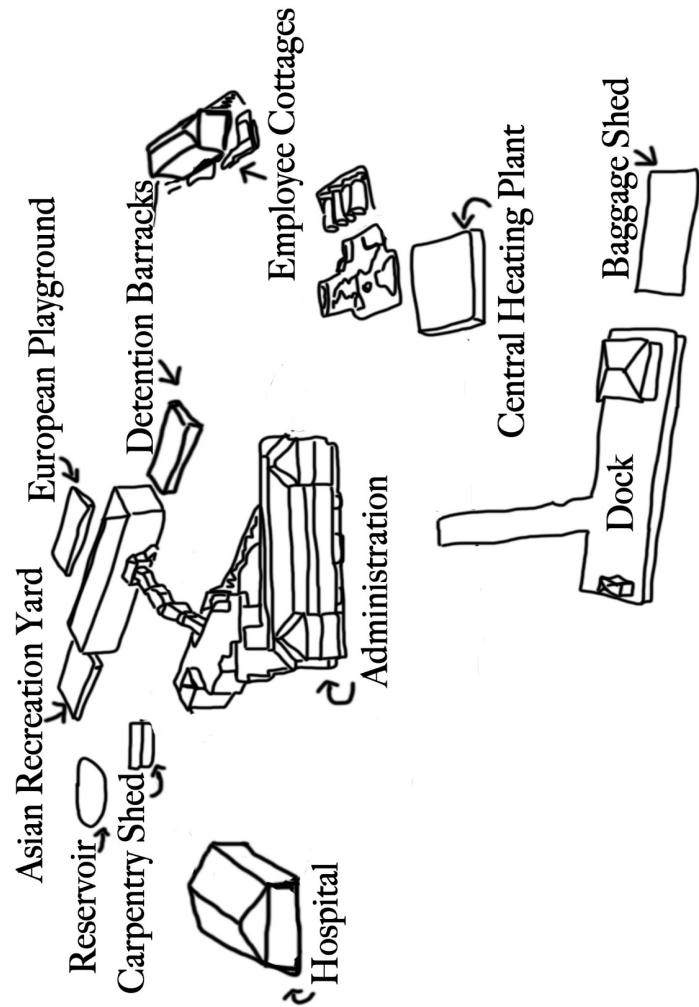
Instruction: Pretend it is 1915 and you are at the Angel Island Immigration Station. Answer the immigration questions below. If you pass the interrogation, you will continue on your journey to San Francisco, California. If not, you will be deported.

1. What is your name? _____
2. How old are you? _____
3. What is your birthday? _____
4. In what city, state, and country were you born? _____
5. How tall are you? _____
6. What color is your hair? _____
7. What color are your eyes? _____
8. Are you traveling with family? _____
9. What are the names of everyone in your family? _____
10. What is the name of the country you are coming from? _____
11. How many windows did your old house have? _____
12. Describe your bed at home. _____
13. What are the measurements of your bed? _____
14. Where will you be living in America? _____
15. Why do you want to come to America? _____

Your Angel Island Daily Schedule

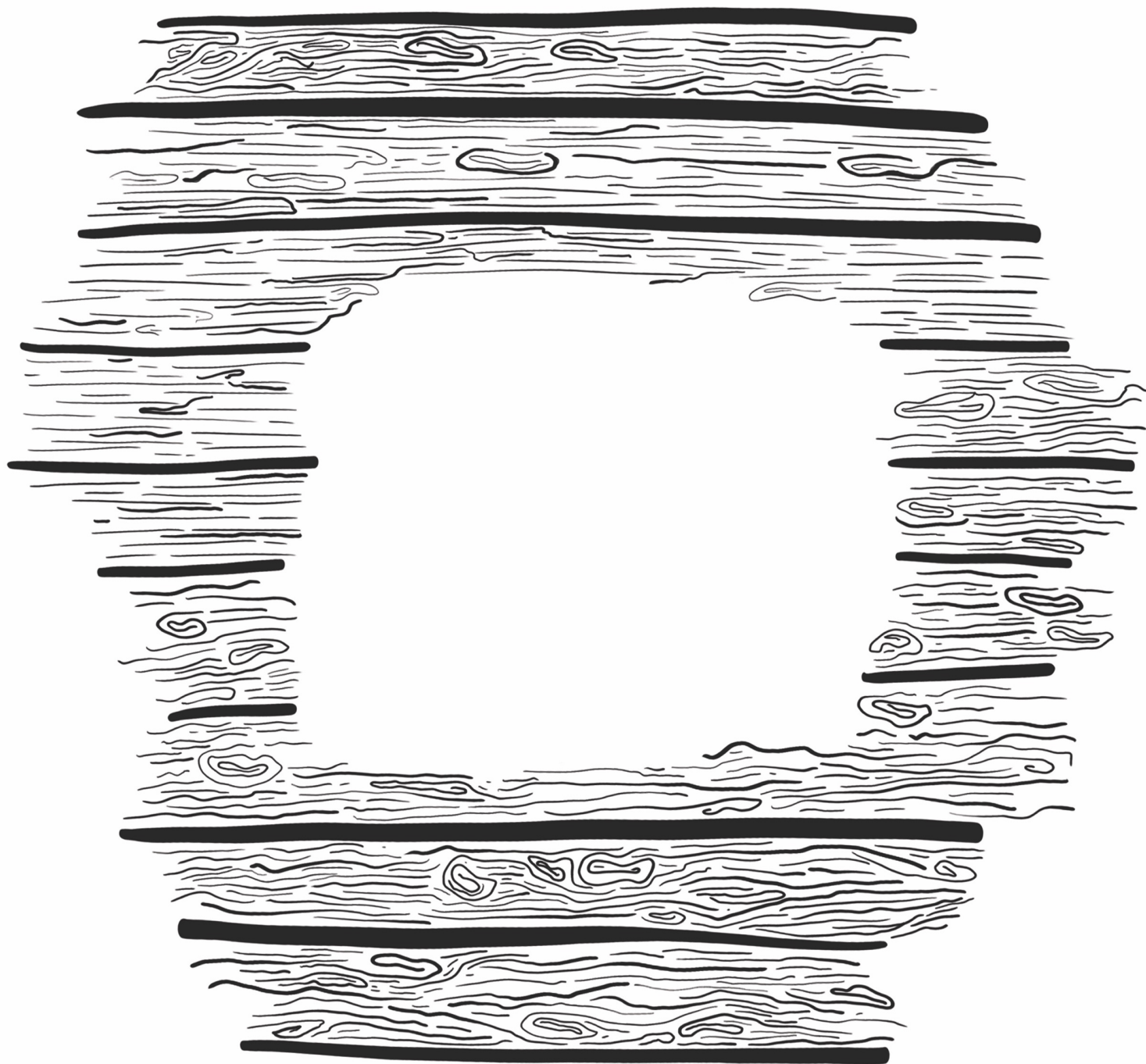
Instruction: Imagine staying at the Angel Island Immigration Station in 1915. Using the map below, fill in a daily schedule of what you will be doing and where.

| Time | Location | Activity |
|-------------|----------|----------|
| 8am–10am | | |
| 10am–12noon | | |
| 12noon–2pm | | |
| 2pm–4pm | | |
| 4pm–6pm | | |
| 6pm–8pm | | |
| 8pm–10pm | | |



Writing on the Wall

Instruction: If this is your third month in 1915 at the Angel Island Immigration Station, what would you write on the barrack wall?



I Am in America Letter

Instruction: After being detained at the Angel Island Immigration Station for three months in 1915, you finally stepped foot in San Francisco. Write a letter to a friend or relative to tell him/her about your arrival in America.

Date: _____

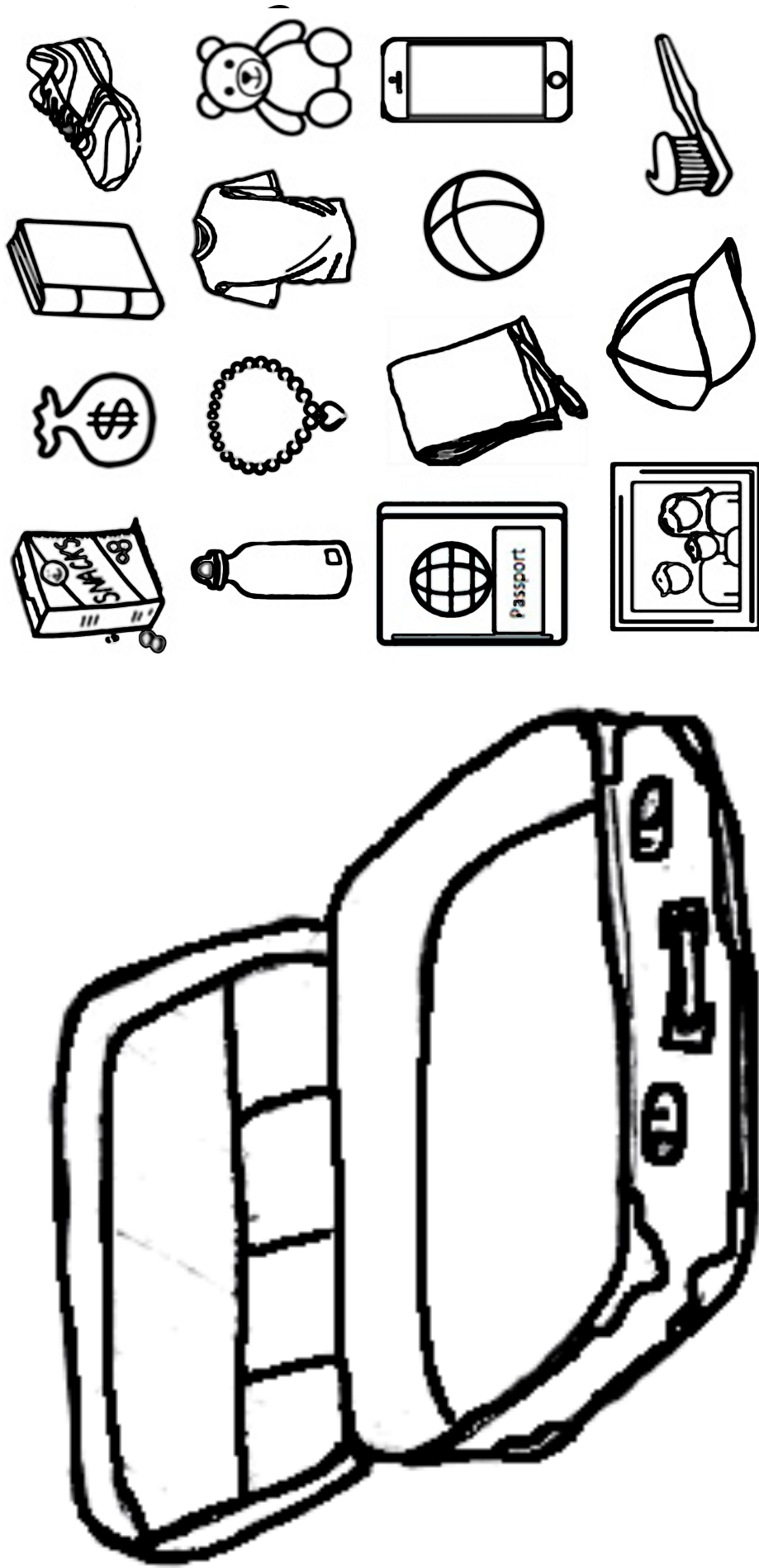
Dear _____,

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

From,

What Would You Pack?

Instruction: You are leaving today to live in America; however, you can only take five things. In the suitcase below, draw or circle the five items that you will pack in your suitcase.



*You are free to draw anything else inside the suitcase.

Angel Island Immigration Station

Word Scramble

Instruction: Unscramble the words below that are related to the Angel Island Immigration Station experience.

TECINIZ

ASN OSCARFICN

PETYOR

YONJEUR

BCKRARA

RAINPOASET

SOLUENCXI

NAETID

ACMREAI

OATTNSI

Angel Island Immigration Station

Word Search

Instruction: Find the hidden words that are related to the Angel Island Immigration Station experience.

H W B T K J I E I H L A F L Z
N L A W S F O P L N O N U B F
O I M M I G R A N T I H M P B
M P R I P W Q D O B N U P P H
X K C L A D U E P T T D O T F
I G B R N N R P P T E E L X P
W H V E G L E O O T R T I L F
R A K J E L S R R R R A C A T
J T F Z L A T T T Y O I Y E E
R F W U I B R A U S G N L G E
Q A T O S O I T N T A E L Y H
H L V C L R C I I O T E R Q T
H D W G A R T O T H I C D S J
N B P L N O E N Y K O T D F I
K Y D S D A D O S M N W F R D

Interrogation
Opportunity
Detainee
Deportation
Policy

Labor
Angel Island
Restricted
Immigrant
Laws

Answer Key

PAGE 40: “No.127, San Francisco, Okay”

1. c
2. c
3. a
4. a
5. b

PAGE 41: Angel Island Immigration Station Quiz

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. a

PAGE 42: Angel Island Immigration Station Map

1. b
2. 5.9 miles
3. Tiburon

PAGE 48: Angel Island Immigration Station Word Scramble

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| TECINIZ | <u>CITIZEN</u> |
| ASN OSCARFICN | <u>SAN FRANCISCO</u> |
| PETYOR | <u>POETRY</u> |
| YONJEUR | <u>JOURNEY</u> |
| BCKRARA | <u>BARRACK</u> |
| RAINPOASET | <u>SEPARATION</u> |
| SOLUENCXI | <u>EXCLUSION</u> |
| NAETID | <u>DETAIN</u> |
| ACMREAI | <u>AMERICA</u> |
| OATTNSI | <u>STATION</u> |

PAGE 49: Angel Island Immigration Station Word Search

H W B T K J I E I H L A F L Z
 N L A W S F O P L N O N U B F
 O I M M I G R A N T I H M P B
 M P R I P W Q D O B N U P P H
 X K C L A D U E P T T D O T F
 I G B R N N R P P T E E L X P
 W H V E G L E O O T R T I L F
 R A K J E L S R R R R A C A T
 J T F Z L A T T T Y O I Y E E
 R F W U I B R A U S G N L G E
 Q A T O S O I T N T A E L Y H
 H L V C L R C I I O T E R Q T
 H D W G A R T O T H I C D S J
 N B P L N O E N Y K O T D F I
 K Y D S D A D O S M N W F R D