

## Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Resources

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Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a commemoration of the culture, traditions and history of Asian American and Pacific Islander people in the United States. In 1978, Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution to pay tribute to Asian Pacific American Heritage Week during the first week of May and in 1992, the month of May was permanently designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. During Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, communities commemorate the achievements and contributions of people who are Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) with community festivals, government-sponsored activities and educational activities for students.

According to a [2021 Pew Research Report](#), the Asian American community in the U.S. is diverse. A record 23 million Asian American people trace their roots to more than twenty countries in East and Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent, each with unique histories, cultures, languages and other characteristics. Currently, Asian American people comprise about 7% of the U.S. population. Eighty-five percent of those Asian American people have origins in six countries: China, India, Philippines, Vietnam, Korea and Japan.

In schools and classrooms, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month is an excellent time to explore the rich history and culture of people who are AAPI as well as analyzing the bias and discrimination faced by them. As with other similarly themed months, it is important not to isolate exploration of AAPI history and culture into one month during the year. Asian American Pacific Islander history is American history and should be integrated into the curriculum throughout the school year.

Below is a list of K-12 curriculum and other resources to bring Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month to your classrooms.

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## Lesson Plans

LESSON PLAN

### **Diverse Books Matter**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Through review and examination of videos, articles, data research and hashtag campaigns—[#1000BlackGirlBooks](#) and [#WeNeedDiverseBooks](#), students learn about and discuss the importance of diverse literature.





Airman 1st Class Kaylee Dubois, photographer

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LESSON PLAN

## Identity-Based Bullying

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL

This lesson plan helps elementary and middle school students define and understand identity-based bullying and explore potential solutions.



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

## Coronavirus and Infectious Racism (MS & HS)

Expand your understanding of how the Coronavirus pandemic has led to increased racism against people who are of Chinese or Asian descent, and how to take action.



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LESSON PLAN

## **Huddled Mass or Second Class?: Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S.**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

This K-12 curriculum unit helps students understand the experiences of immigrants and the negative effects of anti-immigrant bias, appreciate the integral role that immigrants have always played in U.S. life and what they can do to challenge discrimination on personal and institutional levels.





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LESSON PLAN

## Microaggressions In Our Lives

HIGH SCHOOL

This lesson provides an opportunity for high school students to explore what microaggressions are, how they have experienced them and what can be done to counteract them.



Students Teaching About Racism in Society (STARS), Ohio University Athens, OH

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LESSON PLAN

## Voices of Japanese-American Internees

HIGH SCHOOL

Using video histories of Japanese-American internees during World War II, this curriculum unit provides an opportunity for high school students to use this dark period in U.S. history to reflect on the dangers of stereotyping, prejudice and racial and ethnic discrimination, so as not to repeat history.



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LESSON PLAN

## **What is the Dream Act and Who Are the Dreamers?**

HIGH SCHOOL

In this lesson, high school students learn about the DREAM Act—its background, history, current status—and reflect on different perspectives about it as well as develop their own.





Carlos Amador / CC BY-NC 2.0

LESSON PLAN

## Who are the Rohingya People in Myanmar?

HIGH SCHOOL

Students have an opportunity to learn about and develop empathy for the plight of the Rohingya people in Myanmar and explore what can be done about the crisis, which is being called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."



Seyyed Mahmoud Hosseini, Tasnim News Agency/CC BY 4.0

## 8 Great Books to Read for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Book round-up of children's literature for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month.

### 8 BOOKS FOR AAPI HERITAGE MONTH



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#### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

### A Map into the World

Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong girl, moves into a new home with her family. As the seasons change, so too does her world as she encounters both birth and death.

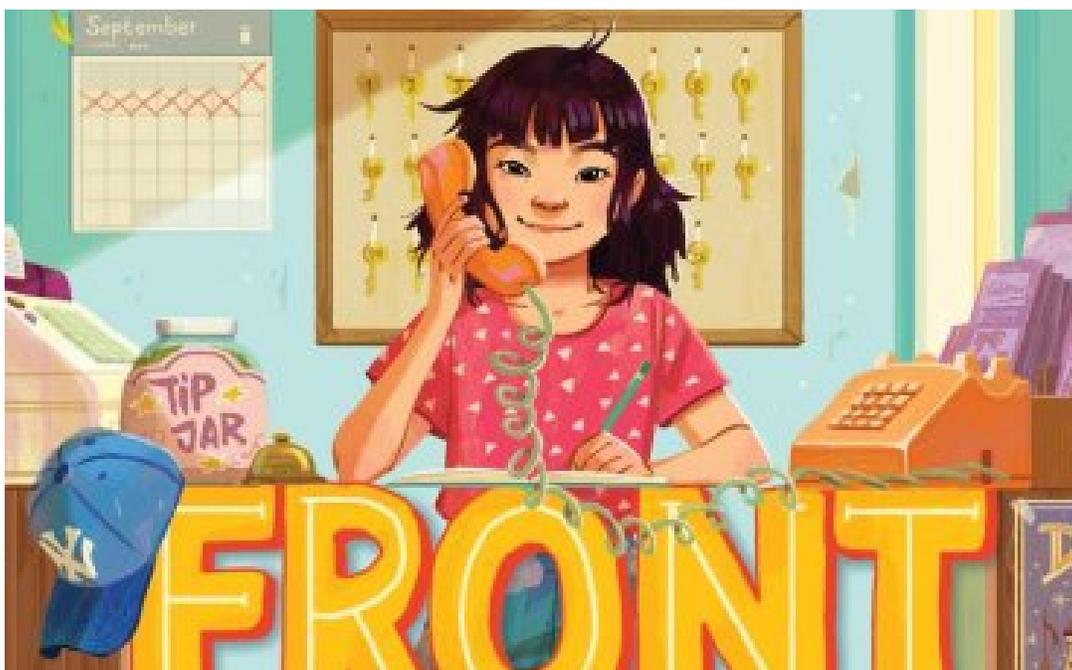




CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

### Front Desk

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao and go for her dreams?



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

### Amina's Voice

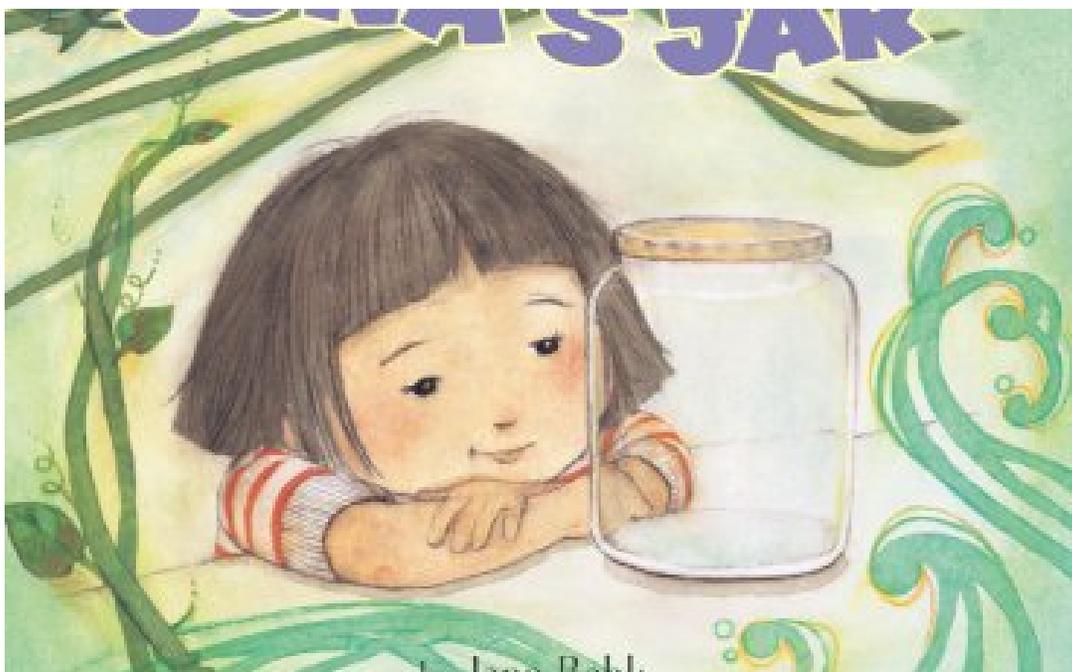
While Amina, a Pakistani-American middle school student, grapples with questions of friendship and identity, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. This book highlights the many ways in which one girl's voice can help bring a diverse community together.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

## Juna's Jar

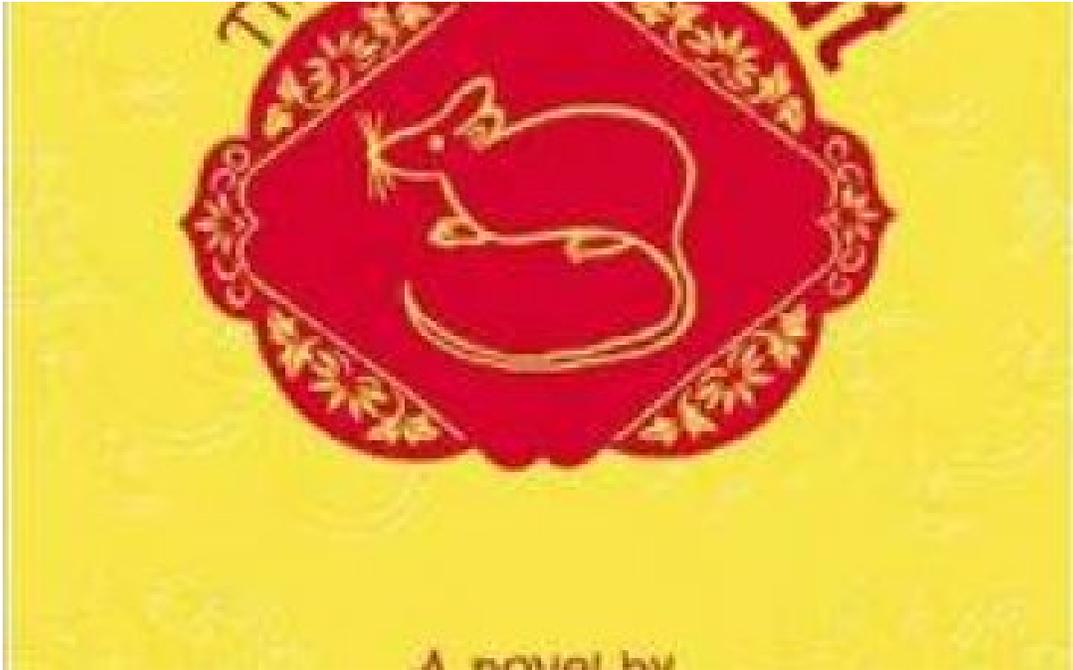
Determined to find her friend Hector who unexpectedly moved away, Juna turns to her special kimchi jar for help each night, plunging into the depths of the ocean in search of her friend.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

## The Year of the Rat

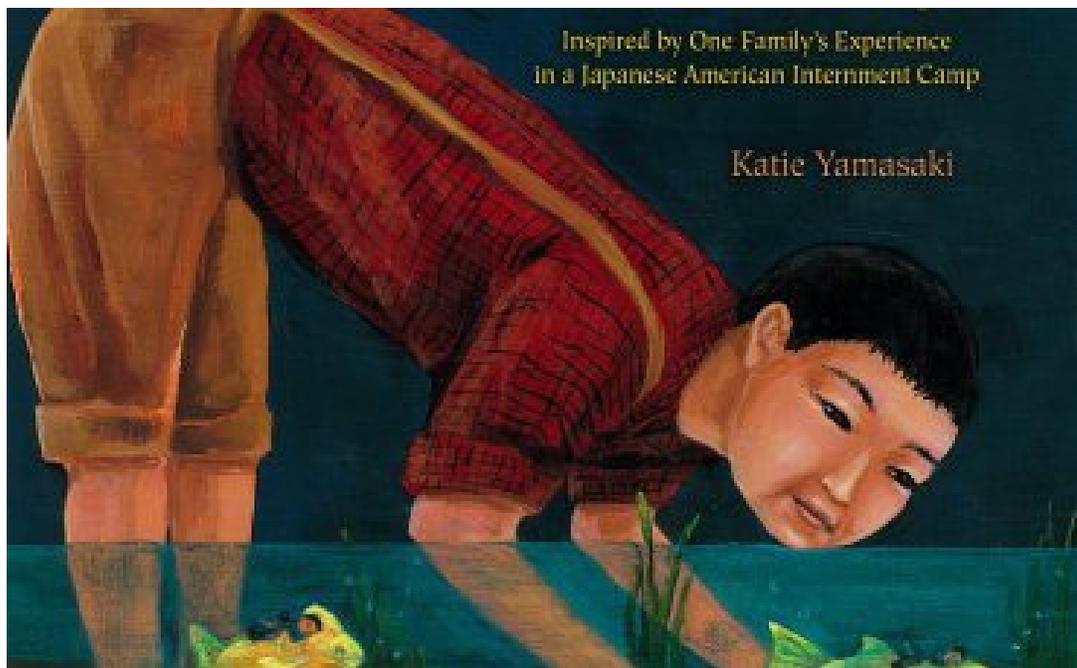
The Year of the Rat brings many changes for Pacy: her best friend moving away, dealing with the prejudice directed toward a new student from China and learning to face some of her own flaws.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

### **Fish For Jimmy: Inspired by One Family's Experience in a Japanese American Internment Camp**

For two brothers in a Japanese-American family, everything changed when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States went to war.



## Books about People who are Asian, Asian-American, South Asian-American and Pacific Islander

### Books about Race and Racism Education Resources

#### TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

#### **Challenging Biased Language**

On a daily basis—in the lunchroom, at the grocery store, in school hallways and even at home—people hear and sometimes use words and phrases that demean or ridicule. Here are some strategies for responding.



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#### BLOG

#### **The Coronavirus Surfaces Fear, Stereotypes and Scapegoating**

The fear and anxiety around the coronavirus is having an impact on schools and communities and resulting in misinformation and scapegoating.





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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

### **Dos and Don'ts with Special Diversity Events**

“Dos and Don'ts” to help schools host special diversity events that are thoughtful and create environments that are inclusive and safe for all multicultural students.

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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

### **Love Has No Labels**

The Ad Council's Love Has No Labels is a public service advertising campaign that encourages people to examine and challenge their own implicit bias. View ADL's discussion guides developed for two of the videos.



