



# ST. HILDA'S & ST. HUGH'S

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## Ms. Perna's Top Starr Books Asian/Pacific American History Month

### Picture Books for Younger Readers: Asian/Pacific American Authors and Illustrators

*Bilal Cooks Daal*\* – written by Aisha Saeed and illustrated by Anoosha Syed

Bilal and his father invite his friends to help make his favorite dish, daal, then all must wait patiently for it to be done. (Ages 3-8)

*A Boy Named Isamu: A Story of Isamu Noguchi* – written and illustrated by James Yang

Imagines a day in the boyhood of Japanese American artist, Isamu Noguchi, while wandering through an outdoor market, through the forest, and then by the ocean, seeing things Isamu sees through the eyes of a young artist. (Ages 6-10)

*Chirri & Chirra: The Rainy Day* – written by Kaya Doi and illustrated by David Boyd

In this new installment of the beloved series, the twins brave a rainy day together...after all, stormy weather is no match for their boundless energy and curiosity! (Ages 3-8)

*Cora Cooks Pancit* – written by Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore and illustrated by Kristi Valiant

When all her older siblings are away, Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. Includes recipe for pancit. (Ages 3-9)

*Danbi Leads the School Parade*\* – written and illustrated by Anna Kim

A story of a girl on her first day of school in the United States after immigrating with her family from South Korea. (Ages 4-9)

*A Different Pond*\* – written by Bao Phi and illustrated by Thi Bui

Graphic novelist Thi Bui and acclaimed poet Bao Phi deliver a powerful, honest glimpse into a relationship between a father and son—and between cultures, old and new. (Ages 6-8)

*Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* – written by Joanna Ho Bradshaw and illustrated by Dung Ho

This lyrical, stunning picture book tells a story about learning to love and celebrate your Asian-shaped eyes, in the spirit of *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry, and is a celebration of diversity. (Ages 4-9)

*Exotic Fruit* – written and illustrated by Huy Voun Lee

Dragon fruit, mangosteen, kiwi, lychee, star fruit—how many do you know? Inside this book, nine delicious and exotic fruits are waiting to be discovered. (Ages 2-7)

*The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee* – written by Julie Leung and illustrated by Julie Kwon

An inspiring picture book biography about Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman to fly for the US military. (Ages 6-10)

*The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field* – written by Scott Riley and illustrated by Nguyen Quang and Kim Lien

On a tiny Thai island without room for a soccer field, a group of resourceful teen boys gathers scraps and works together to build a floating field so they can play the game they love. (Ages 6-10)

*Laxmi's Mooch* – written by Shelly Anand and illustrated by Nabi H. Ali

After Laxmi's friend Zoe points out the hairs on her lip, Laxmi is very self-conscious until her East Indian parents help her to accept and celebrate her appearance. (Ages 4-9)

*Lift* – written by Minh Lê and illustrated by Dan Santat

Iris loves to push the elevator buttons. When she takes a discarded button home, she discovers it opens doors to new worlds that she shares with her brother. (Ages 4-9)

*The Great Day* – written and illustrated by Tarō Gomi

In simple text this book follows the daily activities of a young boy who is always the first in every activity--waking up, eating breakfast, playing, and getting ready for bed. (Ages 2-5)

*The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story\** – written by Tina Cho and illustrated by Jess X. Snow

Dayeon wants to be a haenyeo diver just like her grandmother, but is afraid of the deep ocean. With encouragement from her grandmother, they dive together in search of treasure. (Ages 6-10)

*Sugar in Milk* – written by Thrity Umrigar and illustrated by Khoa Le

This clever picture book reaches back to an Ancient Persian legend to help a young immigrant girl the courage to make friends in her new country. (Ages 4-9)

*Your Place in the Universe* – written and illustrated by Jason Chen

A non-fiction introduction to the massive scale of the known universe. (Ages 5-10)

## Nonfiction Books for Older and Younger Readers: Asian/Pacific American Heritage

*The Boy Who Dreamed of Infinity: A Tale of the Genius Ramanujan* – written by Amy Alznauer and illustrated by Daniel Miyares

A young mathematical genius from India searches for the secrets hidden inside numbers, and for someone who understands him, in this heartwarming biography. (Ages 5-10)

*The Cat Man of Aleppo* – written by Karim Shamsi-Basha and illustrated by Yuko Shimizu

The 2021 Caldecott Honor-winning true story of Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, who in the midst of the Syrian Civil War courageously offered safe haven to Aleppo's abandoned cats. (Ages 7-9)

*Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix* – written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee, and illustrated by Man One

Describes the popular street cook's life, including working in his family's restaurant as a child, figuring out what he wanted to do with his life, and his success with his food truck and restaurant. (Ages 7-10)

*Dragon Hoops* – written by Gene Luen Yang

Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches especially the high school's basketball team, the Dragons. (YA Ages 12 and up))

*Drawing from Memory* – written and illustrated by Allen Say

Caldecott Medalist Allen Say presents a stunning graphic novel memoir chronicling his journey as an artist during WWII, when he apprenticed under Noro Shinpei, Japan's premier cartoonist. (Ages 10 and up)

*Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines* – written Jeanne Walker Harvey and illustrated by Dow Phumiruk

The bold story of Maya Lin, the artist-architect who designed the Vietnam War Memorial. (Ages 8-10)

*Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist\** – written by Julie Leung and illustrated by Chris Sasaki

As a boy, Wong Geng Yeo assumed a fake identity to immigrate to the U.S., eventually becoming a Disney artist. (Ages 6-10)

*Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom* – written by Teresa Robeson and illustrated by Rebecca Huang

This picture book biography follows Wu as she battles sexism at home and racism in the United States of America to become what Newsweek magazine called the "Queen of Physics" for her work on how atoms split. (Ages 5-10)

*Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* – written by Pamela S. Turner

This epic warrior tale reads like a novel, but this is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. (Young Adult. Ages 13 and up)

*The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art* – written by Barb Rosenstock and illustrated by Claire A. Nivola

The incredible story of the world's largest visionary environment: the Rock Garden of Chandigarh, kept secret by outsider artist Nek Chand for fifteen years. (Ages 7-10)

*Shark Lady: the True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* – written by Jess Keating and illustrated by Marta Álvarez Miguéns

An inspiring story by critically acclaimed zoologist Jess Keating about finding the strength to discover truths that others aren't daring enough to see. Includes a timeline of Eugenie's life and many fin-tastic shark facts! (Ages 6-9)

*All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team\** – written by Christina Soontornvat, Supported with photographs, interviews, and primary documents, All Thirteen tells the story of how a united worldwide effort saved 13 boys stranded in a cave after a monsoon deluge turned a day of exploration into two weeks of terror. (Ages 10 and up)

*They Called Us Enemy* – written by George Takei, Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott; illustrated by Harmony Becker

A stunning graphic novel memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. (Young Adult. Ages 13 and up)

## Fiction for Older Readers: Modern Stories by Asian/Pacific American Authors

*Ahimsa* – written by Supriya Kelkar

When her mother is jailed for being one of Gandhi's freedom fighters, 10-year-old Anjali overcomes her own prejudices and continues her mother's social reform work, befriending Untouchable children and working to integrate her school. (Ages 12 and up)

*Aru Shah and the City of Gold* – written by Roshani Chokshi

Aru Shah and her sisters—including one who also claims to be the Sleeper's daughter—must find their mentors Hanuman and Urvashi in Lanka, the city of gold, before war breaks out between the devas and asuras. (Ages 10 and up)

*Brother's Keeper\** – written by Julie Lee

Twelve-year-old Sora and her eight-year-old brother, Youngsoo, must try to escape North Korea's oppressive Communist regime on their own in 1950. Includes historical notes, photographs of the author's mother, glossary of Korean words, and timeline. (Ages 10 and up)

*Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire\** – written by Susan Tan

A half-Chinese, half-Caucasian girl's 'memoir' about a new sibling, being biracial, and her path to literary greatness. (Ages 7-9)

*Fallen Hero* – written by Katie Zhao

Siblings Faryn Liu and Alex defend their parents' honor and battle demons in this lively fantasy adventure that seamlessly blends gods and demons from myriad mythologies, including Greek, Phoenician, and Chinese. (Ages 8 and up)

*I'm OK\** – written by Patti Kim

Ok, a Korean American boy, tries a get rich quick scheme of starting a hair braiding business and winning the school talent competition to hide the fact that he is struggling with the loss of his father and the financial hardships he and his mother must now bear. (Ages 10 and up)

*Jasmine Toguchi, Drummer Girl* – written by Debbi Michiko Florence

Jasmine worries that she will be the only one with no talent to share in the school talent show until her mother brings out her taiko drum. (Ages 7-9)

*The Last Fallen Star* – written by Graci Kim

After 13-year-old Hattie Oh casts a dangerous spell so her adopted sister, Riley, will get a share of her inherited magic, Riley must undertake a near-impossible quest to save Hattie from death. A story that blends Korean mythology and the modern world. (Ages 10 and up)

*A Long Pitch Home* – written by Natalie Dias Lorenzi

When Bilal's family suddenly moves to America, his father stays in Pakistan, and Bilal embraces baseball, an unexpected friend, and a new language. But this new way of life does not feel so special without Baba--will he ever get to America to see Bilal pitch a game? (Ages 9 and up)

*Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey* – written by Erin Entrada Kelly

Marisol, who has a big imagination and likes to name inanimate objects, has a tree in her backyard named Peppina...but she's way too scared to climb it. Will Marisol find the courage to climb Peppina? Maybe. (Ages 7-9)

*Mulan: Before the Sword* – written by Grace Lin

An original novel based on the world and characters of the Walt Disney Studios Live Action Mulan film. (Ages 9 and up)

*Pashmina* – written and illustrated by Nidhi Chanani

Eager to learn more about her East Indian cultural identity and family history, teenage Pryanka, a budding cartoon artist, is transported to India after finding a magical scarf. (Ages 10 and up)

*Prairie Lotus\** – written by Linda Sue Park

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves. (Ages 9 and up)

*See You in the Cosmos* – written by Jack Cheng

Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space. (Ages 10 and up)

*Secret Coders* – written and illustrated by Gene Luen Yang and Mike Holmes

Using their wits and their growing prowess with computer coding, Hopper and her friend Eni try to solve the mysteries at Stately Academy by following the many clues the founder of the school left to challenge his enterprising students. (Ages 8 and up)

*Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong* – written by A. J. Low

A funny, fast-paced mystery with many Singapore-specific details that provide cultural flavor. (Ages 7-9)

*Step Up To the Plate Maria Singh\** – written by Uma Krishnaswami

Nine-year-old Maria Singh learns to play softball just like her heroes in the All-American Girls' League, while her parents and neighbors are struggling through World War II, working for India's independence, and trying to stay on their farmland. (Ages 9 and up)

*Ten: A Soccer Story\** – written by Shamini Flint

In 1986 Malaysia, as she worries about her parents' constant fighting, ardent soccer fan Maya, age eleven, trains herself and pulls together a team at her girls' school, despite soccer being a "boys' game." (Ages 9 and up)

*The Way to Bea* – written by Kat Yeh

Recently estranged from her best friend, Taiwanese-American Beatrix Lee consoles herself by writing haiku in invisible ink and hiding the poems, but one day she finds a reply—is it the librarian with all the answers, the editor of the school paper who admits to admiring her poetry, an old friend feeling remorse, or the boy obsessed with visiting the local labyrinth? (Ages 10 and up)

*Three Keys* – written by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang and her family work to save the hotel they recently bought in the face of a looming immigration law that if passed could send them back to China and threaten the safety of Mia's friends. (Ages 9 and up)

*When You Trap a Tiger\*\** – written by Tae Keller

In a wondrous, magic-realist world rooted in Korean folklore, a tiger appears to Lily and offers her a deal that might allow her to save her beloved but very sick grandmother. (Ages 10 and up)

*A Wish in the Dark\*\** – written by Christina Soontornvat

This Thai-inspired twist on Hugo's *Les Misérables* follows Pong, who escapes prison hoping to find a fairer world, and Nok, who pursues Pong through a world that makes Nok question every truth she holds dear. (Ages 9 and up)

Hyperlinked titles can be borrowed online in Sora, the C. V. Starr Library's digital eBook and audiobook collection.

Annotations are courtesy of the Library of Congress cataloging-in-publication notes. Asterisk denotes a recipient of the [Asian/Pacific American Library Association Literature Award](#). Double asterisk denotes recipient of the 2021 Newbery Medal and Honor Award. Bibliography compiled and arranged by Ms. Perna, librarian, St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's, C. V. Starr Library. Updated May 2021.