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Asian American Visibility and Diverse Books: From Biography to History

Post-lecture Discussion Guide

1. What were your favorite books growing up? Why did you love them? How did they impact your self-image and worldview?

2. Pick one of the following books to explore further:
   a. Fish for Jimmy, by Katie Yamasaki
   b. Step up to the plate, Maria Singh, by Uma Krishnaswami
   c. Inside out and back again, by Thanhha Lai

   How do you think reading one of these books as a child or young person might have changed your perspective/identity/cultural understanding?

3. Although books on race were targeted in the last few years for book bans and challenges, currently books on LGBTQ+ identities are at the center of this campaign. How and why does Asian American visibility go hand-in-hand with visibility for LGBTQ+ communities? What would you say to members of your
community who might approve of books about, say, Japanese internment, but support book bans that affirm non-gender-conforming experiences (i.e. Gender Queer, by Maia Kobabe)?

4. Do you live in a state where there is legislation or local movements within school districts to restrict what students read? If you don’t know one way or another, find out! Here are a couple of organizations doing amazing work to fight book bans nationally:
   a. African American Policy Forum’s Books Unbanned Tour
   b. Unite Against Book Bans (check out their toolkit for local activism)