ASIAN AMERICAN NATIVE HAWAIIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Resources for Dobbs Ferry Teachers, Staff, and Families

In 2026, as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month honors the theme "Power in Unity: Strengthening Communities Together." This resource guide celebrates the diverse voices and stories that have built bridges across history and continue to shape the future. Explore the power of collective action, the resilience of the AANHPI community, and the shared experiences that connect us all.

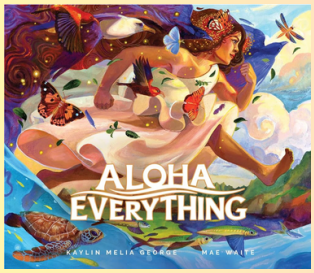
Elementary School



Unbreakable: A Japanese American Family in an American Incarceration Camp by Minoru Tonai and Jolene Gutiérrez

A powerful, emotional, and ultimately uplifting picture book about the real-life experience of a Japanese American boy incarcerated with his family during World War II. Watch the BrainPop lesson on Japanese Incarceration via Densho!

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library



Aloha Everything by Kaylin Melia George

Aloha Everything is a magical story that will take you on a thrilling journey through the breathtaking islands of Hawai'i. Discussion Questions from the National Education Association.

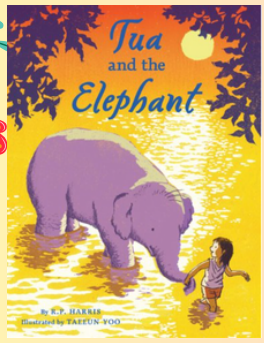
Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



Jeong is Jeong by Jessica Yoon

A picture book about a Korean-American girl learning the untranslatable Korean concept of "jeong," a deep feeling of connection, love, and community, through daily moments with her grandmother and brother. This book is an ode to the Korean American language and culture.

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



Tua and the Elephant by R.P. Harris

Ten-year-old Tua has a full life in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She is independent and brave. Tua has longed for a sister to be her companion and best friend. Unexpectedly, Tua meets an animal that she connects with in the market. Pohn-Pohn is an elephant with loving eyes, great strength, and an appetite for curiosity and adventure. It's clear the two need each other. Together they take a dangerous journey to evade Pohn-Pohn's cruel captors.

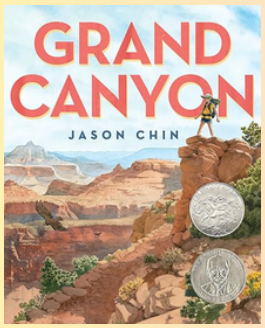
Available at the Springhurst Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library



The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field by Scott Riley

A true story of boys living on a Thai island without room for a soccer field. The resourceful teens collaborate to gather materials for building a floating field to play the sport that they love. Persistence, teamwork, and creativity were the key ingredients to their success. An inspiration to kids of all ages.

Available at the Springhurst Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

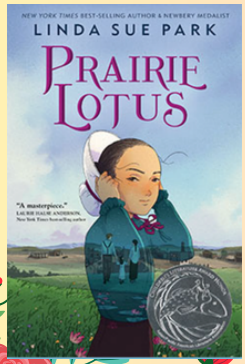


Grand Canyon by Jason Chin

Jason Chin, an Asian American author and illustrator of science and nature picture books for children, captures the historical, ecological, and geological aspects of the Grand Canyon, as well as its spectacular majesty in this book.

Available at the Springhurst library and at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

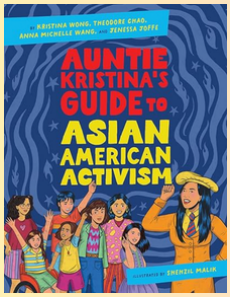
Middle Grade



Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park

Prairie Lotus is a powerful, touching, multilayered book about a girl determined to fit in and realize her dreams. 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. Includes author's note. Check out the educator's guide.

Available at the DFMS/HS Library and at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



Auntie Kristina's Guide to Asian American Activism by Kristina Wong, Theodore Chao, Anna Michelle Wang, and Jessica Joffe

This vibrant, interactive guide by comedian Kristina Wong and co-creators empowers young readers (ages 10-14) to embrace their identity, fight for social justice, and connect with Asian American history. Sample Art Project from the Book

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



You Are Here: Connecting Flights, edited by Ellen Oh

Twelve young Asian Americans cross paths, meeting challenges and victories, in a busy airport. Check out the educator's guide.

Available at the DFMS/HS Library and at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



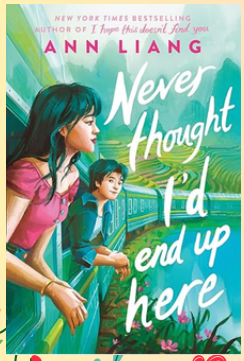
Auntie Q's Golden Claws Nail Salon by Van Haong

12-year-old Domi Pham is sent to work at her Auntie Q's struggling nail salon in New Mexico as punishment for a costly mistake. The book follows her journey from being miserable to using her creativity to help save the salon, learning about family, hard work, and the resilience of the Vietnamese immigrant community along the way, with themes of second chances and intergenerational understanding.

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

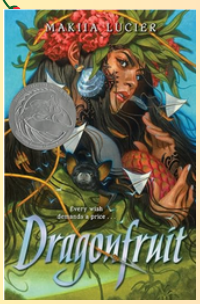
Young Adult

Never Thought I'd End Up Here by Ann Liang



After making a cultural blunder at her cousin's wedding, seventeen-year-old Leah travels to China to connect with her roots and winds up falling for a former classmate on the trip, whom she previously blamed for ruining her life. Check out the book guide.

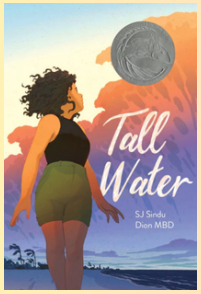
Available at the DFMS/HS Library and at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



Dragonfruit by Makiia Lucier

In the lush, Pacific Island-inspired world of Dragonfruit, myth and consequence collide over a legendary treasure: the "dragonfruit," a seadragon egg said to possess the power to erase one's greatest sorrow. However, this magic comes with a dark warning—every wish demands a steep price.

Available through the DFMS/HS Library and at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



Tall Water by SJ Sindu

A powerful coming-of-age teen graphic novel that follows one girl's journey to Sri Lanka to reconnect with her long-lost mother during the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004.

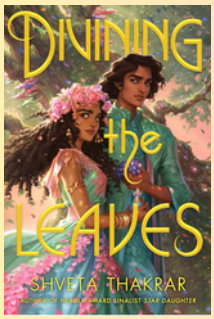
Available through the DFMS/HS Library and at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



I Could Give You the Moon by Ann Liang

A young adult romance novel about an influencer, Chanel Cao, and a "bad boy," Ares Yin, who team up after sharing a vision of the future, which includes Ares's missing brother and Chanel's family home burning down.

Available through the DFMS/HS Library and at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



Divining the Leaves by Shveta Thakrar

A young adult contemporary fantasy novel about two teens, Ridhi and Nilesh, who get pulled into a magical world of yakshas (woodland spirits), inspired by Hindu and Buddhist folklore.

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

This resource list was compiled as part of a partnership between the Dobbs Ferry Schools (Springhurst Library Media Specialist Beth Cornell, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek) and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library (Children's Librarian Gina Elbert, and Young Adult Librarian Alex Yeranossian).

Dobbs Ferry School District
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

Dobbs Ferry Public Library