



Children's Booklist 2025: Celebrating Asian Characters

Boardbooks & Picturebooks



A Dupatta Is...

by Marzieh Abbas

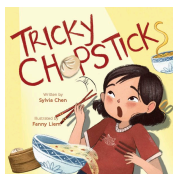
This vibrant picture book celebrates the dupatta—a traditional shawl worn in South Asian culture, which is fun, functional, and carries the sounds and smells of family and identity.



The yellow Áo Dài

by Hanh Bui

When she accidentally tears her grandmother's very special yellow áo dài while practicing the Vietnamese Fan Dance for her school's International Day, Naliah learns how to mend it as well as how to believe in herself and make it her own.



Tricky Chopsticks

by Sylvia Chen

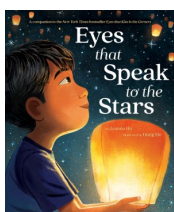
Jenny Chow is determined to master chopsticks in time for her cousin's birthday party and her family's annual chopsticks challenge.



Leila in Saffron

by Rukhsana Guidroz

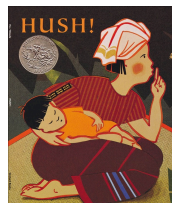
A colorful journey of self-discovery and identity follows the experiences of a little girl who visits her grandmother's house for their culturally inspired weekly family dinner.



Eyes That Speak to the Stars

by Joanna Ho

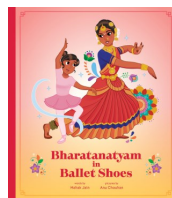
A young Asian boy, who notices that his eyes look different from his friends', realizes that his eyes rise to the skies, speak to the stars and are visionary.



Hush! : a Thai Lullaby

by Minfong Ho

A lullaby which asks animals such as a lizard, monkey, and water-buffalo to be quiet and not disturb the sleeping baby.



Bharatanatyam in Ballet Shoes

by Mahak Jain

Paro comes from a dancing family. At home, she dances Bharatanatyam with her mom, and now she's excited to learn ballet. But what if she can't dance like the other kids in her class? Ballerinas move like fairies, while Bharatanatyam dancers seem like queens. Paro can't be both... can she?



Kimchi, Kimchi Every Day

by Erica Kim

Whether round and crunchy like a kimchi pancake or pinched and plump like a kimchi dumpling, there are so many ways to enjoy this Korean traditional dish. Explore the different ways to eat kimchi in this fun, rhyming tale that also teaches the days of the week.



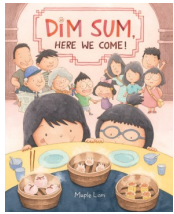
Hundred Years of Happiness

by Thanhha Lai

When her grandmother gets trapped in her cloudy memories, An and her grandfather Ong come up with a plan to bring her back to a happy moment so she can remember her wedding wish with Ong: one hundred years of happiness.

Celebrating Asian Characters

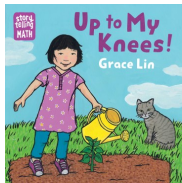
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Dim Sum, Here We Come!

by Maple Lam

In this yummy celebration of togetherness, love, family and food, a Chinese American girl and her younger sister attend their weekly dim sum family gathering.

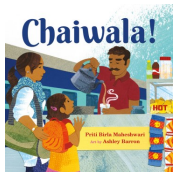


Up to My Knees!

by Grace Lin

Mei plants a seed and watches it grow. Soon the little plant is up to her toes, then her knees, then her waist. How tall will it get? Engages young children in exploring informal measurement. Part of the

Storytelling Math board book series.



Chaiwala!

by Priti Birla Maheshwari

When their train makes a ten-minute stop at the station in Jaipur, a young girl and her mother hurry to get in line for a cup of chai. The girl orders two cups, and then delights

in watching the chaiwala at work.



Niki Nakayama: A Chef's Tale in 13 Bites

by Jamie Michalak

Using the structure of a traditional kaiseki meal, this book details the Japanese

American chef's hunger for success in 13 "bites."

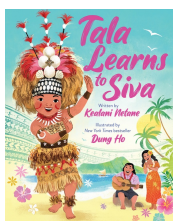


Grandpa Grumps

by Katrina Moore

Planning all kinds of activities to share with her Yeh-Yeh when he visits from China for the first time, young Daisy is disappointed by

her grandfather's grumpy demeanor and tries all sorts of ways to make him smile.



Tala Learns to Siva

by Kealani Netane

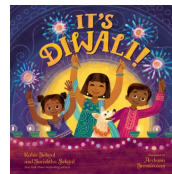
Preparing to perform a traditional Samoan dance at her Grandma's birthday, Tala freezes on stage and must summon the strength and inspiration to help her dance, in this empowering story about finding courage.



Mai's Áo Dài

by Thai Nguyen

A celebrity fashion designer joins forces with a best-selling author to offer this charming picture book that finds young Mai on the morning of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, Tet, celebrating with her beloved grandmother.



It's Diwali!

by Kabir Sehgal

A best-selling mother-son duo helps readers count up to 10 and back down again to the tune of "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" while sharing the traditions and festivities of

Diwali, the Festival of Lights.



When Lola Visits

by Michelle Sterling

For one young girl, summer is the season of days spent at the pool, and of picking golden limes off the trees. But summer doesn't start until her grandmother from the Philippines comes for her annual visit.



A Bindi Can Be...

by Suma Subramaniam

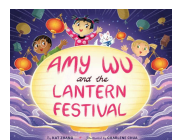
With the help of Paati, her grandmother, a young girl learns all about bindis, the red dot that goes between her brows, discovering her bindi is more than just a dot, in this wonderful intergenerational story.



Natsumi's Song of Summer

by Robert Paul Weston

This sweet and gentle picture book celebrates summer in Japan, as one little girl shares her love for insects with her cousin who is visiting from America.



Amy Wu and the Lantern Festival

by Kat Zhang

When Amy accidentally breaks her family's lantern that they use on Lantern Festival Day, she learns to mend the old with the new to create a new tradition. Includes instructions on how to make homemade lanterns.



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