

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Asian Pacific American Literature Read-In Week Recommended Booklist



## Table of Contents

TK – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Recommended Read Aloud Book Highlights ..... PG 2  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Recommended Read Aloud Book Highlights .....PG 3  
6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recommended Book Highlights ..... PG 4  
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Recommended Book Highlights..... PG 5  
Extended Recommended Book List Organized by Author’s Last Name ..... PG 6 - 10

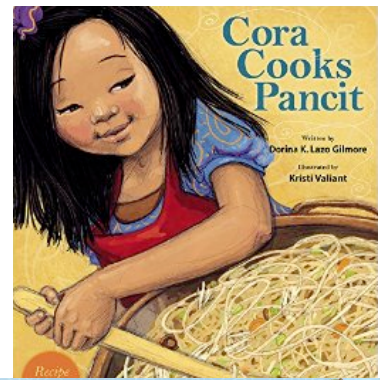


OAKLAND  
SCHOOL  
VOLUNTEERS

# TK – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Recommended Read Aloud Book Highlights

## 1. “Cora Cooks Pancit” by Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore

Cora loves being in the kitchen, but she always gets stuck doing the kid jobs. One day, however, when her older sisters and brother head out, Cora finally gets the chance to be Mama's assistant chef. And of all the delicious Filipino dishes that dance through Cora's head, she and Mama decide to make pancit, her favorite noodle dish. When dinner is served, her siblings find out that Cora did all their grown-up tasks, and Cora waits anxiously to see what everyone thinks of her cooking. Gilmore's text captures the warmth between mother and daughter as they share a piece of their Filipino heritage.



## 2. “Kite Flying” by Grace Lin

The wind is blowing. It is a good day for kites! The whole family makes a trip to the local craft store for paper, glue, and paint. Everyone has a job: Ma-Ma joins sticks together. Ba-Ba glues paper. Mei-Mei cuts whiskers while Jie-Jie paints a laughing mouth. Dragon eyes are added and then everyone attaches the final touch . . . a noisemaker! Now their dragon kite is ready to fly.



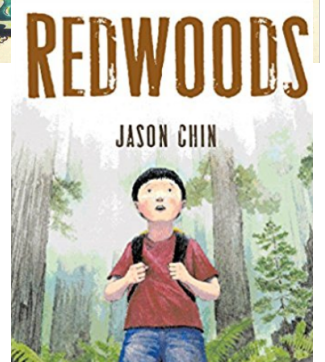
## 3. “The Last Kappa of Old Japan” by Sunny Seki

*The Last Kappa of Old Japan* is a warmly written and beautifully illustrated bilingual Japanese children's book that introduces many aspects of traditional Japanese culture and folklore while teaching an important lesson about environmentalism. The story is of a young Japanese farm boy who develops a friendship with a mythical creature—the kappa—a messenger of the god of water. The tale begins in post-Modern Japan when the boy is young, and the kappa is healthy and ends when the kappa, now the last one left on Earth, keeps an important promise to his human friend.



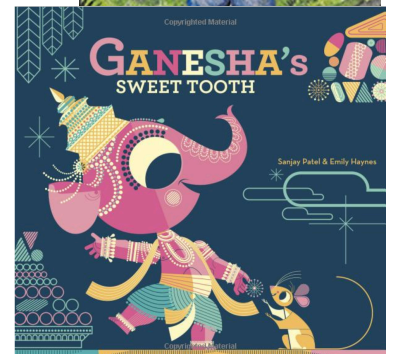
## 4. “Redwoods” by Jason Chin

An ordinary subway trip is transformed when a young boy happens upon a book about redwood forests. As he reads the information unfolds, and with each new bit of knowledge, he travels—all the way to California to climb into the redwood canopy. Crammed with interesting and accurate information about these great natural wonders, Jason Chin's first book is innovative nonfiction set within a strong and beautiful picture storybook. Chin's approach makes *Redwoods* a must-have common core tool for teachers and librarians introducing scientific principles to young students.



## 5. “Ganesha’s Sweet Tooth” by Sanjay Patel

Ganesha is just like any other kid, except that he has the head of an elephant and rides around on a magical mouse. And he loves sweets, but when Ganesha insists on biting into a super jumbo jawbreaker laddoo, his tusk breaks off! With the help of the wise poet Vyasa, and his friend Mr. Mouse, Ganesha learns that what seems broken can be quite useful after all. With vibrant, graphic illustrations, expressive characters, and offbeat humor, this is a wonderfully inventive rendition of a classic tale.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Recommended Read Aloud Book Highlights

## 1. “Be the Change: A Grandfather Gandhi Story” by Arun Gandhi

At Grandfather Gandhi’s service village, each day is filled with work that is done for the good of all. The villagers vow to live simply and non-violently. Arun Gandhi tries very hard to follow these vows, but he struggles with one of the most important rules: not to waste. How can throwing away a worn-down pencil hurt anyone? How can wastefulness lead to violence? With the help of his grandfather, Arun learns how every wasteful act, no matter how small, affects others. And in time he comes to understand the truth of his grandfather’s words: “Be the change you wish to see in the world.””



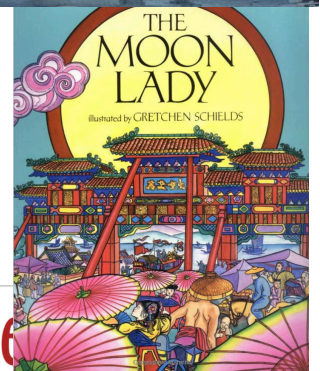
## 2. “A Different Pond” by Bao Phi

As a young boy, Bao and his father awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. A successful catch meant a fed family. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam. Thi Bui's striking, evocative art paired with Phi's expertly crafted prose has earned this powerful picture books six starred reviews and numerous awards.



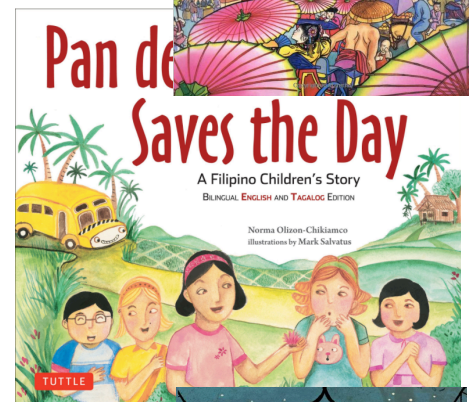
## 3. “The Moon Lady” Amy Tan

On a rainy afternoon, three sisters wish for the rain to stop, wish they could play in the puddles, wish for something, *anything*, to do. So Ying-Ying, their grandmother, tells them a tale from long ago. On the night of the Moon Festival, when Ying-Ying was a little girl, she encountered the Moon Lady, who grants the secret wishes of those who ask, and learned from her that the best wishes are those you can make come true yourself.



## 4. “Pan de Sal Saves the Day” by Norma Olizon-Chikiamco

A heart-warming story of a young Filipino girl who builds self-confidence after spending a day with her classmates, this story is an award-winning inspiring tale for young children everywhere. It's the story of a young girl named Pan de Sal who lives in the Philippines and thinks she's the unluckiest girl in the whole world. Aside from not liking her own name and finding her appearance strange, she doesn't have all the fancy things her classmates have. She can't even muster the courage to try out for the Glee Club, even though she has a beautiful voice.



## 5. “Vanished” by Sheela Chari

Eleven-year-old Neela dreams of being a famous musician, performing for admiring crowds on her traditional Indian stringed instrument. Her particular instrument was a gift from her grandmother—intricately carved with a mysterious-looking dragon. When this special family heirloom vanishes from a local church, strange clues surface: a tea kettle ornamented with a familiar pointy-faced dragon, a threatening note, a connection to a famous dead musician, and even a legendary curse. The clues point all the way to India, where it seems that Neela’s instrument has a long history of vanishing and reappearing. Even if Neela does track it down, will she be able to stop it from disappearing again?



## 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recommended Book Highlights

### 1. “Amina’s Voice” by Hena Khan

Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she’s in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the “cool” girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more “American.” Does Amina need to start changing too? While Amina grapples with this question, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. *Amina’s Voice* brings to life the joys and challenges of a young Pakistani American and highlights the many ways in which one girl’s voice can help bring a diverse community together to love and support each other.

### 2. “Inside Out and Back Again” by Thanhha Lai

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age novel told in verse has been celebrated for its child's-eye view of family and immigration. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward America. This story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing received four starred reviews: "enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny."

### 3. “Tiger Boy” by Mitali Perkins

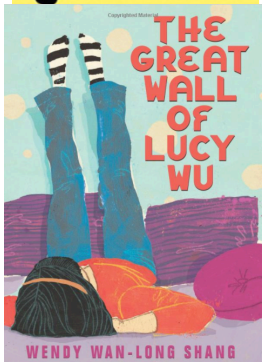
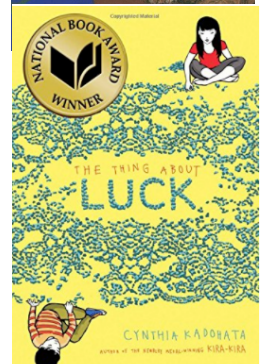
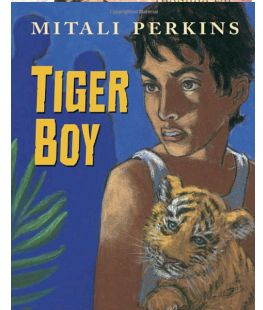
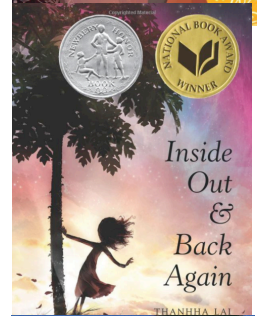
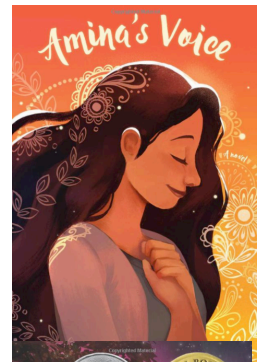
When a tiger cub goes missing from the reserve, Neel is determined to find her before the greedy Gupta gets his hands on her to kill her and sell her body parts on the black market. Neel's parents, however, are counting on him to study hard and win a prestigious scholarship to study in Kolkata. Neel doesn't want to leave his family or his island home and he struggles with his familial duty and his desire to maintain the beauty and wildness of his island home in West Bengal's Sunderbans.

### 4. “The Thing About Luck” by Cynthia Kadohata

Just when Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan--right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother are left in the care of their grandparents who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills. Having thoroughly disappointed her grandmother, Summer figures the bad luck *must* be finished--but then it gets worse.

### 5. “The Great Wall of Lucy Wu” by Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Lucy Wu, aspiring basketball star and interior designer, is on the verge of having the best year of her life. In an instant, though, her plans are shattered when she finds out that Yi Po, her beloved grandmother's sister, is coming to visit for several months -- and is staying in Lucy's room. Lucy's vision of a perfect year begins to crumble, and in its place come an unwelcome roommate, foiled birthday plans, a bully who tries to scare Lucy off the basketball team, and Chinese school with the annoying know-it-all Talent Chang. Lucy's year is ruined -- or is it?



## 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Recommended Book Highlights

### 1. “The Boat” by Nam Le

The seven stories in Nam Le's masterful collection take us across the globe, guiding us to the heart of what it means to be human. From the slums of Colombia to Iowa City and from the streets of Tehran to a foundering vessel in the South China Sea, here are thrilling versatile tales that herald the arrival of a remarkable new writer.

### 2. “Growing Up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults” by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard (Editor)

In this fine short-story collection, 29 Filipino American writers explore the universal challenges of adolescence from the unique perspectives of teens in the Philippines or in the U.S. Organized into five sections--Family, Angst, Friendship, Love, and Home--all the stories are about growing up and what the introduction calls "growing into Filipino-ness, growing with Filipinos, and growing in or growing away from the Philippines...".

### 3. “The Joy Luck Club” by Amy Tan

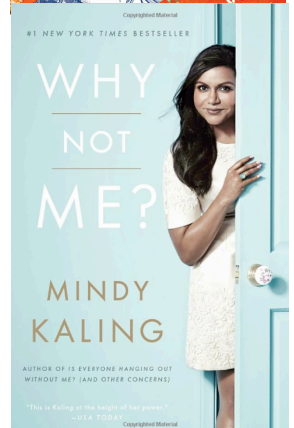
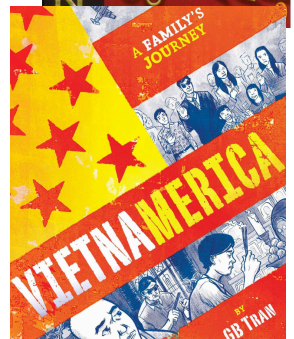
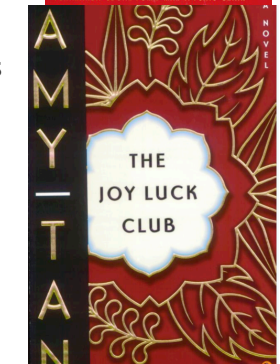
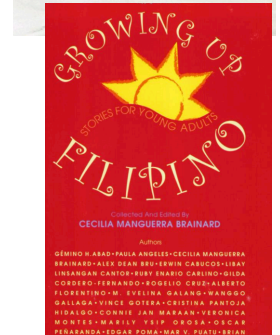
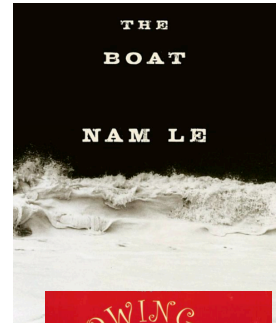
Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

### 4. “Vietnamerica: A Family’s Journey” by GB Tran

GB Tran is a young Vietnamese American artist who grew up distant from (and largely indifferent to) his family's history. Born and raised in South Carolina as a son of immigrants, he knew that his parents had fled Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. But even as they struggled to adapt to life in America, they preferred to forget the past--and to focus on their children's future. It was only in his late twenties that GB began to learn their extraordinary story. When his last surviving grandparents die within months of each other, GB visits Vietnam for the first time and begins to learn the tragic history of his family, and of the homeland they left behind.

### 5. “Why Not Me?” by Mindy Kaling

In *Why Not Me?*, Kaling shares her ongoing journey to find contentment and excitement in her adult life, whether it's falling in love at work, seeking new friendships in lonely places, attempting to be the first person in history to lose weight without any behavior modification whatsoever, or most important, believing that you have a place in Hollywood when you're constantly reminded that no one looks like you.



## Full List of Recommended Books to Share with Students that are By and About Asian Pacific Americans

- This list is compiled by our Read-In Partners
- Organized by grade level, then Author's Last Name
- Please keep in mind that there are many, many more books out there! The following are a few of our favorites.

### TK – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Title	First Name	Last Name
Suho's White Horse: A Mongolian Legend	Suekichi	Akaba
The Mats	Francisco	Arcellana
New Clothes for New Years' Day	Hyun-joo	Bae
Juna's Jar	Jane	Bakh
Dingding Ningning, Singsing & other Fun Tagalog Words	Tricia	Capistrano
The Story of Chopsticks	Ying	Chang Compenstine
Pan de Sal Saves the Day	Norma	Chikiamco
Sam and the Lucky Money	Karen	Chinn
Peach Heaven	Yangsook	Choi
The Name Jar	Yangsook	Choi
The Sun Girl and the Moon Boy: A Korean Folktale	Yangsook	Choi
Minji's Salon	Eun-hee	Choung
Ninja!	Arree	Chung
Jouanah, a Hmong Cinderella	Jewell Reinhard & Tzexa Cherta	Coburn & Lee
The Empty Pot	Demi	Demi
Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folk Tale	Chitra	Divakaruni
Hot Hot Roti for Dada-Ji	Farhana	Zia
How My Parents Learned to Eat	Ina	Friedman
Grandfather Gandhi	Arun	Gandhi
Lady Hahn and Her Seven Friends	Yumi	Heo
Peek!: A Thai Hide-and-Seek	Mingfong	Ho
Little Kunoichi, The Ninja Girl	Sanae	Ishida
Red Kite, Blue Kite	Ji-Li	Jiang
All About the Phillippines: Stories, Songs, Crafts, and Games for Kids	Gidget	Jimenez
Little Daruma & Little Tengu: A Japanese Children's Tale	Satoshi	Kako
Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors	Hena	Khan

Big Red Lollipop	Rukhsana	Khan
Pool	JiHyeon	Lee
At the Beach	Huy Voun	Lee-Tai
Round is the Moon Cake	Grace	Lin
Bringing in the New Year	Grace	Lin
Dim Sum for Everyone!	Grace	Lin
Thanking the Moon	Grace	Lin
Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic	Ginnie	Lo
Henry's First-Moon Birthday	Lenore	Look
Polka Dot Penguin Pottery	Lenore	Look
Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding	Lenore	Look
Brush of the Gods	Lenore	Look
Yeh-Shen	Ai Ling & Ed	Louie & Young
Oh, Oh, Baby Boy!	Janine	Macbeth
My Chinatown: One Year in Poems	Kam	Mak
Take Me Out to the Yakyu	Aaron	Meshon
Dear Juno	Soyung	Pak
Bee-Bim Bop!	Linda Sue	Park
The Firekeeper's Son	Linda Sue	Park
Ganesha's Sweet Tooth	Sanjay	Patel
My Mother's Sari	Sandhya	Rao
Dumpling Soup	Jama Kim	Rattigan
My First Book of Tagalog Words	Liana	Romulo
Filipino Children's Favorite Stories	Liana	Romulo
Filipino Friends	Liana	Romulo
Grandfather's Journey	Allen	Say
Emma's Rug	Allen	Say
Tea with Milk	Allen	Say
The Tale of the Lucky Cat	Sunny	Seki
Yuko-Chan and the Daruma Doll	Sunny	Seki
The Whispering Cloth	Peggy	Shea
Tiger in My Soup	Kashmira	Sheth
Monsoon Afternoon	Kashmira	Sheth
Princess Ten Ten and the Dark Skies	Setsu	Shigematsu
I live in Tokyo	Mari	Takabayashi

The Chinese Siamese Cat	Amy	Tan
Noodle Magic	Roseanne	Thong
Suki's Kimono	Chieri	Uegaki
In a Village By the Sea	Muon	Van
The Emperor and the Kite	Jane	Yolen
The Lost Horse	Ed	Young
Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China	Ed	Young
Mom, It's My First Day of Kindergarten!	Hyewon	Yum

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Title	First Name	Last Name
Tree Matters	Gangu	Bai
Ruby's Wish	Shirin Yim	Bridges
The Year of the Book	Andrea	Cheng
Surfer of the Century: The Life of Duke Kahanamoku	Ellie	Crowe
Everybody Cooks Rice	Norah	Dooley
Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music	Margarita	Engle
Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream	Jenny	Han
1001 Cranes	Naomi	Hirahara
King for a Day	Rukhsana	Khan
Inside Out and Back Again	Thanhha	Lai
A Place Where Sunflowers Grow	Amy	Lee-Tai
Ling & Ting Series	Grace	Lin
Dumpling Days	Grace	Lin
The Year of the Rat	Grace	Lin
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace	Lin
Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things	Lenore	Look
Ruby Lu Brave and True	Lenore	Look
Katie Woo Series	Fran	Manushkin
Barbed Wire Baseball	Marissa	Moss
A Kid's Guide to Asian American History	Valerie	Petrio
The Great Wall of Lucy Wu	Wendy	Wan-Long Shang
Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)	Lisa	Yee
Shining Star: The Anna May Wong Story	Paul	Yoo
The House Baba Built: An Artist's Childhood in China	Ed	Young



## 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Title	First Name	Last Name
Sylvia & Aki	Winifred	Conkling
Tales from the 7,000 Isles	Art Nimfa	Guillermo Rodeheaver
Full Cicada Moon	Marilyn	Hilton
Cracker!: The Best Dog In Vietnam	Cynthia	Kadohata
The Thing About Luck	Cynthia	Kadohata
Kira-Kira	Cynthia	Kadohata
Weedflower	Cynthia	Kadohata
Blackbird Fly	Eryn Entrada	Kelly
The Grand Plan to Fix Everything	Uma	Krishnaswami
Listen, Slowly	Thanhha	Lai
At Home in Her Tomb: Lady Dai and the Ancient Chinese Treasure of Mawangdui	Christine	Liu-Perkins
In the Year of the Boar & Jackie Robinson	Bette Bao	Lord
When My Name Was Keoto	Linda Sue	Park
A Single Shard	Linda Sue	Park
Project Mulberry	Linda Sue	Park
Tiger Boy	Mitali	Perkins
Meanwhile... (Graphic Novel)	Jason	Shiga
The Arrival (Graphic Novel)	Shaun	Tan
Hana Hashimoto Sixth Violin	Chieri	Uegaki
Goodbye, Vietnam	Gloria	Whelan
Secret Coders (Graphic Novel)	Gene Luen	Yang
Millicent Min, Girl Genius	Lisa	Yee
Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time	Lisa	Yee
Dragonwings	Lawrence	Yep
I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)	Malala	Yousafzai

## 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Title	First Name	Last Name
The Boss (Poetry)	Victoria	Chang
Southern Cross the Dog	Bill	Cheng
Building Community, Chinatown Style	Gordon	Chin
Since You Asked...	Maureen	Goo
Control	Lydia	Kang
B	Sarah	Kay
Amulet (Graphic Novel)	Kazu	Kibuishi
Chi's Sweet Home (Graphic Novel)	Konata	Konami
The Boat	Nam	Le
This Is a Bust	Ed	Lin
Life of Pi	Yann	Martel
The Sympathizer	Viet Thanh	Nguyen
This is All I Choose to Tell	Isabelle Thuy	Pelaud
Catfish and Mandala	Andrew	Pham
The Eaves of Heaven	Andrew	Pham
Heart of a Samurai	Margie	Preus
In the Shadow of the Banyan	Vaddey	Ratner
Red Glass	Laura	Resau
Midnight's Children	Salman	Rushdie
Sidekicks (Graphic Novel)	Dan	Santat
Drawing from Memory	Allen	Say
This Earth of Mankind	Pramoedya Ananta	Toer
Vietnamerica	GB	Tran
Moribito	Nahoko	Uehashi
Oakland's Chinatown	William	Wong
The People in the Trees	Hanya	Yanagihara
American Born Chinese	Gene Luen	Yang