

May 2025 is AAPI Heritage Month

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions to the United States, of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. The AAPI umbrella term includes cultures from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

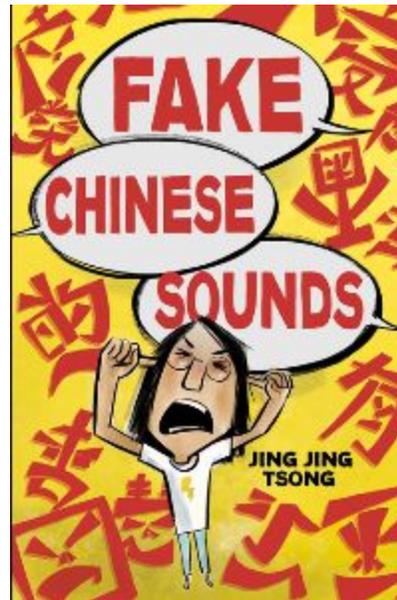
For the Jane Addams Peace Association, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is every month. Until everyone learns that U.S.A. history reflects this, and the contributions of AAPI people are regularly acknowledged and celebrated, this month is necessary.

AAPI Reading List

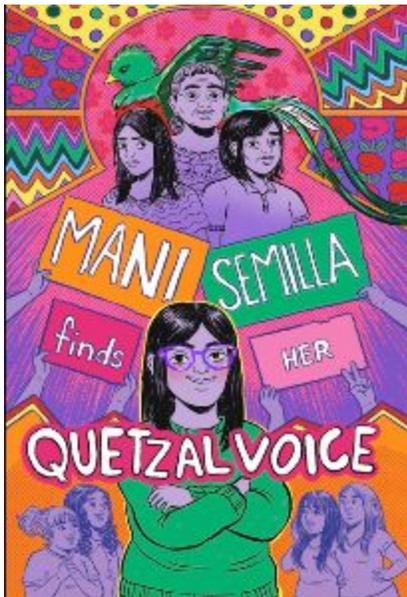
***Fake Chinese Sounds*, by Jing
Jing Tsong**

(2025 Finalist)

Between homework, studying, and Chinese school, Měi Yīng's summer is shaping up to be a boring one. Her only bright spots are practice with her soccer team and the time spent with her nǎi nai, who is visiting from Taiwan. By the end of the summer, Měi Yīng is sad to see Nǎi Nai go, but excited to start fifth grade. Until new kid Sid starts making her the butt of racist jokes. As Sid's bullying fuels Měi Yīng's feelings of invisibility, she must learn to reclaim her identity and her voice.



[Learn More](#)



***Mani Semilla Finds Her Quetzal
Voice*, by Anna Lapera**

(2025 Finalist)

Manuela “Mani” Semilla wants to thwart her mom's plan of taking her to Guatemala on her thirteenth birthday. If her mom's always going on about how dangerous it is in Guatemala, and how much she sacrificed to come to this country, then why should Mani even want to visit?

But one day, she finds secret letters between her mom and her Tía Beatriz, who, according to family lore, died in a bus crash before Mani was born. But the letters reveal a

different story. Why did her family really leave Guatemala?

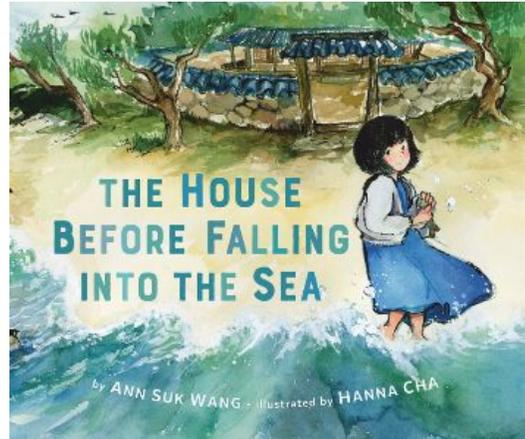
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***The House Before Falling Into The Sea*, by Ann Suk Wang, illustrated by Hanna Cha**

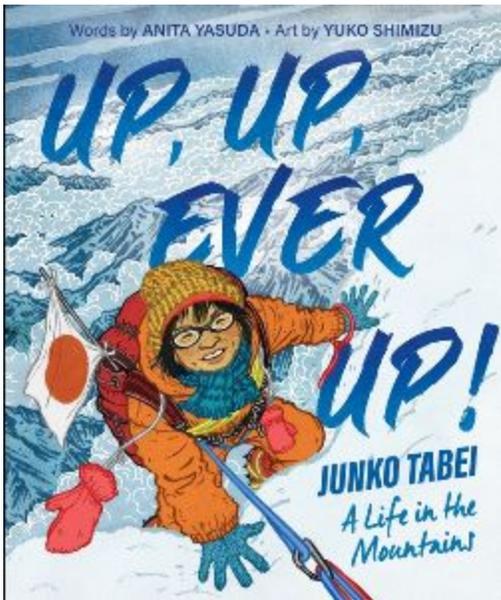
(2025 Finalist)

Every day, more and more people fleeing war in the north show up at Kyung Tak and her family's house on the southeastern shore of Korea.

With nowhere else to go, the Taks' home is these migrants' last chance of refuge "before falling into the sea," and the household quickly becomes crowded. But after an important talk with her parents, her new friend Sunhee, Kyung realizes something important: We're stronger when we have each other, and the kindness we show one another in the darkest of times is a gift we'll never regret.



[Learn More](#)



***Up, Up, Ever Up! Junko Tabei: A Life in the Mountains*, by Anita Yasuda, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu**

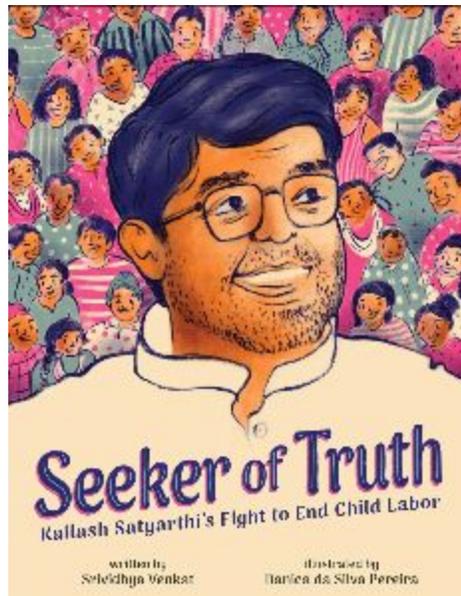
(2025 Finalist)

Junko Tabei dreamed of a life climbing mountains. But men refused to climb with her. Sponsors told her to stay home. Instead, she planned an expedition to summit Mount Everest with an all-women team. Battling icy peaks, deep crevasses, and even an avalanche, Junko refused to give up. She climbed step by step . . . up, up, ever up!

[Learn More](#)

***Seeker of Truth: Kailash Satyarthi's Fight to End Child Labor*, by Srividhya Venkat, illustrated by Danica da Silva Pereira**
(2025 Finalist)

Kailash Satyarthi has fought injustice his whole life. As a young boy, he raised money so poor children could attend school. When he was a teen, combatted caste discrimination by sharing a meal with "untouchables." And as an adult, he fought against child labor and for increased education, ultimately rescuing hundreds of thousands of children worldwide. This inspiring picture book shows that anyone can strive for change in their community that make a big difference.



Learn More

Full AAPI Reading List

*Some book summaries are adapted from Teaching Books or Google Books.

The 2025 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Ceremony



Our 2025 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Ceremony was a smashing success! We had some amazing speeches by authors and illustrators, as well as a guest appearance by legendary activist Leona Tate (featured in the picture book honoree: [Small Shoes, Great Strides](#)). Thank you to our amazing sponsors who made this possible, and all of our lovely audience members who came to support a ceremony that highlights peace and social justice. Stay tuned for a video on our YouTube channel of the ceremony soon!

Community Highlight: Yu and Me Books



44 Mulberry St, New York, NY 10013

Yu and Me Books is an AAPI-owned bookstore located in New York City. The store focuses on stories about the immigrant experience and hosts book talks by many diverse authors and illustrators. The bookstore is also a café and serves iced coffee, tea, and more!

[Learn More](#)

Support Our Work!



2025 Jane Addams Board Members, Selection Committee Members, and Authors/Illustrators

The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.

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