Asian American/Pacific Islander CHAPTER BOOKS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS





The Comeback: A Figure Skating Novel

written by E. L. Shen (J SHEN, on order)

Maxine, a Chinese American sixth grader, draws upon her supportive family and a fighting spirit as she competes for a regional ice-skating championship and deals with bullying from a classmate.



Front Desk

written by Kelly Yang (J YANG)

"After emigrating from China, 10-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel. Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school."

Winner of the 2019 APAAL Award for children's literature.



Girl Giant and the Monkey King

written by Van Hoang, and illustrated by Nguyen Quang and Kim Lien (J Hoang, on order) "A tale of magic and family strongly grounded in contemporary reality."



The House That Lou Built

written by Mae Respicio (J RESPICIO)

"A coming-of-age story that explores culture and family, forgiveness and friendship, and what makes a true home."

Winner of the 2019 APAAL Honor Award for children's literature.



Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen

written by Debbi Michiko Florence, illustrated by Elizabet Vukovik (J FLORENCE)

"Eager to do something her big sister has not done first, Jasmine Toguchi, age eight, decides to pound mochi with the men and boys when her family gets together for New Year's." Book 1 in a series.



The Last Fallen Star

written by Graci Kim (J KIM, on order)

"Hattie and Riley are Korean American sisters—one adopted, one not—who concoct a plan to ensure that regular mortal Riley will be able to share her sister's magical powers."



Measuring Up!

written by Lily LaMotte, and illustrated by Ann Xu (J GRAPHIC LAMOTTE)

"Having just moved to Seattle from Taiwan, 12-year-old Cici enters a cooking competition to win the chance to see her grandmother again, but she only knows how to cook Taiwanese food. A beautiful story about food, family, and finding your place in the world."

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Ruby Lu, Brave and True

written by Leonore Look (J LOOK)

"Almost 8-year-old Ruby Lu spends time with her baby brother, goes to Chinese school, performs magic tricks and learns to drive, and has adventures with both old and new friends." Book 1 in a series.



Stargazing

written and illustrated by Jen Wang, with color by Lark Pien (J GRAPHIC WANG)

The author "draws upon her childhood to paint a deeply personal, yet wholly relatable, friendship story that's at turns joyful, heart-wrenching, and full of hope."

Winner of the 2020 APAAL Award for children's literature.



That Thing About Bollywood

written by Supriya Kelkar (J KELKAR, on order)

"Middle-schooler Sonali cannot bring herself to share her feelings, but when she wakes up one day and begins to involuntarily burst into Bollywood song and dance routines that showcase her emotions, she realizes she has to find her voice and share her feelings."



While I Was Away

written by Waka T. Brown (J BROWN, on order)

In this empowering middle-grade memoir, debut author Waka T. Brown takes readers on a journey to 1980s Japan, where she was sent as a child to reconnect with her family's roots.



When You Trap a Tiger

written by Tae Keller (J KELLER)

"When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives. Lily must find her voice and the courage to face a tiger."

Winner of the 2021 Newbery Medal and the 2021 APAAL Award for children's literature.