

# Racially Affirming Books for Asian American Pacific Islander Children and Families

Curated by  
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## Rationale

In tangent to our 2020 book list, “Racially Affirming Books for Black Children,” the Center on the Ecology of Early Development (CEED) has curated the CEED 2021 book list, “Racially Affirming Books for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Children and Families” to promote literacy and racial identity in the AAPI community. The Covid-19 pandemic forced the world into lockdown but despite self-isolation across racial and ethnic groups, the AAPI community experienced increased exposure to racial hate crimes and attacks. The [Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism](#) found that Anti- Asian Hate Crimes surged 145%, while overall hate crimes dropped 6% in 2020. Large metropolitan cities like New York City and Los Angeles experienced an increase of 833% and 114% in Anti-Asian Hate Crimes respectively. In response to heightened levels of discrimination among the AAPI community, our scholars at CEED have passionately used our expertise in children’s language and literacy development to curate a list of books featuring the full humanity of AAPI children. Our goal was to increase awareness of children’s books that feature AAPI children as main characters who show a wide range of emotions, ideas, and identities, and who are learning about how their stories connect with others. We aim to provide educators, researchers, librarians, and AAPI families with literacy resources to encourage racial conversations, promote racial identity, a love of reading, and exposure to different perspectives, cultures, and backgrounds.

## Sources for Curation

We want to acknowledge the incredible sources that guided our book curation process. We compiled our list by soliciting staff recommendations and selecting books from [Lee and Low](#) and YouTube read alouds from [The Room 110 Show](#). For a full listing of AAPI children’s books from these sources, please visit their respective sites. We selected books based on the [Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence’s](#) definition of AAPI. To create our list, we reviewed the prior lists, adding additional recently published books and books from our personal libraries. The list was first sorted to contain books that had read-alouds on YouTube for further analysis and ensure final books were accessible to all. The books were checked to see if it was written by an AAPI author. All final books featured at least one of the following three criteria: (1) books that instill cultural pride, (2) depict children in their full humanity demonstrating the diversity in AAPI Children's abilities, personalities, and emotion, and (3) illustrate children overcoming bias or being protected from bias.

## Suggested Citation

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# Racially Affirming Books for Asian American Pacific Islander Children and Families

## A Different Pond

Author: Bao Phi

Illustrator: Thi Bui

## A Map into the World

A: Kao Kalia Yang

I: Seo Kim

## A Place Where Sunflowers Grow

A: Amy Lee Tai

I: Felicia Hoshino

## Always Anjali

A: Sheetal Sheth

I: Jessica Blank

## Amira's Picture Day

A: Reem Faruqi

I: Fahmida Azim

## Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao

A: Kat Zhang

I: Charlene Chua

## Bee- Bim- Bop

A: Linda Sue Park

I: Ho Baek Lee

## Bindu's Bindis

A: Supriya Kelkar

I: Parvati Pillai

## Bringing in the New Year

A/I: Grace Lin

## Chachaji's Cup

A: Uma Krishnaswami

I: Soumya Sitaraman

## Cora cooks Pancit

A: Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore

I: Kristi Valiant

## Danbi Leads the School Parade

A/I: Anna Kim

## Drawn Together

A: Minh Le

I: Dan Santat

## Eyes that Kiss in the Corners

A: Joanna Ho

I: Dung Ho

## Going Home Coming Home

A: Truong Tran

I: Ann Phong

## Grandfather's Journey

A/I: Allen Say

## Grandpa Grumps

A: Katrina Moore

I: Xindi Yan

**Home is In Between**

A: Mitali Perkins

I: Lavanya Naidu

**Hot, hot roti for Dada-ji**

A: Farhana Zia

I: Ken Min

**I Dream of Popo**

A: Livia Blackburne

I: Julia Kuo

**I Love My Grandpa**

A: Katrina Liu

I: Rosalla Destarisa

**It Began with a Page:****How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the way**

A: Kyo Maclear

I: Julie Morstad

**Juna's Jar**

A: Jane Bahk

I: Felicia Hoshino

**Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story**

A: Reem Faruqi

I: Lea Lyon

**Lakas and the Manilatown Fish**

A: Anthony D. Robles

I: Carl Angel

**Meet Yasmin!**

A: Saadia Faruqi

I: Hatem Aly

**My Footprints**

A: Bao Phi

I: Basia Tran

**Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of  
Tyus Wong, Immigrant and Artists**

A: Julie Leung

I: Chris Sasaki

**Popo's Lucky Chinese New Year**

A: Virginia Loh- Hagan

I: Renné Benoit

**Purple Ube**

A/I: Hannah Arp

**Ruby's Chinese New Year**

A: Vickie Lee

I: Joey Chou

**Sugar in Milk**

A: Thrity Umrigar

I: Khoa Le

**Tea with Milk**

A/I: Allen Say

**The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story**

A: Aya Khalil

I: Anait Semirdzhyan

**The Fearless Flights of Hazel****Ying Lee**

A: Julie Leung

I: Julie Kwon

**The Gift of Ramadan**

A: Rabiah York Lumbard

I: Laura K. Horton

**The Have a Good Day Cafe**

A: Frances Park and Ginger Park

I: Katherine Potter

**The Most Beautiful Thing**

A: Kao Kalia Yang

I: Khoa Le

**Tomatoes for Neela**

A: Padma Lakshmi

I: Juana Martinez Zeal

**Too Many Mangoes**

A: Tammy Paikai

I: Don Robinson

**Under My Hijab**

A: Hena Khan

I: Aaliya Jaleel

**Watercress**

A: Andrea Wang

I: Jason Chin

**When Lola Visits**

A: Michelle Sterling

I: Aaron Asis

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