

**Red is a dragon: a book of colors** – written by Roseann Thong, illustrated by Grace Lin. "The world is a rainbow for us to explore, what colors are waiting outside your door?" A young Chinese girl discovers all the colors in the world around her. Fun to read, rhyming text, many of the objects are Asian in origin, but all are universal in appeal. *Ages: 2 – 5*

**Round is a mooncake: a book of shapes** – written by Roseann Thong, illustrated by Grace Lin. A young Chinese girl shares her culture by relating objects to shapes. The moon is round as a moon cake and round as the lanterns that hang outside her room, the goldfish bowl and a ball. *Ages: 2 – 5*

**The serpent's children** – written by Laurence Yep. This title is part of award-winning author's collection of works *Golden Mountain Chronicles*. When villagers call Cassia and her brother, Foxfire, "the serpent's children," they mean it as an insult. But to Cassia it is an honor, for legend says that once a serpent sets her mind on something, she never gives up. *Ages: 10 and up.*

**Shanghai Sukkah** – written by Heidi Smith Hyde, illustrated by Jin Jing Tsong. When Marcus moves from Berlin to Shanghai, he doubts this unfamiliar city will ever feel like home. But with help from his new friend Liang he sets out to build a sukkah for the harvest festival of Sukkot. *Ages: 5 – 9.*

**Someone says** – written by Carole Schaefer, illustrated by Pierr Morgan. A group of young Chinese pre-school children go about their daily routines using imaginative play to spur them on. They dance, fly, slither, hop, and the animals they are imagining are portrayed in the background of the beautiful illustrations. *Ages: 2 – 4.*

*Reading selections curated by Julie Olsen Edwards,  
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February 2020

Our Community Reads  
Friends of the Aptos Library



Wonderful Picture Books  
for children of all ages  
celebrating Chinese culture,  
families, and history.

On display throughout month of February 2020  
in the Youth Services Room of the Aptos Library.

**Ancient China: archaeology unlocks the secrets of**

**China's past** – written by Jacqueline Ball and Richard Levey. Published by National Geographic, introduces school-age children and teens to archeological discoveries such as the terra-cotta army of China's first emperor, bodies encased in jade, and the best-preserved mummy in the world. *Ages: 8 and up.*

**Brush of the Gods** – written by Lenore Look, illustrated by Meilo So. Beautifully illustrated, tells the imagined story of the legendary life of Wu Daozi, who many believe to be China's greatest painter. *Ages: 4 – 7.*

**Dim sum for everyone!** – written and illustrated by Grace Lin. The joys of eating at a dim sum restaurant are described as a Chinese family decides what dishes they will choose. Each member of the family wants something different, then "everybody eats a little bit of everything." Illustrated using vibrant colors. The incidental characters are multi-ethnic, indicating that everyone can enjoy dim sum. *Ages: 2 – 5.*

**The Diary of Ma Yan: the struggles and hopes of a Chinese schoolgirl** – Ma Yan wrote this diary when she was a young teenager in Ningxia, China, struggling to help her family while attempting to continue her schooling. *Ages: 10 and up.*

**The Dragon Prince** – written by Laurence Yep, illustrated by Kam Mak. Wonderfully fresh adaptation of the the classic Beauty and the Beast tale based on ancient Chinese mythology. Beautiful illustrations of an adventure filled with magic, treachery, and love. *Ages: 5 – 10.*

**Landed** – written by Milly Lee, illustrated by Yangsook Choi. Sun Chor has just turned twelve, and he can finally join his brothers in America. First, though, he must pass through Angel Island, where Chinese immigrants were held before arriving to San Francisco in the late 1800s. There he will be tested to determine if he is a "true son" of a merchant, or a "paper son," who uses a false identity to gain entry to the United States. *Ages 10 and up.*

**Long-Long's New Year** – written by Catherine Gower, illustrated by He Zhihong. Long-Long sets off to market with his grandfather to make money for their Spring Festival celebrations. Beautiful illustrations depict everyday life in a small country town. Includes a list of Chinese terms and characters. *Ages: 4 – 7.*

**The Magic Brush: a story of love, family, and Chinese characters** – written by Kat Yeh, illustrated by Huy Voun Lee. Jasmine loves spending time with her grandfather who teaches her calligraphy. A clever primer on Chinese language, perfect for young readers and their parents to share, steeped in Chinese traditions. *Ages: 4 – 7.*

**Maya Lin: artist-architect of light and lines** – written by Jeanne Walker Harvey, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk. As a child, Maya Lin loved to study the spaces around her. She explored the forest in her backyard, observing woodland creatures, and used her house as a model to build tiny towns out of paper and scraps. This book tells the story of the visionary artist-architect who at the young age of 21 was selected to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. *Ages: 4 – 9.*

**Mooncakes** – written by Loretta Seto, illustrated by Renné Benoit. A young girl shares the special celebration of the Chinese Moon Festival with her parents. As they eat mooncakes, drink tea and watch the night sky together, Mama and Baba tell ancient tales of a magical tree, a Jade rabbit and a brave woman's journey. *Ages: 4 – 9.*

**People's Republic of China** – written by Kim Dramer. Published by Scholastic, describes the geography, plants and animals, history, economy, language, religions, culture, and people of the People's Republic of China, home of one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations. *Ages 10 and up.*