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The following list is a sampling of the books we have on this subject. Children’s, teen, and adult books are included here. Students and their parents should choose the books that are most appropriate for them.

CHILDREN’S BOOKS

Sword
by Da Chen
When Miu Miu turns 15, she learns the truth about her father’s violent death and discovers that she must avenge his murder before she can marry the man to whom she is betrothed. This novel is based on a story told to the author by a former prisoner during China’s Cultural Revolution. 232 pages

Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party
by Ying Chang Compestine
Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists’ Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed “bourgeois,” and people of laughter. 248 pages

Spring Pearl
by Laurence Yep
Called boyish by her new family for being able to read and write, 12-year-old, orphaned Spring Pearl’s “odd ways” help save the family during the 1857 Opium War in Canton, China. 204 pages

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
by Grace Lin
Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River. 278 pages

Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society
by Adeline Yen Mah
During the Japanese occupation of parts of China, 12-year-old Ye Xian is thrown out of her father’s and stepmother’s home, joins a martial arts group, and tries to help her aunt and the Americans in their struggle against the Japanese invaders. 242 pages

The Kite Rider
by Geraldine McCaughrean
In 13th-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, 12-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider. 272 pages

Operation Red Jericho
by Joshua Mowll
The posthumous papers of Rebecca MacKenzie document her adventures, along with her brother Doug, in 1920s China as the teenaged siblings are sent to live aboard their uncle’s ship where they become involved in the dangerous activities of a mysterious secret society called the Honourable Guild of Specialists. 271 pages
Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom
by Katherine Paterson
Abducted from his home by bandits, 15-year-old Wang Lee is rescued from slavery by a mysterious girl who introduces him to the Taiping Tienkuo, a secret society partly based on Christian principles and dedicated to the overthrow of the Manchu government. 229 pages

The Taste of Rain
by Monique Polak
Gwendolyn was one of 140 students enrolled at boarding school when the Japanese began occupying China in WWII. She is now a prisoner at an internment camp in Northern China where life as she knew it has completely changed. She must follow a “Girl Code” to survive the harsh conditions and learn who she can truly trust. 213 pages

The Vine Basket
by Josanne La Valley
Life has been hard for 14-year-old Mehrigul, a member of the Uyghur tribal group scorned by the Chinese communist government regime. When an American offers to buy all the baskets she can make in three weeks, she strives for a better future for herself. 252 pages

Chu Ju’s House
by Gloria Whelan
In order to save her baby sister, 14-year-old Chu Ju leaves her rural home in modern China and earns food and shelter by working on a sampan, tending silk worms, and planting rice seedlings, while wondering if she will ever see her family again. 227 pages

Dragon Keeper
by Carole Wilkinson
An orphan slave girl becomes a Dragon Keeper when she heroically comes to the aid of an aging dragon and both go on a dangerous journey across China to protect a mysterious stone vital to the dragon’s legacy. 339 pages

Dragonwings
by Laurence Yep
In the early 20th century, a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine. 248 pages

Shen of the Sea
by Arthur Bowie Chrisman
16 original stories reflecting the spirit of Chinese life and thought. 221 pages

Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze
by Elizabeth Foreman Lewis
In the 1920s, a Chinese youth from the country comes to Chungking with his mother where the bustling city offers adventure and his apprenticeship to a coppersmith brings good fortune. 267 pages

China’s Son
by Da Chen
A Chinese American lawyer shares his memories of growing up in rural China during Mao’s Cultural Revolution, describing how he struggled to overcome persecution and adversity to achieve an education. 213 pages

A Song for China
by Ange Zhang
During a period of struggle, artists born under the weight of Japanese occupation work to preserve the Chinese cultural work, poetry, and songs. 79 pages

Chinese Cinderella
by Adeline Yen Mah
The daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman describes her very difficult childhood and the psychological abuse she suffered at the hands of her stepmother. 205 pages
**YOUNG ADULT FICTION**

**American Panda**  
by Gloria Chao  
**YA F CHAO**  
Mei is only 17 and already a freshman at MIT, but her Taiwanese immigrant parents won’t be satisfied until she has a medical degree, a Taiwanese doctor husband, and children. Unfortunately, there are a few things her parents don’t know: the boy Mei likes is Japanese, she’s actually a germaphobe, she’d rather be dancing, and worst of all she’s in touch with her estranged older brother. 310 pages

**Someday We Will Fly**  
by Rachel Dewoskin  
**YA F DEWOSKIN**  
In 1940, a family flees war-torn Warsaw and hopes to begin a new life in Shanghai, China. As the war continues and China is pulled in to the conflict, the family their plans for sanctuary are altered. 353 pages

**Under a Painted Sky**  
by Stacey Lee  
**YA F LEE**  
In 1845, Sammy, a Chinese-American girl, and Annamae, an African-American slave girl, disguise themselves as boys and travel on the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri. 374 pages

**Bound**  
by Donna Jo Napoli  
**YA F NAPOLI**  
Based on Chinese Cinderella tales, 14-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child’s feet so that she alone might marry well. 186 pages

**Silver Phoenix**  
by Cindy Pon  
**YA F PON**  
With her father long overdue from his journey and a lecherous merchant blackmailing her into marriage, 17-year-old Ai Ling becomes aware of a strange power within her as she goes in search of her father. 338 pages

**The Epic Crush of Genie Lo**  
by F.C. Yee  
**YA F YEE**  
The struggle to get into a top-tier college consumes 16-year-old Genie’s every waking thought. But when she discovers she’s a celestial spirit who’s powerful enough to bash through the gates of heaven with her fists, her perfectionist existence is shattered. 310 pages

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**American Born Chinese**  
by Gene Luen Yang  
**YA COMICS YANG**  
Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in popular culture. 233 pages

**Boxers**  
by Gene Luen Yang  
**YA COMICS YANG**  
China, 1898: Bands of foreign missionaries and soldiers roam the countryside, bullying and robbing Chinese peasants. Little Bao has had enough, and harvesting the power of ancient Chinese gods, he recruits an army of “Boxers”—commoners trained in kung fu who fight to free China from “foreign devils”. 328 pages

**Saints**  
by Gene Luen Yang  
**YA COMICS YANG**  
China, 1898: An unwanted and unwelcome fourth daughter, Four-Girl isn’t even given a proper name by her family when she’s born. She finally finds friendship—and a name, Vibiana—in the most unlikely of places: Christianity. But China is a dangerous place for Christians. Torn between her nation and her Christian friends, Vibiana will have to decide where her true loyalties lie—and whether she is willing to die for her faith. 170 pages
The Undertaking of Lily Chen
by Danica Novgorodoff

Deshi accidentally kills his older brother, Wei, by shoving him in front of a moving jeep. Their mother, calling on the old tradition of ghost marriage, demands that Deshi find Wei a corpse bride—a recently deceased single woman who will be with him in the afterlife. With the help of a matchmaker, a grave robber, and a hospital attendant Deshi finds stubborn, spirited Lily, who would make a great bride—if she weren’t alive. 429 pages

ADULT FICTION

Empire of the Sun
by J.G. Ballard

A boy living in China at the outbreak of World War II is separated from his parents, forced to forage for survival in Shanghai’s foreign quarter, interned in a Japanese prison camp, and, eventually, reunited with his parents. 279 pages

East Wind, West Wind
by Pearl S. Buck

A girl from a traditional upper class home is given in an arranged marriage to a man who has travelled to Europe and America and learned their ways. Love slowly develops between them as she tries to adapt her cloistered upbringing and traditions to his modern ideas. 277 pages

The Good Earth
by Pearl S. Buck

Wang Lung, a Chinese peasant, rises from poverty to become a rich landowner with the aid of his patient wife in the 1920s. 357 pages

Mr. Muo’s Traveling Couch
by Sijie Dai

After years of studying Freud in Paris, Mr. Muo returns home to bring the benefits of psychoanalysis to 21st century China and to somehow free his college sweetheart, now a political prisoner, a quest that leads him to the sadistic local magistrate. 287 pages

I Am China
by Xiaolu Guo

A London publisher translates a correspondence between two young lovers, including a Beijing singer from a loving family and a famous punk rocker who weaves his subversive political views into his music. 373 pages

When We Were Orphans
by Kazuo Ishiguro

Christopher Banks, an English boy born in early 20th century Shanghai, is orphaned at age nine when both his mother and father disappear under suspicious circumstances. He grows up to become a renowned detective, and more than 20 years later, returns to Shanghai to solve the mystery of the disappearances. 335 pages

A Hero Born
by Yong Jin

Guo Jing returns to China after the death of his father to carry out his destiny and battle an opponent he’s spent his life preparing to battle. 394 pages

The Leavers
by Lisa Ko

One morning, 11-year-old Deming Guo’s mother, an undocumented Chinese immigrant named Polly, goes to her job and never comes home. Deming is eventually adopted by two white college professors who move him from the Bronx to a small town. This is a story of a boy who struggles to find his footing in a new world and also an unflinching look at the difficult decisions a mother faces. 338 pages

Searching for Sylvie Lee
by Jean Kwok

In one Chinese immigrant family, when one sister disappears, a tangle of family secrets emerges. 317 pages
Empress Orchid
by Anchee Min
A fictional portrait of the last empress of China follows Orchid, a beautiful teenager from an aristocratic family, who is chosen to become a concubine of the emperor and rises to a position of power in the Chinese court. 336 pages

Pearl of China
by Anchee Min
In the small southern town of Chin-kiang, in the last days of the 19th century, young Willow and young Pearl S. Buck, the headstrong daughter of zealous Christian missionaries, bump heads and embark on a friendship that will sustain both of them through one of the most tumultuous periods in Chinese history. 278 pages

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane
by Lisa See
Li-Yan and her family devote their lives to farming tea. Like her mother, Li-Yan is being groomed to become a midwife in her Chinese village, but she yearns for more and is allowed to pursue her schooling. When Li-Yan finds herself alone and pregnant, she leaves her child, wrapped with a tea cake, at an orphanage. Her daughter is adopted by a couple from California, but she is drawn to the study of tea. 371 pages

The Joy Luck Club
by Amy Tan
After being drawn together by the shadows of their past, four women start meeting every week in San Francisco to engage in hobbies they all enjoy. After one of the four members dies, her daughter takes her place to fulfill her mother’s dying wish. After the revelation of a secret, the women are forced to think back to their pasts and remember the sometimes painful events of their lives. 288 pages

What We Were Promised
by Lucy Tan
Returning home to Shanghai after years of chasing the American dream, Wei Zhen and his newly wealthy family, including his wife, Lina, and their daughter, Karen, must each confront painful secrets and unfulfilled promises. 328 pages

Women of the Silk
by Gail Tsukiyama
Spanning the years between the world wars, this tale of a young Chinese girl forced to work in a silk factory describes the sisterhood of workers she discovers there. 278 pages

YA & ADULT NONFICTION

Factory Girls
by Leslie T. Chang
An eye-opening and previously untold story, “Factory Girls” is the first look into the everyday lives of the migrant factory population in China. 431 pages

The Cambridge Illustrated History of China
by Patricia Buckley Ebrey
Provides an overview of Chinese history. 384 pages

China’s Imperial Dynasties: 1600 BC to AD 1912
by Jonathan Fenby
In this book, the author tells the rich and turbulent story of China imperial dynasties’ recurring pattern of birth, growth, prosperity and collapse due to external pressures. 255 pages

China: Land of Dragons and Emperors
by Adeline Yen Mah
Mah explores an extraordinary view of the great story of China over the last two millennia. Topics include its ancient dynasties, Chinese inventions, Chinese festivals and beliefs, and major changes in Chinese society. 240 pages
The Great Wall
by John Man
951 MAN
John Man travels the entire length of the Great Wall and across two millennia to find the truth behind the legends. Along the way, he delves into the remarkable and complex history of China—from the country’s tribal past right up to the modern day. 336 pages

China: An Intimate Look at the Past and Present
by Anthony Paul
951 PAU
Revisits the areas where China’s Long March—the momentous 6,000 mile journey across China by the Red Army—took place. 396 pages

Seventy Wonders of China
by Jonathan Fenby
951 SEV
A look at the artistic and architectural achievements of China, as well as the natural beauties. 304 pages

Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister
by Jung Chang
951.0509 CHA
They were the most famous sisters in China. As the country battled through a hundred years of wars, revolutions and seismic transformations, the three Soong sisters from Shanghai were at the center of power, and each of them left an indelible mark on history. 384 pages

Last Boat Out of Shanghai
by Helen Zia
951.042 ZIA
The true story of four young people whose lives are forever changed as they flee their homes and the violence and tyranny of Mao and the rise of his Communist regime in Shanghai in 1949. 499 pages

Wild Swans
by Jung Chang
951.05 CHA
A Chinese woman chronicles the struggles of her grandmother, mother, and herself to survive in a China torn apart by wars, invasions, revolution, and continuing upheaval, from 1907 to the present. 524 pages

Red China Blues
by Jan Wong
951.05 WON
The author’s memoir of her six-year romance with Maoism follows her education at Beijing University, her marriage to an American draft-dodger, and disillusionment in the face of Chinese communist rule. 405 pages

Blood Letters
by Xi Lian
951.056 LIA
The staggering story of the most important Chinese political dissident of the Mao era, a devout Christian who was imprisoned, tortured, and executed by the regime. 331 pages

South of the Clouds
by Seth Faison
951.058 FAI
Chronicles the author’s 10 years spent in China during the 1980s and 1990s while a student and foreign correspondent for the "New York Times." While there, he witnessed the impact of such events as the Tiananmen Square massacre and the Falun Gong movement. 278 pages

Chinese Lessons
by John Pomfret
951.058 POM
A journalist for The Washington Post offers an eyewitness account of the changes in China over the past 40 years as he recalls his stint as a 20-year-old exchange student from Stanford at China's Nanjing University. 315 pages

Postcards from Tomorrow Square
by James Fallows
951.06 FAL
The author of the highly acclaimed "Blind Into Baghdad" reports firsthand on the momentous changes taking place in China and what it means for America. 262 pages
Under Red Skies
by Karoline Kan
951.061 KAN
Explores generational bonds and divisions in one family due to China’s cultural traditions, changing societal norms, and growing economy. 304 pages

For a Song and a Hundred Songs
by Yiwu Liao
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An award-winning exiled poet remembers his years in prison following the Tiananmen Square protests, describing the brutality he endured for writing the incendiary poem, “Massacre,” the humanity he discovered in his fellow cellmates, and the ways in which his incarceration reflected key changes in China. 404 pages

Falling Leaves
by Adeline Yen Mah
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The daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman describes her very difficult childhood and the psychological abuse she suffered at the hands of her stepmother. 278 pages

Mao Zedong and the Chinese Revolution
by Corinne Naden
Mao Zedong and the Chinese Revolution
by Corinne Naden
A look at the life of the man who transformed China from a culture steeped in ancient traditions into a revolutionary communist state and renewed trade with the United States. 144 pages

American Shaolin
by Matthew Polly
American Shaolin
by Matthew Polly
Describes the childhood dream that led the author to study martial arts at China’s famed Shaolin Temple, his initial disenchantment that turned into respect for the instructors, and the training that eventually led him to represent the Temple in international competitions. 366 pages

Daughter of China
by Meihong Xu
Daughter of China
by Meihong Xu
When Meihong Xu’s relationship with an American professor is discovered, she is taken captive and helplessly watches as officers forge a statement claiming that he raped her. 349 pages

My Name Is Number 4
by Ting-xing Ye
My Name Is Number 4
by Ting-xing Ye
The real-life story of Ting-xing Ye, the fourth child in a family torn apart by China’s Cultural Revolution. At the age of 16, she was exiled to a prison farm and despite years of terror was able to keep her spirit intact. 230 pages