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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**

**Year of Impossible Goodbyes**
by Sook Nyul Choi  
A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Russian occupation of North Korea during the 1940s, and later escapes to freedom in South Korea. 171 pages

**In the Shadow of the Sun**
by Anne Sibley O’Brien  
After their father is arrested while providing aid in North Korea, Mia and her older brother, Simon, need to flee the country after they find themselves in possession of photographs that can expose atrocities about the country's labor camps. 303 pages

**When My Name Was Keoko**
by Linda Sue Park  
With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely. 199 pages

**Sondok, Princess of the Moon and Stars**
by Sheri Holman  
In a series of messages placed in her grandmother’s ancestral jar, a seventh century princess and future ruler of the Korean kingdom of Silla, vents her frustration at not being permitted to study astronomy. 187 pages

**Young Adult Fiction**

**Wicked Fox**
by Kat Cho  
After 18-year-old Gu Miyoung, a nine-tailed fox surviving in modern-day Seoul by eating the souls of evil men, kills a murderous goblin to save Jihoon, she is forced to choose between her immortal life and his. 424 pages

**Kimchi and Calamari**
by Rose Kent  
Adopted from Korea by Italian parents, 14-year-old Joseph Calderaro begins to make important self-discoveries about race and family after his social studies teacher assigns an essay on cultural heritage and tracing the past. 220 pages

**A Step from Heaven**
by An Na  
A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America. 156 pages

**Rebel Seoul**
by Axie Oh  
In 2199 in the Neo State of Korea, 18-year-old Jaewon is partnered with supersoldier Tera, but their love is threatened when Jaewon must choose among conflicting loyalties—to the totalitarian government that promises to end all war, the nationalist rebels his father followed, or the crime syndicate staging a coup. 389 pages
Graphic Novels

Bride of the Water God
by Mi-Kyung Yun
Soah’s impoverished village sacrifices her in order to appease the water God, Habaek, and end a drought. Much to Soah’s surprise she is rescued by Habaek. 184 pages

Cook Korean!
by Robin Ha
An introduction to the basics of Korean cooking in graphic novel form, with 64 recipes, ingredient profiles, and more, presented through light-hearted comics. 175 pages

Uncomfortably Happily
by Yeon-sik Hong
Cartoonist Yeon-Sik Hong explores his move with his wife to a small house atop a rural mountain, replacing the high-rent hubbub of Seoul with the quiet murmur of the country. With their dog, cats, and chickens by their side, the simple life and isolation they so desperately craved proves to present new anxieties. 572 pages

Grass
by Keum Suk Gendry-Kim
Grass is a powerful anti-war graphic novel, offering up firsthand the life story of a Korean girl named Okseon Lee who was forced into sexual slavery for the Japanese Imperial Army during WWII - a disputed chapter in 20th century Asian history. 471 pages

Adult Fiction

The Orphan Master’s Son
by Adam Johnson
The son of an influential father who runs an orphan work camp, Pak Jun Do rises to prominence using instinctive talents and eventually becomes a professional kidnapper and romantic rival to Kim Jong Il. 174 pages

The Kinship of Secrets
by Eugenia Kim
The story of two sisters, one raised in the United States, the other in South Korea, and the family that bound them together even as the Korean War kept them apart. 292 pages

Pachinko
by Min Jin Lee
In early 1900s Korea, prized daughter Sunja finds herself pregnant and alone, bringing shame on her family until a young tubercular minister offers to marry her and move with her to Japan, in the saga of one family bound together as their faith and identity are called into question. 490 pages

The Frozen Hours
by Jeff Shaara
A clash between a North Korean invading army in 1950 South Korea and a U.S. defense force is challenged by overwhelmingly brutal weather conditions in a high-action account of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir that is told from the viewpoints of soldiers and leaders on both sides of the conflict. 525 pages

Please Look After Mom
by Kyung-sook Shin
After Park So-nyo’s disappearance in a Seoul subway, her grown children and her husband are filled with guilt and remorse at having taken So-nyo for granted, and they reflect on her life and role in their lives. 237 pages
Nonfiction

**The Birth of Korean Cool**
by Euny Hong

*Euny Hong reveals how a really uncool country became cool, and how a nation that once banned mini-skirts, long hair on men, and rock ‘n’ roll could come to mass produce boy bands, soap operas, and the world’s most popular smartphone.* 267 pages

**North Korea Confidential**
by Daniel Tudor

*Examines what life is like for ordinary citizens of North Korea, based on interviews with members of Pyongyang’s ruling families, diplomats with years of experience in the country, and cross-border traders from neighboring China.* 192 pages

**The Aquariums of Pyongyang**
by Chol-hwan Kang

*Kang Chol-hwan was nine years old when imprisoned at the Yodok camp in 1977. Over the next 10 years, he endured inhumane conditions and deprivations, including an inadequate diet (supplemented by frogs and rats), regular beatings, humiliations, and hard labor.* 238 pages

**Tales of a Korean Grandmother**
by Frances Carpenter

*Halmoni (grandmother) is full of stories, and loves telling them to her grandchildren. This collection of 32 folk tales starts by introducing the Kim household, and then Halmoni proceeds to relay the folk tales at different stages in her grandchildren’s lives.* 287 pages

**Korean Stories for Language Learners**
by Julie Damron

*Introduces 42 traditional Korean folktales with bilingual Korean and English versions. The book can be used by anyone wishing to learn about Korean folktales and traditional Korean culture, or as a reader in first- and second-year Korean language courses.* 222 pages

**Maangchi’s Big Book of Korean Cooking**
by Maangchi

*This is the definitive book on Korean cuisine by “YouTube’s Korean Julia Child.” In addition to the basics like Korean barbecue, fried chicken, bulgogi, and bibimbap, it also covers party foods, side dishes, different types of kimchi, and a variety of other types of food.* 447 pages

**The Korean Kimchi Cookbook**
by Man-Jo Kim

*This is the first Korean food cookbook in English to present Korean kimchi recipes in so many different forms -- and to fully explain the alchemy of fermentation and its health benefits. Also features the extensive history and background information about Korea’s cuisine and fascinating culture.* 120 pages

**K-Pop Now!**
by Mark James Russell

*Russell takes a look at Korea’s high-energy pop music, and gives you insider’s look at the groups and singers who have made it to the top. With infectious melodies and high-energy fun, attractive and talented singers and eye-popping visuals, K-Pop is the music of now.* 128 pages

**A Kim Jong-Il Production**
by Paul Fischer

*Before becoming the world’s most notorious dictator, Kim Jong-Il ran North Korea’s Ministry for Propaganda and its film studios. Despite this control, he was underwhelmed by the available talent and took drastic steps, ordering the kidnapping of South Korea’s most famous actress, and most famous director.* 353 pages

**The Snowy Road and Other Stories**

*Six stories provide a rare glimpse of Korean life as characters deal with Korean War, its aftermath, and how it impacts their lives.* 167 pages
The New Koreans
by Michael Breen
Provides a wide overview of how Korea (as a whole and divided) has evolved overtime, including history, how the country has built its wealth, politics and power struggles, and finally where the nation is headed. 462 pages

The Korean War
by Wada Haruki
Drawing on archival and other primary sources in Russia, China, the United States, South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan, the author moves beyond national histories to provide the first comprehensive understanding of the Korean War as an international conflict from the perspective of all the major actors. 381 pages

The Hermit King
by Chung Min Lee
Throughout the world, oppressive regimes are being uprooted and replaced by budding democracies, but one exception remains: The People's Republic of North Korea. Asian geopolitical expert Chung Min Lee tells the story of the rise of the Kim Dynasty and its atrocities, motivations, and diplomatic goals. He also discusses the possible outcomes of its aggressive standoff with the world superpowers. 290 pages

Nothing to Envy
by Barbara Demick
Follows the lives of six North Koreans over 15 years, a chaotic period that saw the rise to power of Kim Jong-II and the devastation of a famine that killed one-fifth of the population, illustrating what it means to live under the most repressive totalitarian regime today. 314 pages

Dear Leader
by Jin-Sung Jang
In this rare insider’s view into contemporary North Korea, a high-ranking counterintelligence agent describes his life as a former poet laureate to Kim Jong-II and his breathtaking escape to freedom. 339 pages

Under the Same Sky
by Joseph Kim
An inspirational memoir chronicling the life of Joseph Kim, who not only survived and escaped the devastating famine in North Korea as an abandoned young boy, but made it to the United States and is now thriving in college. 274 pages

Without You, There is No Us
by Suki Kim
A memoir of teaching English to the sons of North Korea’s ruling class during the last six months of Kim Jong-II’s Reign. 291 pages

Every Falling Star
by Sungju Lee
The memoir of Sungju, who grew up in North Korea and, at the age of 12, was forced to live on the streets and fend for himself after his parents disappeared. Finally, after years of being homeless and living with a gang, Sungju is reunited with his maternal grandparents and, eventually, his father. 314 pages

Escape from Camp 14
by Blaine Harden
Twenty-six years ago, Shin Dong-hyuk was born inside Camp 14, one of five sprawling political prisons in the mountains of North Korea. This is the gripping, terrifying story of his escape from this no-exit prison to freedom in South Korea. 205 pages