

CHUSEOK READING LIST

Books may be purchased online through the [museum boutique](#). For an alternative resource for purchasing books, please consider using [this list](#) of Black-owned independent bookstores compiled by Literary Hub.

“The Name Jar”

By Yangsook Choi

Ages 3–7

Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from.

“When Spring Comes to the DMZ”

By Uk-Bae Lee

Ages 4–7

This unique picture book invites young readers into the natural beauty of the DMZ, where salmon, spotted seals, and mountain goats freely follow the seasons and raise their families in a two-and-a-half-mile-wide, 150-mile-long corridor where no human may tread. But the vivid seasonal flora and fauna are framed by ever-present rusty razor wire, warning signs, and locked gates — and regularly interrupted by military exercises that continue decades after a 1953 ceasefire in the Korean War established the DMZ.

“Korean Folk Songs: Stars in the Sky and Dreams in Our Hearts”

By Robert Choi and SamEe Back

Ages 4–8

In “Korean Folk Songs,” music teacher Robert Choi shares 14 of Korea's best-loved classic children's songs — with musical scores and lyrics in both Korean and English. Included in this collection are well-known children's songs such as "Splashing Around" and "Mountain Rabbit" that incorporate fun actions and gestures.

“Living in . . . South Korea”

By Chloe Perkins and Tom Woolley

Ages 5–7

Discover what it's like to grow up in South Korea in this fascinating, nonfiction Level 2 Ready-to-Read, part of a series all about kids just like you in countries around the world!

“The Turtle Ship”

By Helena Ku Rhee and Colleen Kong-Savage

Ages 6–12

A young Korean boy named Sunsin designs one of the greatest battleships in history and fulfills his dream of sailing the world.

“Three Korean Fairy Tales: Beloved Stories and Legends”

By Kim So-un and Jeong Kyoung-Sim

Ages 6–12

This multicultural children's book presents a selection of traditional Korean folktales that are instantly recognizable to Koreans of all ages. These treasured tales are retold by Kim So-un, an eminent storyteller who is a household name in Korea. The illustrations combine modern and traditional Korean art elements and techniques.

“Korean Celebrations: Festivals, Holidays and Traditions”

By Tina Cho and Farida Zaman

Ages 8–12

“Korean Celebrations” takes young readers on an exciting exploration of Korea's colorful festivals and family celebrations — wonderful days that are filled with exciting activities and delicious foods.

“Seesaw Girl”

By Mou-Sien Tseng, Linda Sue Park, and Jean Tseng

Ages 8–12

Jade never ventures beyond the walls of her family's inner court — in 17th-century Korea, a girl of good family does not leave home until she marries. She is enthralled by her older brother's stories about trips to the market and to the ancestral grave sites in the mountains, about reading and painting, about his conversations with their father about business and politics and adventures only boys can have. Jade accepts her destiny, and yet she is endlessly curious about what lies beyond the walls.

“The Kite Fighters”

By Linda Sue Park

Ages 8–12

In a riveting narrative set in 15th-century Korea, two brothers discover a shared passion for kites. Kee-sup can craft a kite unequalled in strength and beauty, but his younger brother, Young-sup, can fly a kite as if he controlled the wind itself. Their combined skills attract the notice of Korea's young king, who chooses Young-sup to fly the royal kite in the New Year kite-flying competition — an honor that is also an awesome responsibility.

“All About Korea: Stories, Songs, Crafts and Games for Kids”

By Ann Martin Bowler and Soosoonam Barg

Ages 9–12

This Korean children's book is an excellent introduction to the culture and history of Korea. It highlights favorite games, foods, special holiday times, and after-school activities specific to Korea.

“A Single Shard”

By Linda Sue Park

Ages 10–12

In this Newbery Medal–book set in 12th century Korea, Tree-ear, a 13-year-old orphan, lives under a bridge in Ch’ulp’o, a potters' village famed for delicate celadon ware. He has become fascinated with the potter’s craft; he wants nothing more than to watch master potter Min at work, and he dreams of making a pot of his own someday. When Min takes Tree-ear on as his helper, Tree-ear is elated — until he finds obstacles in his path.

“Land of Morning Calm: Korean Culture Then and Now”

By John Stickler and Soma Han

Ages 11–13

Take a journey to both ancient and modern Korea, where you will find a rich world of history and traditions that will capture your imagination and whet your appetite for learning more about this fascinating culture.

“Banned Book Club”

By Kim Hyun Sook, Ryan Estrada, and Ko Hyung-Ju

Ages 13 and up

This graphic novel tells the gripping true story of a South Korean woman's student days under an authoritarian regime in the early 1980s, and how she defied state censorship through the rebellion of reading.