

Lesson Title: East Asian Fiction and Non-Fiction Books

Class and Grade level(s): English, grades 6-12

Goals and Objectives

Goals

- Students will share knowledge and information with others
- Students will respect others' ideas and backgrounds and acknowledge their contributions

Objectives

- Students will successfully read a book about East Asian life
- Students will reflect on their own ideas about this culture
- Students will create an attractive presentation designed to promote East Asian culture

Time required/class periods needed: 3 weeks

Primary source bibliography: See book review list below

Other resources used: n/a

Required materials/supplies: n/a

Vocabulary: n/a

Procedure:

1. Students will select from the list below (or submit for approval their own choice) either a fiction or non-fiction book about East Asia found on the attached list to read in their Exploratory Reading class.
2. Before reading, each student will write down three preconceived notions or beliefs they have regarding East Asian culture.
3. After reading, students will create a book folder to be used in an East Asian Book Display in the library. This book display will be created to coincide with East Asian Awareness Month in May. (See instructions for students in following pages.)

Assessment/evaluation: n/a

BOOK FOLDER PROJECT

Your first task is to select a book from the attached list or submit a book of your choice for approval: The book must be about East Asia. It may be fiction or non-fiction.

Before you begin to read, reflect on what you think about the culture you are about to explore. Write down three of your preconceived ideas. You will need these statements later.

Read the book.

After you're done, you will be supplied with a brightly colored folder to use as part of an East Asian display that will be displayed in the school library.

Project Guidelines (follow them exactly)

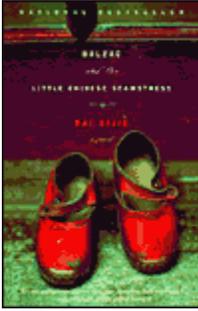
- On the upper left hand corner of the front of the folder, write your name, the class, the teacher and the date in MLA format.
- Glue a color copy of the front cover of the book to the front of your folder. It can be downloaded and printed from the internet. The image must be a minimum of 3"x 5".
- Find your original three statements and write a response to each of them showing how your perceptions have or have not changed based on what you learned through your reading. Have it reviewed by both a peer and your teacher. Paste the edited document on the inside right page.
- Write a critique/review of the book. This critique should be a minimum of three paragraphs that give reasons that you recommend or do not recommend this book. Submit it for review to both a peer and your teacher. Paste the edited version of this review to the inside left page of the folder.
- Write a synopsis of the book like the blurbs found in the inside front covers of books you have read. Design it to get someone interested in reading the book without any spoiler alerts. You may use the synopsis written by the publisher as a guide but do not use it verbatim: This is plagiarism. Write your own. Submit it for review to both a peer and your teacher. Paste the revised version to the back cover of your folder.
- Submit your finished product to the teacher for display.

Collection or Display: Book Folder

Teacher name: Debra Hutton

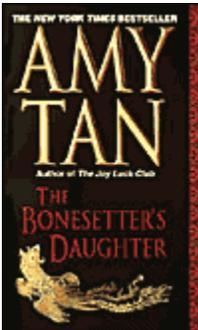
Student Name _____

CATEGORY	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Display	The folder is attractive and well-organized. The instructions for presentation were clearly followed. The items are neatly and securely attached to the display. .	The folder is attractive and well-organized. The instructions for presentation were mostly followed. The items are neatly and securely attached to the display.	The folder is somewhat organized. Most instructions for presentation were followed. The items are securely attached to the display.	The display is not organized OR the items are not securely attached to the display. Instructions for presentation were not followed. Items are missing or incomplete.
Number of items	The folder has all required items with no grammatical and/or content errors.	The folder has all required items, with a few minor grammatical and/or content errors.	The folder has most of the required items, with grammatical and/or content errors.	The folder does not have all required items and there are numerous grammatical and/or content errors.
Participation	Student showed great enthusiasm and focused on the task. The deadlines assigned were met in a timely fashion.	Student showed some enthusiasm and focused on the task. The deadlines assigned were met in a timely fashion.	Student did work, but lost focus or became frustrated. The deadlines were not met, but the project was eventually completed.	Student often lost focus or became frustrated and distracted others. The deadlines were ignored and/or the project is incomplete.
Knowledge Gained	The project clearly demonstrates knowledge gained.	The project shows real effort on the part of the student to understand the goals of the project.	The project illustrates some understanding of the goals of the project by the student.	The project does not illustrate an understanding of the goals of the project by the students.

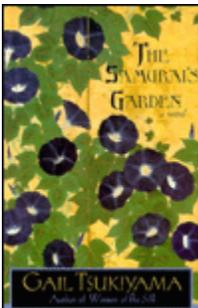


Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress (by Sijie Dai, Ina Rilke

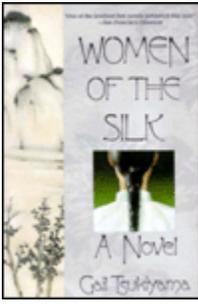
(Translator) is an enchanting tale that captures the magic of reading and the wonder of romantic awakening. An immediate international bestseller, it tells the story of two hapless city boys exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution. There the two friends meet the daughter of the local tailor and discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation. As they flirt with the seamstress and secretly devour these banned works, the two friends find transit from their grim surroundings to worlds they never imagined.



The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan. At the beginning of Amy Tan's fourth novel, two packets of papers written in Chinese calligraphy fall into the hands of Ruth Young. One bundle is titled *Things I Know Are True* and the other, *Things I Must Not Forget*. The author? That would be the protagonist's mother, LuLing, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In these documents the elderly matriarch, born in China in 1916, has set down a record of her birth and family history, determined to keep the facts from vanishing as her mind deteriorates.



The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama. On the eve of the Second World War, a young Chinese man is sent to his family's summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis. He will rest, swim in the salubrious sea, and paint in the brilliant shoreside light. It will be quiet and solitary. But he meets four local residents - a lovely young Japanese girl and three older people. What then ensues is a tale that readers will find at once classical yet utterly unique. Young Stephen has his own adventure, but it is the unfolding story of Matsu, Sachi, and Kenzo that seizes your attention and will stay with you forever. Tsukiyama, with lines as clean, simple, telling, and dazzling as the best of Oriental art, has created an exquisite little masterpiece.



Women of the Silk by Gail Tsukiyama. In pre-World War II China, many impoverished families sent their young daughters to work in silk factories. . . . {This novel} tells the story of one such girl, Pei, who is summarily deposited in the care of a stranger called Auntie Yee, the manager of a boarding house that provides food, clothes and lodging to the girls who work in the factory. In time, Pei's sense of abandonment fades as she develops deep friendships with other girls and adjusts to the grueling conditions in the factory. Against a backdrop of change in China, Pei grows into womanhood.



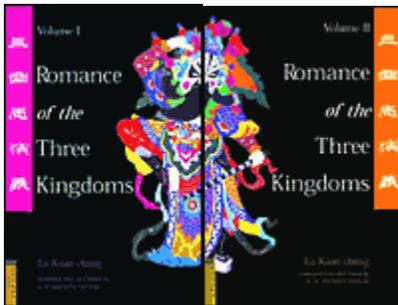
Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang. In 1966 Ji-li Jiang turned twelve. An outstanding student and leader, she had everything: brains, the admiration of her peers, and a bright future in China's Communist Party. But that year China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launched the Cultural Revolution, and everything changed. Over the next few years Ji-li and her family were humiliated and scorned by former friends, neighbors, and co-workers. They lived in constant terror of arrest. Finally, with the detention of her father, Ji-li faced the most difficult choice of her life.



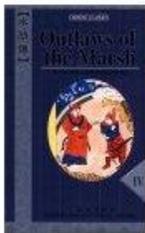
The Examination by Malcolm Bosse. In imperial China, recruitment for public office was effected through a series of competitive examinations. In this story, which takes place during the late Ming Dynasty (late 16th to early 17th-century C.E.), young Lao Chen journeys from his hometown to the capital of his province for the provincial exams, then to Beijing for the nationals. An aloof, brilliant, yet impractical scholar, Chen . . . is accompanied by his younger brother and self-appointed guardian, Hong, who is practical and worldly wise. The two traverse a nation in decline, replete with peasant rebellions, secret societies, {and} armies on the move. . . . As one brother crowns his achievements with a government post, the other secures his position in a secret society dedicated to bringing down that government.



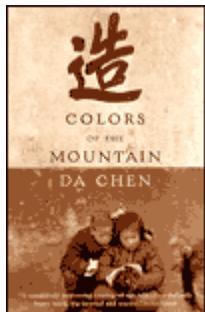
Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom by Katherine Paterson. It is China in 1850, and fifteen-year-old Wang Lee is gathering what is left of his family's harvest, when he is suddenly ambushed and kidnapped by bandits. But even as his life has changed, it will change again - for he is set free by beautiful Mei Lin, a soldier and spy who belongs to a group of rebels fighting for the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace. Soon Wang Lee is sergeant in the Heavenly Army, and Mei Lin a colonel - and they are forbidden to see each other. As the brutal years on the battlefield wear on, both of them wonder: what kind of peace begins with killing and denial of love?



Three Kingdoms: volume I and II by Luo Guanzhong. Three Kingdoms tells the story of the fateful last reign of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), when the Chinese empire was divided into three warring kingdoms. Writing some twelve hundred years later, the Ming author Luo Guanzhong drew on histories, dramas, and poems portraying the crisis to fashion a sophisticated, compelling narrative that has become the Chinese national epic. The novel offers an intimate and unsparing view of how power is wielded, how diplomacy is conducted, and how wars are planned and fought. As important for Chinese culture as the Homeric epics have been for the West, this Ming dynasty masterpiece continues to be widely influential in China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam, and remains a great work of world literature.

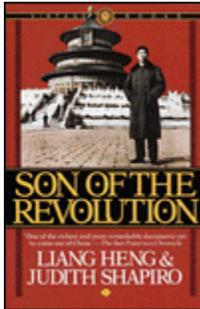


Outlaws of the Marsh. China's great classic novel *Outlaws of the Marsh*, written in the fourteenth century, is a fictional account of twelfth-century events during the Song Dynasty. One by one, over a hundred men and women are forced by the harsh feudal officialdom to take to the hills. They band together and defeat every attempt of the government troops to crush them. Within this framework we find intrigue, adventure, murder, warfare, romance ... in a connected series of fascinating individual tales, told in the suspenseful manner of the traditional storyteller.

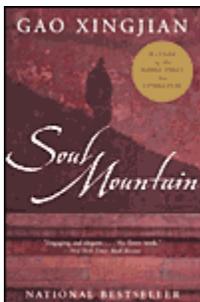


Colors of the Mountain by Da Chen. In 1962, as millions of Chinese citizens were gripped by Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution and the Red Guards enforced a brutal regime of communism, a boy was born to a poor family in southern China. Da Chen seemed destined for a life of poverty, shame, and hunger." "But winning humor and an

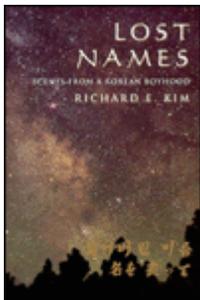
indomitable spirit can be found in the most unexpected places. *Colors of the Mountain* is a story of triumph, a memoir of a boyhood full of spunk, mischief, and love. The young Da Chen is part Horatio Alger, part Holden Caulfield; he befriends a gang of young hoodlums as well as the elegant, elderly Chinese Baptist woman who teaches him English and opens the door to a new life. Chen's remarkable story is full of unforgettable scenes of rural Chinese life: feasting on oysters and fried peanuts on New Year's Day, studying alongside classmates who wear red armbands and quote Mao, and playing and working in the peaceful rice fields near his village.



Son of the Revolution by Liang Heng. This is the autobiography of an "individual growing up in Mao Tse-tung's home province during the Great Leap Forward (1958-59), the three years of famine that followed, and the ten-year {Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution}... . Liang Heng, the son of a reporter for the Hunan Daily, is the narrator, and Judith Shapiro, his American wife, is the co-author. The core of the book is Liang's experience during the first half of the Cultural Revolution, from the time he was 12 to the time when he was about 17



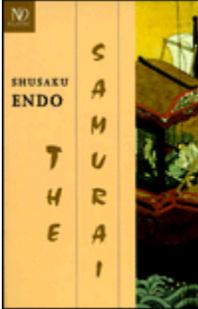
Soul Mountain by Gao Xingjian. In 1983 Chinese playwright, critic, fiction writer and painter Gao Xingjian was diagnosed with lung cancer and faced imminent death. But six weeks later, a second examination revealed there was no cancer--he had won "a reprieve from death" and had been thrown back into the world of the living. Faced with a repressive cultural environment and the threat of a spell on a prison farm, Gao fled Beijing. He traveled to the remote mountains and ancient forests of central China and from there back to the east coast, a journey of fifteen thousand kilometers over a period of five months. The result of this epic voyage of discovery was *Soul Mountain*.



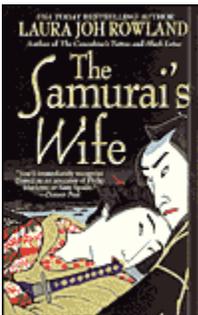
Lost Names by Richard Kim. In this classic tale, Richard Kim paints seven vivid scenes from a boyhood and early adolescence in Korea at the height of the Japanese occupation, 1932 - 1945. Taking its title from the grim fact that the occupiers forced the Koreans to renounce their own names and adopt Japanese names instead, the book follows one Korean family through the Japanese occupation to the surrender of the Japanese Empire.



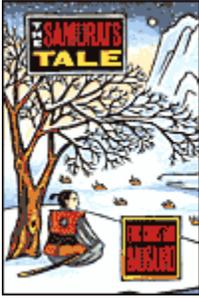
Silence (by Shusaku Endo) is set in 17th Century Japan during an incredible period of persecution towards Christians (both Japanese and foreign). The novel deals with this persecution and the ramifications of priests turning apostate and denying their faith.



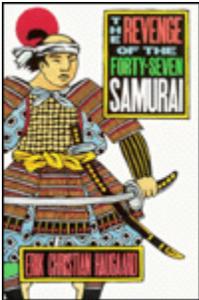
The Samurai by Shusaku Endo. Set in the period preceding the Christian persecutions in Japan recorded so memorably in Endo's *Silence*, this book traces the steps of some of the first Japanese to set foot on European soil. *The Samurai*, without doubt one of the late Shusaku Endo's finest works, seamlessly combines historical fact with novelist's imaginings. Set in the period preceding the Christian persecutions in Japan, *The Samurai* traces the steps of some of the first Japanese to set foot on European soil. Rokuemon Hasekura, a low-ranking warrior, is chosen as one of Japan's envoys to the Viceroy of Mexico and Pope Paul V. The emissaries set sail in 1613, accompanied by an ambitious Franciscan missionary who hopes to bargain trading privileges with the West for the right to head his order in Japan. The arduous journey lasts four years, and the Japanese travel from Mexico to Rome, where they are persuaded that the success of their mission depends on their conversion willy-nilly to Christianity. In fact, the enterprise has been futile from the start and the mission returns to Japan where the political tides have shifted: the authorities are pursuing an isolationist policy and a ruthless stamping out of all Western influences. In the face of disillusionment and death, samurai Rokuemon's only support and solace come from the spiritual lord he is not even sure he believes in.



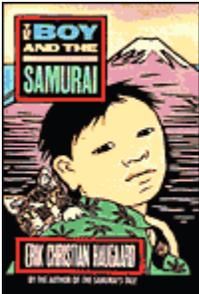
The Samurai's Wife by Laura Joh Rowland. Far from the shogun's court at Edo, Most Honorable Investigator Sano Ichiro begins the most challenging case of his career. Upon the insistence of his strong-willed and beautiful wife Reiko, Sano arrives with her at the emperor's palace to unmask the murderer-who possesses the secret of kiai-"the spirit cry"-a powerful scream that can kill instantly. A high Kyoto official is the victim. Treading carefully through a web of spies, political intrigue, forbidden passions, and intricate plots, Sano and Reiko must struggle to stay ahead of the palace storms-and outwit a cunning killer. But as they soon discover, solving the case means more than their survival. For if they fail, Japan could be consumed in the bloodiest war it has ever seen...



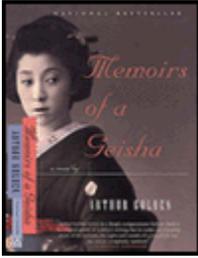
The Samurai's Tale by Erik Christian Haugaard. In this ALA Notable Book, Haugaard immerses readers in the fascinating world of 16th century feudal Japan. After his parents are violently murdered, young Murakami is kidnapped and forced to become a slave. Now called Taro, he must work for a general who serves the warlord Takeda Shingen. Under the general's rule, Taro learns to become a samurai and eventually escapes so that he can avenge his family's death. This action-packed historical novel effectively interweaves authentic details of 16th century Japan with the gripping struggle of a young man to avenge his past.



The Revenge of the Forty-Seven Samurai by Erik Christian Haugaard. In the days the shogun ruled Japan, two hundred samurai suffered a grave insult when their master met an unjust death. Forty-seven of them were courageous enough to avenge him. A lowly servant to one of the brave samurai is Jiro, who calls himself a "fly on the wall." Chosen as his master's unlikely spy during the planning of the great revenge, Jiro must know when to talk and when to listen lest he lose his head to a Samurai testing the sharpness of his sword. As Jiro plays his small part in the plan of the forty-seven samurai, he searches for his own identity in the barbaric society of feudal Japan.



The Boy and the Samurai by Erik Christian Haugaard. This novel set in sixteenth-century Japan "tells the story of the boy Saru, a homeless, ragged orphan adrift in a poverty-stricken city. Scavenging for food and fighting for survival, Saru learns to face danger with cunning and self-reliance. For a time Saru's only solace is his cat, but his life changes when a poor Buddhist priest, a man of gentleness and humble wisdom, shelters the boy in his little temple. . . . {When a young samurai} comes to the temple sorrowing for his wife, vindictively held captive by the ruthless provincial overlord, only Saru . . . is able to effect her rescue.



Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. An epic on an intimate scale, *Memoirs of a Geisha* takes the reader behind the rice-paper screens of the geisha house to a vanished floating world of beauty and cruelty, from a poor fishing village in 1929 to the decadence of 1940s Kyoto, through the chaos of World War II to the towers of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where the gray-eyed geisha Sayuri unfolds the remarkable story of her life.