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Children's Books about Asia

July 2009 update

This is a selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction, which are either about various countries in Asia or have characters who come from Asia. The books listed are for both Elementary and Secondary levels. Please take the recommended age levels as a rough guide. Titles newly included in this list are marked with •

All prices are in Australian dollars and include 10% GST tax. However this GST does not apply to exports from Australia.

If you would like to order any of the books on the list, send the orders to Austral Ed by post, fax or by email. Payment can be made by direct bank transfer or bank cheques in Australian dollars or by Credit card especially for private purchases. Freight is sent by the most economical method within Australia or overseas, depending on urgency.

Recommended by Kate Shepherd

Picture Books

Lin Acacio-Flores

The Quarreling Kites illus by Hermes Alegre pb \$22.95 This is a story from the Philippines about two kites and the father and son who fly and fix the kites with running repairs. The kites are at first quarrelsome but then love to fly together. (5 – 8 years)

Francisco Arcellana

The Mats illustrated by Hermes Alegre pb \$20.95 A beautiful story by a master storyteller from the Philippines about a father who brings back a special sleeping mat for each member of the family and he doesn't forget the three sisters who died when very young. A wonderful book which makes us think about the joys and losses of family life.

Bernard Ashley

Cleversticks illustrated by Derek Brazell pb \$11.95 Ling Sung decides he doesn't like school but all his problems disappear when he discovers there is something he can do that

others can't – he can use chopsticks.

Dawn Casey

The Great Race: The Story of the Chinese Zodiac illus by Anne Wilson hardback \$27.00

A lively retelling of the traditional story of how the calendar years came to be named after animals. There is also information on the Chinese calendar and on the characters of people born in particular animal years. ((6 – 10 years)

Debbie Chen

• **Monkey Boy Defeats Red Boy** illus by Wenhai Ma hardback \$35.95

One of the exciting adventure stories in the classic Monkey King tradition, this is beautifully illustrated and has English and Chinese text. Other titles in the Adventures of the Monkey King series are **Monkey King Wreaks Havoc in Heaven**, and **Tang Monk Disciples Monkey King**. The first book in the series is **The Making of Monkey King** illus by Robert Kraus. (7 – 10 years)

Hyechong Cheung and Prodeepta Das

K is for Korea hardback \$27.95

A very informative, beautifully photographed alphabet book which gives readers an introduction to the cultural background and everyday life of Korea.

Yangsook Choi

The Name Jar pb \$16.95 A story about a young Korean girl who thinks she will choose an American name when she comes to live in America in order to fit in better. However in the end she decides that her name, Unhei meaning Grace, reflects herself and her culture. A lesson in cultural understanding in the classroom.

Shirley Climo

The Korean Cinderella illustrated by Ruth Heller hardback \$38.95 pb \$17.95 A Korean version of this favourite fairy tale.

Prodeepta Das

I is for India pb \$15.95 Big Book \$37.95

A very informative, beautifully photographed alphabet book which gives readers an introduction to the cultural background and everyday life of India.

Geeta's Day: From Dawn to Dusk in an Indian Village pb \$15.95 Geeta's day is typical of children in villages throughout India. Vivid photographs and simple text show us Geeta's family, her school, the jobs or crafts of village people and the games she plays.

Prita Goes to India pb \$15.95 This is the diary of Prita's trip to India to meet her father and mother's family. She describes her excitement on visiting the Taj Mahal, New Delhi and her many relatives in villages in Orissa. Excellent photos. (6 – 10 years)

Demi

The Empty Pot hardback \$38.95 pb \$18.95 When the Emperor of China gives all the children seeds to grow, Ping is dismayed that his pot is the only empty pot. All the other children have grown beautiful flowers. However the emperor is delighted with Ping since he is the only one honest enough to admit that his seed didn't grow. (5 – 8 years)

One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale hardback \$44.95 Beautifully illustrated in the style of Indian miniatures, this is the story of a young girl who requests, as a reward for a good deed, just one grain of rice at first and then double the amount of the day before over 30 days. To the greedy Raja's astonishment, this grows to more than one billion grains of rice which she shares with the hungry people. (5 - 12)

Kites pb \$16.95 A vibrantly illustrated book about the many different types of kites that are part of a very strong kite flying tradition in China. (7 - 11 years)

• **Marco Polo** hardback \$24.95 Beautifully illustrated this book describes in detail Marco Polo's epic voyage to China with his uncles and also his time in Kublai Khan's court where he stayed for 20 years. It also describes his astonishing voyage home and his reception in Venice where very few believed the story of his amazing journeys. (9 - 12 years)

Allan Drummond

The Willow Pattern Story pb \$10.95 This is one version of the story which explains the motifs of the Chinese influenced blue and white pattern so often used on crockery.

Ina R Friedman

How My Parents Learned to Eat illustrated by Allen Say hardback \$36.95 pb \$14.95 A charming and amusing story of a young girl recounting how her parents, one as a young Japanese school girl and the other a young US sailor, learned to master the difficult art of eating with the utensils of the other culture (chopsticks or knife, fork and spoon).

Catherine Gower

Long-Long's New Year: A story about the Chinese Spring Festival illustrated by He Zhihong pb \$15.95 Grandpa and Long-long go to sell the cabbages they have grown in order to get money to buy what the family needs to celebrate at home the spring festival. Beautiful illustrations of the bustling market.

Libby Hathorn

The River Illustrated by Stanley Wong hardback \$26.95 Hong is a girl in modern day China who becomes engrossed in the story of a young girl from the country who journeyed along a river following a map to her grandparents' village. Much to discuss. (8 - 12 years)

Sally Heinrich

The Most Beautiful Lantern hardback \$29.00 All the children are to carry a lantern during the parade for the mid-autumn festival and Mei-Ling wants to carry the most beautiful lantern she can find. However she can't make up her mind which is best. As she searches with her grandfather or mother this becomes an opportunity for stories about the festival and the significance of some of the lanterns that she sees. This is a charming story with bright lively illustrations. (6 - 9 years)

Minfong Ho

Maples in the Mist illustrated by Jean & Mou-sien Tseng hardback \$20.95 A beautifully illustrated collection of very short simple poems written for children from the Tang dynasty in China (618 - 907 AD). It includes an introduction and brief notes and the poems in English and Chinese.

Minfong Ho and Saphan Ros

Hush! A Thai Lullaby illus by Holly Meade pb \$17.95 A mother tells all the creatures nearby, the mosquito, the lizard, the frog, the monkey and the elephant to hush and not to wake her baby. Illustrations beautifully capture the scene of Thai village life.

Jim Holmes and Tom Morgan

Huy & Vinh's Day: From Dawn to Dusk in a Vietnamese City hardback \$27.95

Another engaging story in the Child's Day series about Vietnamese twin boys who are seven years old and live in Danang, a coastal city.

Krach Maywan Shen

D is for Doufou: An Alphabet Book of Chinese Culture illus by Hongbin Zhang pb \$26.95 An exceptional book which gives an insight into the pictographic nature of the Chinese language through 25 Chinese words and phrases. It gives a fascinating historical and cultural background through well known words such as kungfu, feng shui or more complex words like "ai" meaning "love" where the explanation shows some of the cultural differences between Chinese and western ways of thinking. Wonderful illustrations in the style of Chinese folk art. (9 years up)

Kath Lock

The Tiger, the Brahmin and the Jackal illus by David Kennett pb \$13.50 A beautifully illustrated story from India in which the quickwitted jackal saves the trusting Brahmin from the treacherous tiger and holds the reader in suspense right to the clever conclusion. Also **The Sea of Gold**, a traditional story from Japan and **Kuan Yin**, a story about the Chinese Goddess of compassion. Each pb \$13.50

Junko Morimoto

The Two Bullies translated by Isao Morimoto pb \$16.95 Ni-ou was the strongest man in Japan and Dokkoi was the strongest in China but when they get within hearing distance of each other they show that bravery is not one of their strengths. Illustrated with great inventiveness, humour and beauty using both traditional and modern elements of style.

Fran Ng

The Brothers Wu and the Good-Luck Eel pictures by Arnel Mirasol pb \$22.95 Vibrant illustrations give an insight into a bustling Filipino-Chinese district of Manila in this true family story which describes the reason why their family never eats eel.

Susan Miho Nunes

The Last Dragon illus by Chris K Soentpiet pb \$14.95 A young boy's determination and the help of the people in Chinatown bring to life the old dragon and the young Chinese boy discovers he has many friends in Chinatown.

Shazia Razzak and Prodeepta Das

P is for Pakistan hardback \$27.95 An informative, beautifully photographed alphabet book which gives readers an introduction to the cultural background and everyday life of Pakistan.

Betty Reynolds

Tokyo Friends - Tokyo no Tomodachi pb \$16.95 This is an excellent introduction to Japanese language and culture and also some of the differences between Japanese and western customs. When Katie meets her two Japanese friends in Tokyo, they show us some of the everyday things that they do and the Japanese and English words for them. The words are written in English, in Japanese phonetically and also in the Japanese script and are accompanied by lively illustrations. (6 - 12 years)

Squeamish about Sushi and other food adventures in Japan hardback \$28.00 pb \$20.00 Written in a similar entertaining format, this is a more detailed exploration of the intricacies of eating sushi and other food in Japan. (12 years up)

Allen Say

Grandfather's Journey hardback \$33.95 pb \$18.95 Allen Say's grandfather made the journey from Japan to the United States when he was a young man and this story beautifully describes through text and illustrations the love that he and his grandson feel for both countries. Caldecott Medal winner. (8 years up)

Tea with Milk hb \$33.50 is the story of his mother who was born in the US and felt ill at ease when she moved back to Japan. Both stories are beautifully illustrated.

Aaron Shepard

Lady White Snake A Tale from Chinese Opera illus by Song Nan Zhang hardback \$36.95 (English and also available in Chinese & English) The story of a thousand year old snake which visits the human world in the form of a young woman and falls in love with a mortal. Beautiful illustrations give an idea of the operatic sets. (8 years up)

Jessica Souhami

Rama and the Demon King. An ancient Tale from India pb \$15.95 Big Book \$39.95 The illustrations for this retelling of the story of Rama have been adapted from Souhani's own shadow puppets and the retelling is dramatic and exciting. Elementary.

Sungwan So

C is for China pb \$15.95 A very informative, beautifully photographed alphabet book which gives readers an introduction to the cultural background and everyday life of China.

Yikang's Day: From Dawn to Dusk in a Chinese City pb \$15.95 A simply written description, illustrated with photographs, of an ordinary school day in the life of a seven year old girl in Changxi in northern China.

Shanyi Goes to China pb \$15.95 This is Shanyi's diary of her trip back to China. She visits her relatives in Hong Kong and also on nearby mainland China. Interesting text and vivid photographs give us many different impressions of life in China. (6 - 9 years)

Amy Tan

The Moon Lady illustrated by Gretchen Schields pb \$16.95 A grandmother tells her grandchildren a story of her own childhood in China when she became lost at the Chinese Moon Festival.

Holly Thompson

• **The Wakame Gatherers** illustrated by Kazumi Wilds hardback \$32.95

Nanami has two grandmothers: Baachan who lives in Japan with Nanami's family and Gram from Maine in the US. When Gram comes to visit her granddaughter in Japan Nanami is the translator between the two grandmothers who discover they have much in common since they both live near the sea and have a love of sea life and things to do with the sea. They go gathering wakame, a type of seaweed which is dried and then eaten in a variety of recipes (some of these are given at the end of the book). (6 - 10 years)

Song Nan Zhang

The Ballad of Mulan hb \$35.95 Beautifully retold and illustrated version of this traditional story about the Chinese heroine, Mulan. In English and Chinese characters.

The Great Voyages of Zheng He text by Song Nan Zhang & Hao Yu Zhang illustrated by Song Nan Zhang hardback \$36.95 in English and Chinese This book is a beautifully written and illustrated telling of the story of the amazing voyages undertaken by Zheng He during the Ming dynasty in the fifteenth century in China. The illustrations depict vividly the Chinese court, the building of the boats, the journeys and some of the amazing places he visited. The text is informative and well written, keeping to what is known. There is also a detailed map of Zheng He's voyages. (10 - 15 years)

Monkey and the White Bone Demon illus by four Chinese artists hardback \$11.00 One of the wonderful stories about Monkey, that fabulous mythical character so well loved in Chinese literature. Based on an episode from Monkey by Ch'engen.

Collections

"Access Asia Anthologies" compiled by Anthony Bott, Lee Grafton, Carolyn Millar and Doug Trevaskis. These books contain a fascinating selection of poems, short stories and extracts from a very wide variety of Asian literature. The activities and questions are designed to prompt discussion of the ideas and experiences in the texts.

Impressions: Texts from Asia for the Lower Secondary English Classroom pb \$17.95

Reflections: Texts from Asia for the Middle Secondary English Classroom pb \$22.95

Dimensions: Texts from Asia for the Upper Secondary English Classroom pb \$29.95

Sherab Chodzin and Alexander Kohn, retold by

The Barefoot Book of Buddhist Tales illustrated by Marie Cameron pb \$24.95 An illuminating and entertaining collection of Buddhist stories from India, Japan, China and Tibet. (9 years up)

Anita Ganeri

Story Teller series **Buddhist Stories, Hindu Stories, Islamic Stories** and **Sikh Stories.**

hardback \$33.95 pb \$19.95 each Each book contains eight simply told stories which introduce young readers to some of the beliefs, values and traditions of these religions.

Fact boxes give additional information about celebrations, important places and people. (9 - 11 years)

Madhur Jaffrey

Seasons of Splendour pb \$16.95 Marvellous retellings of traditional tales from Hindu epics, enriched with Jaffrey's very personal touch which supplies insight into Indian life.

(8 years up)

Rena Krasno

Floating Lanterns & Golden Shrines Celebrating Japanese Festivals hardback \$45.00

A collection of traditional stories and songs and also descriptions of some festivals and some activities and recipes. (9 years up)

Kneeling Carabao & Dancing Giants Celebrating Filipino Festivals hardback \$45.00

A similar collection from the Philippines.

Kay Lions

Malaysian Children's Favourite Stories illustrated by Martin Loh hardback \$26.95

A collection of nine simple stories set in Malaysia which give an insight into Malaysian culture and environment. (8 - 11 years)

Michael Rosen

South & North, East & West pb \$24.95 A most entertaining collection of stories from around the world, including Asia, illustrated by a variety of artists. (7 - 13 years)

Rosemarie Somaiah

Indian Children's Favourite Stories illus by Ranjan Somaiah hardback \$26.95 This collection is a mixture of classic stories and also folktales. (8 - 11 years)

Joan Suyenaga

Indonesian Children's Favourite Stories illustrated by Salim Martowiredjo hardback \$26.95 A collection of eight stories from the Indonesian archipelago. Simply told, these are appealing stories which have universal values. (8 - 11 years)

Alice Terada

The Magic Crocodile and Other folktales from Indonesia illustrations by Charlene K Smoyer hardback \$30.95 A beautifully produced and well told collection of 29 tales from Sumatra, Java, Bali, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara and Irian Jaya. Brief notes at the end of each story give a little background information. ((9 - 13 years)

Sun Xuegang and Cai Guoyun

• **Chinese Fairytales** illus by Leuyen Pham hardback \$24.95

This is an excellent collection of eighteen classic Chinese stories taken from all over China and spanning centuries of folklore. There are stories about dragons, princesses, kings, wizards and magic.

• Also **Chinese Myths**. These are nineteen classic Chinese myths about gods and warriors, heroes and heroines. (10 - 14 years)

Fiction and Autobiography

Lloyd Alexander

The Remarkable Adventure of Prince Jen pb \$16.95 When Prince Jen sets out to discover the legendary court of T'ien-kuo he discovers much about the suffering and troubles of the

people in the kingdom of China. This is a marvellous adventure written with humour and insight. The characters are vivid and Prince Jen learns much through his wanderings. (10 – 15 years)

Allan Baillie

The China Coin pb \$ 18.95 Leah and her parents are on a trek of discovery as they search out long lost relatives in China but their delight becomes anxiety as the events in Tianamen Square unfold. (11 up)

Little Brother pb \$17.95 A story of courage and perseverance set in Cambodia during the traumatic times of the Vietnam war. (10 up)

Treasure Hunters pb \$17.95 Pat joins his father on a search in Indonesian waters for a ship wreck laden with treasure but the violent events, reminiscent of some of the recent tragic events in East Timor, on the neighbouring island intervene. (12 – 16)

• **Krakatoa Lighthouse** by Allan Baillie pb \$17.95

This book describes the catastrophic event back in 1883 when the island of Krakatoa in Indonesia exploded in an enormous volcanic eruption. This story is told from the point of view of Kerta, a young boy from Java whose father works for the Dutch lighthouse keeper at one of the lighthouses on the mainland just opposite the island of Krakatoa. It is a fascinating account. (11 – 15 years)

Janeen Brian

• **Elephant Mountain** illustrated by Sally Rippin pb \$12.95

One of the popular Aussie Bites series, this book is set in a village in a rainforest in Thailand. Kasem and Pravat are the sons of mahouts and Kasem is absolutely delighted at the chance to look after a baby elephant who has been injured but the task turns out to be more difficult than he had hoped. (7 – 9 years)

Brian Caswell and David Phu An Chiem

Only the Heart pb \$18.95 A most perceptive account of a perilous journey to escape Vietnam and the struggle while living as a refugee and trying to adapt to a new country, Australia. The personal insights and experiences of David Phu An Chiem and the writing skills of Brian Caswell make this an exceptional book. (12 years up)

The Full Story is the companion story. Complex and beautifully constructed, it describes the intense relationship between a Vietnamese Australian writer and his Australian girlfriend and the growing separateness from his father, as the son tries to work out his own way of life in Australia. pb \$18.95 (14 years up)

Sook Nyul Choi

Year of Impossible Goodbyes pb \$14.95 A moving story set in Korea in 1945 during the time of the Japanese occupation. When the Japanese occupation is replaced by the Communist Russian troops, the family attempts to flee to South Korea. (11 – 15 years)

Eleanor Coerr

Sadako & the 1,000 paper cranes illus by M Yamaguchi pb \$13.00 The sad and moving story of 12 year old Sadako who suffered from leukemia as a result of the bomb falling on Hiroshima. (7 years up)

Meindert DeJong

The House of Sixty Fathers pb \$14.95 Courageous story of Tien Pao who is separated from his family during the Japanese invasion of China during World War 2. (9 – 13 years)

Anita Desai

Village by the Sea pb \$18.95 A moving story by this well known author showing some of the problems facing families trying to escape from the poverty of village life in India. (12 years up)

Garry Disher

The Divine Wind pb \$17.00 Set in Broome in the north west of Australia in the 1930s, this is the story of the growing love between Hartley, the son of a pearling master and Mitsy, daughter of a Japanese diver. Tensions between grow as the Japanese advance through southeast Asia and finally bomb Broome itself. Excellent. (13 years up)

Warren Flynn

Different Voices pb \$13.95 A very readable and engaging account of the developing friendship of two young people in a country town in the south of Western Australian. We meet Kim first in the book **Gaz** (\$13.95) but in the sequel **Different Voices** we realise the effect on her of her dreams and the memories of the terrible times of her escape by small boat from Vietnam. (11 up)

Escaping Paradise pb \$14.95 is an adventure set in Bali involving an Australian teenager who is mistakenly taken as a hostage. An ambitious book in its attempt to give Balinese view points as well as several western ones. (12 - 14 years)

Janine Fraser

Abdullah's Butterfly by Janine Fraser illustrated by Kim Gamble pb \$12.95 Set in a village in Malaysia this is the story of Abdullah, his love for his grandfather and his family and how he tries to bring extra money into the family by catching beautiful butterflies. Told by a visitor to the village who at first does not understand, the story is simple enough for seven year olds to read but opens up a great number of possibilities for discussion for older children as well. (7 - 11 years)

Sandy Fussell

• **Samurai Kids 1: White Crane** pb \$14.95 I am surprised that this series works so well. The kids in the series are training to be samurai but one has only one arm, one only one leg, one is blind, one is very big and strong but refuses to fight and a girl has white hair and 6 fingers and toes. Their sensei or teacher is old but very wise in the way of Zen and Zen sayings provide much of the humour of the book. The characters come to life and the story is exciting, lively and often very funny. We learn a lot about the way of Zen and Chi, Jin and Yu or Wisdom, Benevolence and Courage. Other titles in the series are: **Book 2 Owl Ninja**, **Book 3 Shaolin Tiger** and **Book 4 Monkey Fist** (9 – 13 years)

Sally Heinrich

Hungry Ghosts pb \$16.00 Sarah has always been impatient with Chinese superstitions and newly arrived from Singapore and trying to fit into the Australian way of life, she has enough to worry about without being haunted by an angry ghost, Pei. But in

endeavouring to help Pei and find out more about her story, Sarah finds close friendship with Michael and learns more about her own talents and also Chinese traditions and the history of the Chinese in Australia. (10 – 13 years)

Minfong Ho

Sing to the Dawn pb \$12.95 The frustrations and injustices of village life are revealed in this story of Dawan, a 12 year old girl who strives to continue her education at a city high school in Thailand in spite of competition from her brother and opposition from her father. (10 years up)

The Clay Marble pb \$14.95 Daru and her family face much danger and hardship as they flee their village in war-ravaged Cambodia and seek shelter in one of the refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodia border. (12 years up)

These books are excellent. Although they deal with some of the difficulties and hardships facing villagers, they are not depressing books. They are written with humour and compassion and although the future may appear bleak there is still hope and courage.

Rice without Rain pb \$14.95 Set in the times of the student movement in Thailand in the 1970s, this is the story of Jinda, a young girl from an impoverished rural village, who discovers that any change is brought at great cost. (13 – 16 years)

Ji Li Jiang

Red Scarf Girl A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution pb \$13.95 A deeply moving story set during the Cultural Revolution in China. Ji Li Jiang describes her own experiences as a twelve year old girl puzzling to understand the strange and terrifying events that befell her family at that time. (11 years up)

Diana Kidd

Onion Tears illus by D Huxley pb \$ 12.95 The moving story of a Vietnamese boat girl in Australia and how she is finally able to cry real tears, not just the tears that come when she is peeling onions. (7 - 14)

Li Cunxin

Mao's Last Dancer (Young Readers Edition) pb \$19.95 This is wonderful story about an eleven year old boy from rural China who was chosen to study ballets and Madame Mao's dance Academy in Beijing. This is the very moving story of his struggle to overcome loneliness and hardship and how he became one of the top dancers in the USA and then in Australia. The adult edition (pb \$32.95) has been an immensely popular and will be made into a film. The adaptation by Li Cunxin emphasises his childhood. (11 – 15 years)

Also available as a picture book illustrated by Anne Spudvilas **The Peasant Prince** hardback \$29.95

Kathryn Lomer

The Spare Room pb \$18.95 Written from the viewpoint of a Japanese student who is sent to Australia to learn English at college and to stay with an Australian family, Akira is bewildered by his Australian family and only gradually realises that the family has suffered a great loss and is not coping well. The contrasts between the two cultures add to the interest. (13 – 16 years)

Adeline Yen Mah

Chinese Cinderella pb \$17.95 This is the story of Adeline Yen Mah's childhood up to the age of 14 years. The full story of her determination to overcome the pain of being an unwanted child and to make something of her life was told in the very popular adult novel **Falling Leaves**. This book has been well adapted for younger readers. (10 - 14 years)

Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society pb \$15.95 Set in the time of the Japanese occupation of China, this is an exciting fantasy adventure based on the many stories that Adeline Yen Mah wrote as a school girl in Shanghai. When Chinese Cinderella takes refuge with Grandma Wu in her Marital Arts Academy she learns many skills and then is involved in a dangerous secret mission. (10 - 14 years)

Carolyn Marsden

Silk Umbrellas hardback 24.95 pb \$12.95 Noi loves to paint like her grandmother and when her grandmother becomes ill Noi gradually gains the confidence to paint the silk umbrellas which they can sell and will help the family to survive. The story is set in Thailand and is revealing of the customs of Northern Thailand. (8 - 12 years)

The Gold-Threaded Dress pb \$12.95 Oy is a Thai girl who is now living in the US. She is trying to adapt to American life but also to keep some of her Thai culture. (8 - 10 years)

Kieren Meehan

Hannah's Winter pb \$17.95 Hannah speaks Japanese and when she stays with an old friend of her mother's in Japan, she enjoys herself but when she and Mieko find an ancient riddle in a shop she discovers more about ancient and modern Japan than she thought possible. A mystery which blends fact and fantasy. (9 - 12 years)

Michael Morpurgo

Kensuke's Kingdom pb \$14.95 When Michael is washed up on an island he struggles to survive on his own. He is about to give up when food appears. He is not alone. This is a wonderful story of survival and of the secrets of Kensuke who lives on the island. (9 - 15 years).

Greg Mortenson

• **Three Cups of Tea** pb \$26.95 This is the remarkable story of a mountaineer who in 1993 after a disastrous attempt to climb K2 wandered exhausted and dehydrated into an impoverished village in Pakistan. There the villagers nursed Greg back to health and he was so moved by their kindness that he vowed to return and build a school for their children. That happened in 1993 and since then he has set up a fund and built over 60 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. There is now a Young Readers' Edition also called

• **Three Cups of Tea** pb \$16.95. This edition has many photographs of children from the villages and also of his own family who have also become very involved with this endeavour. There are also maps and a question and answer section with Greg's daughter Amira and a Timeline and a Glossary. (9 - 14 years)

Lensey Namioka

Ties that Bind, Ties that Break pb \$14.95 Set in China in 1911, Ailin is a headstrong and determined child who rebels against the ancient habit of having binding girls' feet. This shows the difficulties Ailin faces as she grows up in a very restrictive society. (9 - 14 years)

Huynh Quang Nhuong

The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam pb \$13.95 These are marvellously evocative stories of Nhuong's village childhood in the Highland of Vietnam before the wars and the biggest dangers were from wild tiger, hog or snakes. (8 up)

Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam pb \$13.95 These stories describe the exploits of the particular much loved and respected family water buffalo called Tank.

Linda Sue Park

A Single Shard pb \$15.95 Set in Korea in the twelfth century, this is a story about a young orphan boy who helps a master potter and grows to love this difficult craft. A beautifully written story with a wealth of information about Korean life and traditions of that period. (10 - 15 years)

When My Name was Keoko pb \$15.95 An absorbing and moving account of life in Korea under the Japanese occupation. Set in 1940, Sun-hee and her family are proud of their Korean heritage but are forced to take Japanese names and to learn and speak just Japanese. (10 - 15 years)

Alice Pung

• **Unpolished Gem** pb \$26.95 Alice Pung gives a wonderfully evocative and comic account of her family's first responses as they arrived in Footscray in Melbourne as immigrants. They were of Chinese background who had lived first in Vietnam and then in Cambodia during very difficult times. This is the story of how her family adapts to their new life in Australia and the story of how their daughter Alice/Agheare grew up in both cultures, the old and the new. It is at times a hilarious account, richly comic in its descriptions but it also gives vivid and heartbreaking descriptions of the family's previous life in Cambodia and also of the difficulties they encounter in adapting to their new life in Australia. (12 years up)

Sally Rippin

• **Just One Wish** pb \$12.95 When Little Pumpkin arrives in Australia from Shanghai, everything is so difficult. She has very little English and she has to share a room with her hateful cousin Betty. However she gradually she gradually discovers there are many kind people who help and even decides to her surprise she doesn't need to use the one magic wish her grandmother gave to her. One of the Aussie Chomps. (7 - 10 years)

• **Chenxi and the Foreigner** pb \$19.95

Anna is living in Shanghai eager to learn Chinese painting but she finds there are difficulties in living in a foreign city. When she meets Chengxi, a mysterious young artist she is convinced they are destined to be together but she has much to learn about Chengxi and about China. This is a vivid compelling story. This is a new adapted version of the novel which was originally published in 2003. (14 years up)

Gillian Rubinstein

Shinkei is the third book in the very popular Space Demons series. In this book the Australian children manage to visit Japan and much of the book describes their reactions to this country so different from Australia. It is now only available as the full trilogy. **Space Demons The Trilogy** pb \$25.00 (10 -14 years) Also,

Across the Nightingale Floor pb \$25.00 written under the name of Lian Hearn Set in feudal Japan it has many of the traditions and customs of that period but there is also a fantasy element which adds surprise and charm to this story of intrigue, courage, danger and beauty. Also **Grass for His Pillow** and **Brilliance of the Moon** hardback \$30.00 pb \$25.00 each (13 years up) **Harsh Cry of the Heron** is the final sequel hardback \$40.00 pb \$25.00

Heaven's Net is Wide by Lian Hearn hardback \$40.00 pb \$25.00 is the fascinating prequel.

Suzanne Fisher Staples

Daughter of the Wind pb \$16.95 Set in the Cholistan Desert in Pakistan, this is the story of the high-spirited Shabanu and her family and their love for the desert and camels. (Published as **Shabanu** in the USA.) (11 years up)

Ruth Starke

Nips X1 pb \$16.00 This is the very amusing story of Lan, who loves cricket and his determination in getting together a cricket team of kids of many ethnic backgrounds. Very interesting in its crosscultural interactions between kids and adults.

The sequel is **Nips Go National** pb \$16.00 is equally entertaining. (9 - 13 years)

• **Noodle Pie** by Ruth Starke pb \$17.00

When Andy and his father make a trip to Vietnam to visit relatives, it is for Andy's father his first trip back since he escaped from the country in a rusty fishing boat when he was just 15 years old. For Andy who is 11 years old and was born in Australia, it is his first visit to Hanoi and the first time he has met any of his many relatives in Vietnam. The book is written mainly from Andy's point of view and at first much seems very strange to him. Gradually as Andy comes to understand more about this family, we also understand so much more about Vietnam, its recent history and its people. A marvellous book written with humour and insight. (9 - 12 years)

Jeff Stone

The Five Ancestors: Tiger pb \$16.00

This is the first volume of an exciting martial arts style adventure epic. When Canzhen Temple is destroyed and its warrior monks killed, the grandmaster instructs his five youngest pupils to seek out the secrets of their past. Each of these pupils has a different fighting style hence **Tiger** is the first book and **Monkey, Snake, Crane, Eagle** and **Mantis** are later titles. They will be very popular with martial arts fans. pb \$16.00 each title (10 - 14 years)

Gabrielle Wang

The Garden of Empress Cassia pb \$16.95 Mimi is a Chinese Australian girl who becomes more enchanted by her Chinese background when she is given a box of magical pastels which enable her to draw a truly alive Garden of Empress Cassia. (8 - 10 years)

• **The Lion Drummer** illustrated by Andrew McLean pb \$12.95

One of the popular Aussie Bites series. Lulu has a growing passion for playing the drum to accompany the lion dance. Through perseverance she succeeds in having lessons from a master drummer which is quite an achievement because this is normally reserved only for boys. Her enthusiasm and dedication are also rewarded when she is able to play in the Easter dragon parade. This is a lively and entertaining story and also tells us a lot about

the traditions of the lion dance and the accompanying lion drumming. (7 - 10 years)

Trudy White

Japan Diary pb \$15.95 This book contains the two diaries of two exchange students, each of whom live for 6 months with the family of the other student. Amy Cameron goes to Japan to spend six months with the family of Taro Nakagawa, while he comes to Australia and lives with her family and attends the same school in Lower Secondary. The contrasting diaries make the cultural shocks fascinating. (11 - 15 years)

Carole Wilkinson

Dragonkeeper pb \$20.00 An intriguing fantasy novel set in Ancient China where a slave girl saves the life of an aging dragon and together they make an epic journey across China. **The Garden of the Purple Dragon** and **• Dragon Moon** pb \$20.00 each are the exciting sequels. A prequel **• Dragon Dawn** has also just been published. This is the story of Danzi, Kai's father and the first dragon that Ping cared for as a young girl. pb \$13.00 (8 - 14 years)

Wu Ch'engen

Monkey pb \$16.95 This is the C16th epic which tells of the wonderful adventures of Monkey and his friends. (12 up)

Throwaway Daughter by Ting-Xing Ye with William Bell pb 15.95

Grace is adopted and now lives in Canada with her parents and older sister Megan. She knows almost nothing about her Chinese background except that she was abandoned as a baby and left at an orphanage. When Grace is sixteen she goes to China for a language course and manages to locate her family and her mother. This is a very moving story giving us a vivid picture of grace growing up in Canada but also of the hardship and tragedy of a family in China and the very different personalities involved. (11 - 17 years)

Non-Fiction

• **China Land of Dragons and Emperors** by Adeline Yen Mah pb \$15.95

A very readable introduction to the history of China, from the time just before the Beijing Olympics back 2,200 years to Ancient China. It is attractively presented with many maps, photos, drawings, and paintings giving us a greater understanding of the very different periods of Chinese history. (12 - 16 years)

Made in China: Ideas and Inventions from Ancient China by Suzanne Williams

hardback \$41.95 A detailed description of some of the many scientific discoveries of Ancient China, including bronze making, paper, silk, printing, the compass, porcelain, abacus and acupuncture. Illustrations and photographs. (9 - 15 years)

True Stories from Ancient China series by Zhu Kang Illustrated by Hong Tao and Feng Congying hardback \$19.95 each

Distinguished Doctors and Miraculous Remedies also pb \$11.95

Engineers and Architects also pb \$11.95

Fantastic Inventions and Inventors

Science and Scientists

Told in cartoon format, these stories describe the lives, often from childhood of famous scientists, doctors, architects and inventors and of their inventions and their work. The stories are extremely interesting, the illustrations charming and the stories are told with humour and irony. In addition there are diagrams of many of their inventions, observations and constructions. (9 - 16 years)

- **Eyewitness Modern China** (2007) by Poppy Sebag-Montefiore pb \$19.95

Many photos, paintings and illustrations with detailed captions give us a huge range of information about daily life, people and places, and culture and customs in modern China. There is also information about its history. There is a Timeline, Glossary, Index and also a wallchart and clipart CD. (9 - 16 years)

Little Nippers Festivals series pb \$16.95

My Divali, My Id-ul-Fitr, My Chinese New Year and My Baisakhi In each book we follow a young child getting ready for the celebrations of the festival. (4 - 7 years)

World of Festivals pb \$19.95 each

Chinese New Year, Holi, Ramadan & Id-ul Fitr and Divali As well as looking at the cultural and religious importance to the communities involved, activities are also included. (8 - 13 years)

Carol Stepanchuk

Mooncakes and Hungry Ghosts: Festivals of China by Carol Stepanchuk and Charles Wong pb \$38.50 A detailed look at festivals of China (12 - 16 years)

Images by Maggie Hegarty pb \$21.95 An introduction to a variety of visual and performing arts in a number of Asian countries and the part they play in cultural expression. Chapters on festivals, costumes, symbols, kites and puppets. (9 - 13 years)

Sacred Texts series hardback \$33.95

The Qu'ran and Islam, The Ramayana and Hinduism, The Guru Granth Sahib and Sikhism and The Tipitaka and Buddhism Discusses how the texts were compiled or written and how people use them as a guide throughout their daily lives and worship. (9 - 13 years)

- World Cultures series hardback \$35.95 each

This series is simply written for younger readers and describes a number of cultures throughout the world. There are many colourful photos and maps of where the various people live. In the book **Living in the Himalayas**, the daily life and the cultural activities of the Sherpa people are described and where they live in eastern Nepal. There are also details of their food, family life, clothing, games, storytelling and music. There is also a Glossary and Index in each book and some suggestions for activities. Titles about Asia are:

Living in the Himalaya

Living on the River Ganges

(8 - 11 years)

- This is my Culture series (2008) hardback \$29.95 each

China, Thailand and Vietnam

These books are written in the first person, from the point of view of young people whose families came to live in Australia from overseas. It discusses their families, how they came to Australia, their festivals, food and celebrations, and their culture and history. This personal approach and the many photos of the family and cultural events add considerably to the interest. Each book includes maps, a recipe and several activities. (9 - 14 years)

Culture in series

Culture in India, Culture in Malaysia, Culture in North and South Korea, Culture in Singapore, Culture in Thailand and Culture in Vietnam hardback \$29.95 each. **Culture in India** describes traditional Indian culture and also some of the more modern variants. (9 - 15 years)

Land of Morning Calm: Korean Culture Then and Now by John Stickler illustrations by Soma Han hardback \$37.50. This excellent introduction to Korean culture also gives us historical background to events such as the creation of the Korean alphabet. (9 - 14 years)

Building History series

Indus Valley City pb \$17.00 There is very little information for children on the Indus Valley civilisation. This book discusses what is known about this civilisation, why their cities were built near the Indus River, and how these cities were planned and built. Many detailed illustrations. (9 - 13 years)

World Art and Culture series

Chinese Art and Culture, Indian Art and Culture, Islamic Art and Culture and Japanese Art and Culture hardback \$42.95 each A look at the culture of these civilisations through their architecture and art and crafts over the ages. (11 - 16 years)

History in Art series

Ancient China and Islamic Empires hardback \$42.95 An excellent series. The **Ancient China** title uses extraordinary examples of art and artefacts to show how these reveal much about the history of this ancient civilisation and how people lived in those times. In **Islamic Empires** there is a greater emphasis on the architecture and historical records. Many photos of a wide variety of art and architecture. (11 - 16 years)

Usborne Internet-Linked Introduction to Asia by Elizabeth Dalby hardback \$34.95

Asia is a vast continent and this book also covers Russia, and Central Asia as well as the Indian subcontinent and East and South East Asia. Obviously this is too vast an area to cover in detail but through excellent and well-chosen photographs and interesting text it does provide an introduction to the huge range of geography landscapes, and to the diverse ways of life of the peoples and cultures of this region. Published in 2005, it contains many pages of detailed maps and also flags and facts about the various countries. ((8 - 11 years)

The Changing Face of series pb \$25.00 each

China, Malaysia and Thailand. Published in 2007, this series looks at the rapid changes in

these countries. Comments from local people give additional insight into the way peoples' lives are changing. (10 - 14 years)

Letters from Around the World series hardback \$34.95

Letters from Bangladesh, Letters from China, Letters from India, Letters from Indonesia Letters from Japan and Letters from Pakistan. A lively introduction to these countries in the form of letters and information about the life of a child of about 9 years old in each country. (7 - 10 years)

Indonesia: Land, Life and Culture series by Trisha Sertori hardback \$31.95 each

The Arts

History and Government

The Islands

The People

Plants

Wildlife

Published in 2007, this is an excellent series giving us many insights into the life, geography, history and culture of this diverse country. The many personal accounts from people in various jobs and from many different regions throughout the archipelago add interest to the factual information. Excellent photographs, charts and maps. Each book has a Glossary and Index. For upper Elementary and Middle school.

• China: Land, Life and Culture series by John and Jackie Tidey hardback \$31.95 each

Arts and Culture

History and Government

Land and Climate

People and Cities

Plants

Wildlife

Published in 2008, this series has a similar format to the one above on Indonesia. It also includes short personal accounts adding to the factual information on this vast and varied country. Also for upper Elementary and Middle school.

• *India: Land Life and Culture series by Rosemary Sachdev hardback \$31.95 each nett

The Animals

Arts and Culture

History and Government

Land and Climate

The People

Plants and Agriculture

This series is similar to the other two series above on China and on Indonesia. Just published in 2009, these 6 volumes provide an extensive introduction to the country of India: its geography, its culture, its history, its people, its plants and animals. Throughout the text, brief first-hand personal accounts and viewpoints provide additional information. Also for upper Elementary and Middle school.

Countries of South-East Asia series (2007) by Andrew Einspruch and Robert Gott

hardback \$29.95 each. **Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Brunei, Myanmar, Singapore, The Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam**

This series contains basic factual information on these countries. Each book contains a map of the country and also a historical time line, a fact file and information on religion, daily

life, customs, plants, animals and also natural disasters. Published in 2007. (8 – 12 years)

- Living in Australia series (2008) hardback \$29.95

Chinese Australians hardback \$29.95

The book describes the history of Chinese Immigration to Australia and how many Chinese follow Chinese traditions as they live, work and go to school. The book gives information about China today. There is a map of China and also a traditional Chinese story and a Glossary and an Index. (10 – 13 years)

Also **Vietnamese Australians** in the same series.

People Under threat series (2008) hardback \$38.00

- **Tibetans**

This book describes Tibetan culture and how it has been eroded by the takeover by the Chinese government of the country of Tibet. It looks at the effect on human rights, on the environment and also on the continuing movement of resistance against the Chinese regime. (10 – 14 years)

Story of Migration to Australia series hardback \$32.95

- **From Asia** (2008) by Nicholas Brasch

This is a very informative book describing the waves of immigration from various countries in Asia from early settlement days during the Gold Rush in the 1850s to later acceptance of refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and still later Chinese students after the Tiananmen Square massacre and more recently skilled migrants from India. There are very interesting graphs providing statistical information on migration patterns, and other maps, photographs, illustrations and a timeline of migration from Asia to Australia. (11 – 14 years)

Rivers through Time series hardback \$37.50

Settlements of the Ganges River This book looks at the many settlements along the length of the River Ganges and how over many thousands of years, some of them developed into modern cities such as Varanasi, Allahabad and Dhaka. It also looks at the changing role of the river in people's lives. It includes timelines, maps, diagrams, photos, glossary and index. There is also **Settlements of the Indus River**. (11 – 15 years)

The Really Big Food Project by Emma Barnard and Thomas Cho, with help from Sally Rippin hardback \$39.95 This excellent title is a large book written in the form of a special project on rice which school students, Emma and Thomas worked on together as a project. They decided to look at how people eat rice in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In their description of the many different types of rice and its uses, they use Fact Bites, photos, illustrations and either a recipe or a traditional story about some aspect of rice in each country. The book demonstrates for students how a project can be set out and the use of a variety of research methods including interviews, Internet, email and books. There is also a large map of the region. An extremely useful resource. (8 – 14 years)

The Really Big Beliefs Project by Emma Barnard and Thomas Cho with help from Meredith Costain hardback 39.95 This time Emma and Thomas decide to do a project on

beliefs and work out the best way is to interview lots of people. Their descriptions of these interviews are fascinating and give descriptions of the way their religion affects the daily lives of people who are Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Shinto and Taoist. They also interview the school cleaner who is secular. They also go to a number of ceremonies. Both Tom and Emma write project Diaries in which they give their thoughts and questions as a result of their interviews and visits. They are surprised by the many similarities of the various religions. (9 - 15 years)

Snapshots of Asia by Sue Ledger and Richard Ledger \$179.95 nett for the whole pack This is a very special pack. These 5 Big Books make a wide range of information on China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Vietnam much more accessible. Each country is introduced through a family and stories of daily life and fact files on environment, school, getting about etc help capture various physical and cultural aspects of life in each country. Bright coloured photos are contrasted with appealing cartoon style drawings and each book also contains a map, a board game, shopping lists, a cooking recipe and instructions. The books aim to help develop literacy while introducing Asian content. For the lower and middle primary classroom, it would also be very effective with ESL students. The Big Book **Thailand** used to be included in this pack but it now can only be purchased individually. \$44.95 each

Three extra Big Book titles **India, Malaysia and Philippines** have now been published in the Snapshots of Asia series. This pack contains three Big Books and a Teachers' Guide \$105.00

All the Big Books of **China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand** and **Vietnam** and also **India, Malaysia** and **Philippines** can also be purchased individually \$44.95 each.

Snapshots of Asia Teachers' Guide pb \$32.95 The teachers' guide contains additional information, classroom activities and blackline masters.

Images of Asia series \$49.95 each big card set

The Environment

Beliefs

Innovations

Symbols, Patterns and Designs

This new set of eight large cards and a Teacher Guide explores eight countries of Asia through the above four themes. The countries are China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Each card features an illustrated map of each country and the reverse side has photographs chosen to promote discussion. The maps are helpful since they have small illustrations showing various aspects of life in that country. The Teacher Guide has many ideas for further activities and research. The complete set is \$190.00 or each of the four themes can be purchased individually with a Teacher Guide \$49.95 each. (Upper elementary)

Inside King Sejong's Gate - Our Time in Korea by Laura and Alex with help from Geoff Ainsworth and Julia Fraser pb \$21.95 A detailed account of Laura and Alex's trip to Korea with their year 6 class mates. They describe their stay with a Korean family, the school they attend and sightseeing trips.

• **Teaching about Other Countries: A teaching model for primary and middle school teachers** by Mark Wildy and Francine Smith pb and CD ROM \$32.95

I recently heard Mark Wildy give a talk on this topic and found it fascinating. His ideas are

demonstrated very clearly through the many examples in this book. The book shows how teachers can assist students to explore what they already know about a country and to further develop their understanding of the concept of what a country is. It looks at countries as political and economic identities and is helpful in developing geographical skills. As the Introduction explains: "It involves designing and interpreting maps, looking at physical and built features, climate, land use, exploitation of resources, human and economic activity, culture, language, customs and traditions, tourism and symbols of nationalism. The model adopts an integrated approach and gives teachers scope for incorporating literacy, art, drama, music, technology, health and mathematical activities." Asian countries are included in many of the examples given. This is an excellent resource.

Access Asia Series

Primary teaching and learning units pb \$36.95

Secondary teaching and learning units pb \$34.65 These books provide practical ideas for activities for teachers who wish to introduce the studies of Asia into the classroom. Each book covers a variety of topics.

Key into Indonesia by Sally Heinrich pb \$39.95 This very useful teacher resource has background information on a wide range of topics about Indonesia as well as detailed suggestions for activities which will allow students to discover more about Indonesian geography, culture, environment, traditions and language. (Elementary and Middle)

Key into Japan and **Key into China** also by Sally Heinrich are similar combining factual information and helpful activity ideas. pb \$38.95

Indonesian Kaleidoscope by Helen Agostino and Kathy Kiting pb \$42.95 A teacher resource which provides activities, factual information, traditional stories and resource sheets for the Indonesian regions of Irian Jaya, Bali, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Java and Sumatra. (Access Asia series) (Middle and upper primary)

Go Philippines! CD-ROM \$49.95 This CD-ROM aims to enable children to explore the geography, history and cultures of the people of the Philippines through interactive landscapes, fact files, quizzes etc on this CD-ROM. (9 - 12 years)

Go Indonesia! Has an interactive CD-ROM and a teachers' resource book \$59.95

Asia Counts Primary: Numeracy and Studies of Asia pb \$34.95

Asia Counts Secondary: Numeracy and Studies of Asia pb \$34.95 each by Jan Kiernan and Howard Reeves This is a unique concept in that it contains a wide ranging selection of units of work for teachers that can be used to improve students' numeracy skills while enhancing their understanding of Asian countries and ways of life. There are lesson plans, student work sheets and extension activities.

Inspirations: Art Ideas for Primary and Middle Years by Ann MacArthur pack \$59.95

This pack contains a range of images of contemporary, modern and traditional artworks from Asia. On the back of each image there is background information as well as suggestions for making activities for students, for discussion and for cross-curricular activities. Images include works from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Persia, Philippines and Vietnam. (11 years up)

Videos and DVDs

Families of the World series: available in DVD or VHS (PAL or NTSC) \$65.00 each
There are videos and DVDs on the following countries - **China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam**. I have only viewed the video on China which, like the others, has two separate segments on the lives of two children and their families. In this video on China, we are introduced to the daily life of the children at home with their families and also at school from the time they wake up in the morning till they go to bed at night. The children describe their activities, the food they eat, where they live and their families and schools. There is much to discuss and children will be able to compare their lives with those of these children from many different countries and cultures. Running time is approx 30 minutes.

There is also a **Teacher's Guide** for each country. These contain the script and additional information on each country and also ideas for discussion. pb \$9.95 each (6 - 10 years)

A Child's Eye View of Festivals

1. **Chinese New Year, Divali, Eid-ul-Fitr and Hanukkah** video \$59.95, DVD \$69.95

2. **Easter, Vaisakhi, Wesak and Christmas** video \$59.95, DVD \$69.95

For each festival we follow the celebrations both with the family and at school of a young child. Ian is 5 years old and shows with delight the presents he receives for Chinese New Year, the celebrations with his family at home and also when they go out to see the festivities in Chinatown. The next day we see the activities that the school has organised. The same format is followed for each of the festivals. The series is set in the United Kingdom. This series is an excellent introduction to a variety of festivals for 3 to six year olds. A booklet containing background notes, stories, songs and activities is also included with the video. The overall running time is approx 55 minutes and each new festival has its own beginning. (3 - 6 years)

Land of the Dragon: A Documentary of China DVD \$55.00

With a young woman Liu Hui Ping as a guide, we are introduced to many different aspects of China. We see both modern and older parts of Beijing and learn a little of the history of China as we visit the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China. We are also shown the southern province of Anhui as well as the Yangtze River and the Yellow Mountains. The narration is mainly in English but Liu Hui Ping also speaks in Mandarin with English subtitles. We are introduced to many Chinese fruits and vegetables and Liu Hui Ping gives their Chinese names. She also takes us to visit her family. The DVD is recent, 2006. Running time is 30 minutes. (7 years up)

One day in Ping Wei: A Documentary of China DVD \$55.00

This DVD follows a day in the life of a young Chinese girl, Liu Yen Twin, in a rural village in China. It shows her at school and at home with friends and family and as she does her chores and her homework. Running time is 30 minutes (7 years up)

New Year in Ping Wei : A Documentary of China DVD \$55.00

Here we follow the same girl Liu Yen Twin and her family as they celebrate Chinese New Year or the Spring festival. It shows the cleaning and decoration of the house, the

preparation and eating of the food at the family reunion dinner and also the symbolic burning of paper money and fireworks. Running time 30 minutes. (7 years up)

• **Going to School in India** DVD \$64.95

This is a very enjoyable and entertaining film showing children going to school in so many different ways and in so many different places. It shows a 12 year old girl in Kashmir going to school across a lake by boat, a homeless boy in Mumbai goes to school in a bus and in fact the school is the bus, another girl goes to school in the dark (since she works to help her mother during the day she goes to school at night), another boy goes to school in a wheel chair and there are children who walk to school across the mountains and others who walk across the desert to a padlocked box which contains the chalk and slates which is basically their school! The settings are often exotic and the photography is beautiful with an emphasis on music and movement. There are 9 segments each showing a different school and each segment can be watched individually. The whole film lasts for approx 75 minutes. (7 years up)

All prices are in Australian dollars. If you would like to order any of the above books, send orders to Austral Ed by fax, post or email.

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