



The Booklist Project



Focus: Culture-Specific Booklist
Korean

Developed by: Eunyoung Jung
Fall, 2011

Korean Themed Book List

Grade Level Focus : PreK-Grade2



Eunyoung Jung

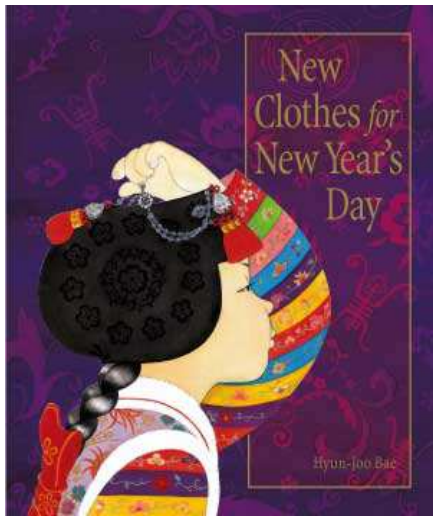
M.Ed. in TESL Program

Rhode Island College

1. Bae, Hyun-Ju. (2007). *New clothes for New Year's Day.*

- Kane/Miller Book Publishers, Inc. [ISBN-13: 978-1-933605-29-6] [ISBN-10: 1933605294]
- Format : Hardcover
- Themes: Korean Holiday
- WIDA Level : Developing
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially age 5,6)
- Book Available : Rhode Island College Library
- Book Cover Image :

<http://www.kanemiller.com/covers/978-1-933605-29-6.d.jpg>



This book is about the Korean little girl who greets the New Year's Day which is one of the big holidays in Korea. She shows how to wear Korean traditional clothes, which is called "Hanbok," from silk skirt and a rainbow-striped jacket to shoes embroidered with flowers. This book is full of exquisite illustrations of traditional costumes so it makes us enjoy reading with surprise. Also this beautiful book helps us to introduce Korean heritage and specific holiday tradition to children easily with simple explanation because they can connect to their own tradition which is more familiar with them. Shall we take a look at the New Year's Day and its new clothes in Korea?

- **Useful Websites**

http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/1071_Culture.jsp : Korean culture

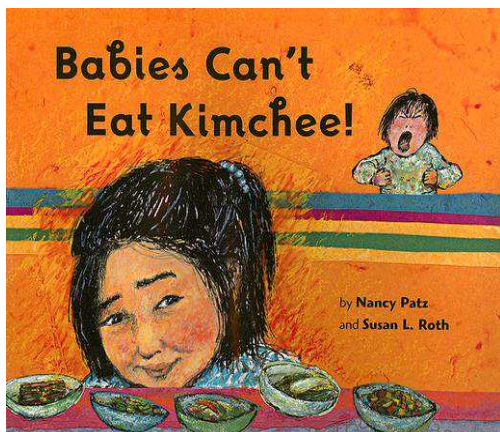
http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/CU/CU_EN_8_1_2_1.jsp : Korean costumes

http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/SI/SI_EN_3_6.jsp?cid=261422 : New Years' Day

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzzIOCw-na0> : Video about New Years' Day in Korea

2. Nancy Patz, Susan L. Roth (2006). *Babies can't eat Kimchee!*

- Bloomsbury USA. [ISBN-10: 1-59990-017-3] [ISBN-13: 978-159990-017-9]
- Format : Hardcover
- Themes: Korean Food , Family
- WIDA Level : Beginning to Developing
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially age 4,5)
- Book Available : Roger Williams University Library
- Book Cover Image :
http://www.homeschoolshare.com/my_rows_and_piles_of_coins.php



This is a story about an older Korean-American sister who has a new baby sister. She thinks the baby is just too little for anything so the only this big sister can do is to wait. Starting with Korean popular food, Kimchi, which the baby can't eat, the story expands the topic to eating ice cream and activities such as dancing like a ballerina. She continues to list all the things she would like teach and share with her sister. It feels like a true story which happens around us and it reminds us of our childhood. Also the illustrations capture the

children's attention because of the colorful collages in the story book. The reason I choose this book is it is very easy to read so it will be very useful to read aloud lesson for ELLs. Also auxiliary verbs such as can't, can, do, don't are repeated so it would be a good lesson for auxiliary verbs.

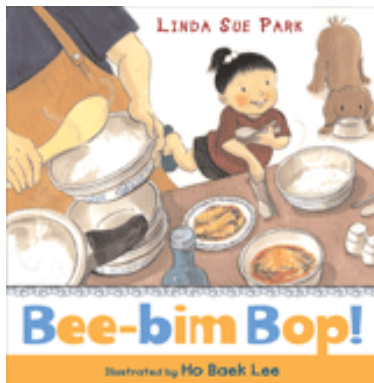
- **Useful Websites**

<http://www.susanlroth.com/collaboration.htm> : Illustrator Susan L. Roth's homepage

http://visitkorea.or.kr/enu/FO/FO_EN_6_1_2_1.jsp : About Kimchi

3. Linda Sue Park, Ho Baek Lee. (2008). *Bee-bim Bop!*

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Trad. [ISBN-10: 0547076711]
- Format : Paper, Hardcover, Kindle
- Themes: Korean Food , Family
- WIDA Level : Beginning
- Guided Level : J
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially age 3,4,5)
- Book Available : East Providence Public Library
- Book Cover Image :
<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/assets/product/0618265112.gif>



This book is about making “Bee-bim Bop” which is the most popular food in Korea. “Bee-bim bop” is called "mix-mix rice" and it means the rice mixed with vegetable and meat. While we are looking at the book, it makes us smile of happiness. It is full of lovely pictures and deals with a girl’s journey from shopping to enjoying the meal together. Also the author’s brief, rhyming text is good for ELLs to read and sing so they will definitely say “Bee-bim Bop” after reading. Children will love to learn about cooking process such as preparing the ingredients with their mother. The reason I choose this book is we can see Korean family’s life more closely from the children’s perspective. ELLs from this culture feel comfortable when they read and I hope it will lead to learn more about their cultural food.

● Useful Websites

<http://www.lspark.com/> : Author Linda Sue Park’s official site

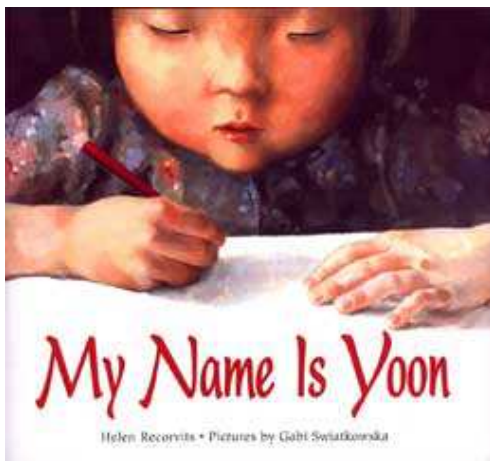
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZquh6iRtUo> : Author’s interview

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDors9VrZi4> : Author’s photo story

4. Helen Recorvits, Gabi Swiatkowska (2003). *My name is Yoon*.

- Frances Foster Books, [ISBN10: 0-374-35114-7] [ISBN-13: 978-0545200127]
- Format : Paper, Hardcover
- Themes: Korean-American's adjustment, cultural difference
- WIDA Level : Late Developing
- Guided Level : I
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially Grade 1,2)
- Book Available : Rhode Island College Library
- Book Cover Image :

<http://resources.macmillanusa.com/jackets/258H/9780374351144.jpg>



This is a story about a Korean girl named Yoon who moved to the United States with her family. Her name means “shinning wisdom” and she likes her Korean name very much. When she writes her name in Korean, she thinks it looks happy, like a dancing figure. However, she does not want to be “Yoon” written in English because all the lines and circles stand alone. This is how this girl feels in the United States. Even though the author, Helen Recorvits, is not Korean, she understands this Korean girl’s feeling deeply and describes it well. This moving story shows how she adjusts and struggles to her new life in the United States. As we might think, this girl represents one of the ELLs

who is surrounded by all the unfamiliar language and strangers so I hope this book would be a good relief for ELLs who just came to the United States and feel confused. This story begins with these sentences like "I wanted to go back home to Korea. I did not like America. Everything was different here." However, by the end, Yoon is happy with her friends and teacher at school.

- **Useful Websites**

<http://treasures.macmillanmh.com/florida/students/grade2/book1/unit1/my-name-is-yoon> : Useful activities using this book

<http://us.macmillan.com/author/helenrecorvits> : About author

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PB2WTARilo> : Video – Reading Aloud of book

5. Helen Recorvits, Gabi Swiatkowska (2006). *Yoon and the Christmas mitten*.

- Frances Foster Books, [ISBN10: 0-374-38688-9] [ISBN : 978-0-374-38688-7]
- Format : Hardcover
- Themes: Cultural identity, Cultural balance
- WIDA Level : Expanding to Bridging
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially Grade 1,2)
- Book Available : Community College of RI Library
- Book Cover Image :

<http://resources.macmillanusa.com/jackets/258H/9780374386887.jpg>



This story is still about Yoon's journey in United States. Yoon tries to teach her parents about something she's learned in America. When she persuades her family to enjoy the Christmas, her mother responds, "We are not a Christmas family." She soon realized that she must use her own "shinning wisdom" like her name to convince her parents that they can indeed be a Christmas family. This book allows us to learn how this Korean-American girl reconciles her two worlds, and cultural identities. "America is our home now. Are we not both Korean and American?" This shows her changing world, and perspective. In the end, her parents figure out a way to meld a

Christmas tradition with their own New Year's celebration. The reason I choose this book is Korean-American perspective is well blended in the story so it would be good for the young children who have a similar cultural background. I do think this touching story helps ELLs to balance between their own culture and new culture in the United States like Yoon did.

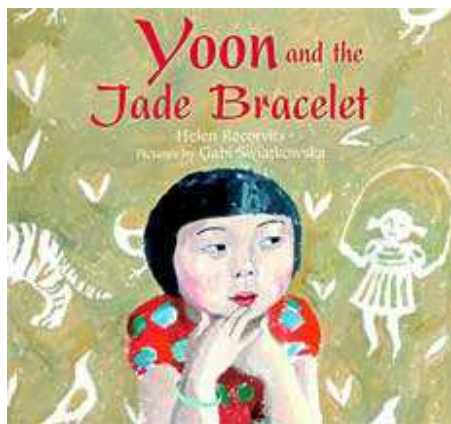
- Useful Websites

<http://www.2care2teach4kids.com/preschool/themes/mittens.htm> : Activities using this book

6. Helen Recorvits, Gabi Swiatkowska (2008). *Yoon and the jade bracelet*.

- Frances Foster Books, [ISBN10: 0-374-38689-7] [ISBN : 978-0-374-38689-4]
- Format : Hardcover
- Themes: Immigrants' experiences, Korean tradition
- WIDA Level : Expanding to Bridging
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially Grade 1,2)
- Book Available : Community College of RI Library
- Book Cover Image :

<http://resources.macmillanusa.com/jackets/258H/9780374386894.jpg>



This book is about Yoon's birthday and Yoon's mother gives her two special presents which represent Korean culture. One is an old Korean folktale book and another is a jade bracelet. Yoon receives a precious family jade bracelet with her name, meaning "Shining Wisdom," engraved inside in Korean. It was once belonged to her grandmother. The mother tells Yoon how this bracelet was passed down through many generations which follows Korean tradition, what the color jade stands for, and what the inscription on the inside of the bracelet

means. As we can see, her mother tries to connect to her own culture even in the United States. Also this book deals with the bullies and peer pressure, and Yoon solves this problem very wisely so it gives us important lesson on bullies and honesty.

7. Yumi Heo (2004), *The Green Frogs: A Korean folktale*.

- Frances Foster Books, [ISBN-10: 0618432280] [ISBN-13: 978-0618432288]
- Format : Paper, Hardcover, Kindle
- Themes: Folktale, Korean virtue
- WIDA Level : High Developing to Expanding
- Guided Level : L
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially age 5,6)
- Book Available : Salve Regina University Library
- Book Cover Image : <http://www.isbnlib.com/cover/0618432280/L>



The book is a retelling of a Korean traditional folktale. It is a story of two frogs who never listen to their mother. Whatever the mother frog tells children to do, they do the opposite and love disobeying their mother. One day the mother died. Her last wish was to be buried on the sunny side of the hill. So knowing her children, she requested to be buried by the lake, thinking the frogs would do the opposite. The frogs felt sorry for not listening to their mother all these years and did exactly what she asked. Then it started to rain and the mother's body was washed away. The frogs cried and cried. That is why frogs make this noise when it rains. This story is one of the popular stories in Korea which was passed down through many generations. That is because Korean traditional folktale always gives us good lessons. From this book, we can see honoring parents is always one of the priorities and virtues in Korean culture. Also this story helps children to respect their parents. Otherwise, it tells us that we will regret not doing that. We still call the children who do not listen to their parents "green frog" in Korean.

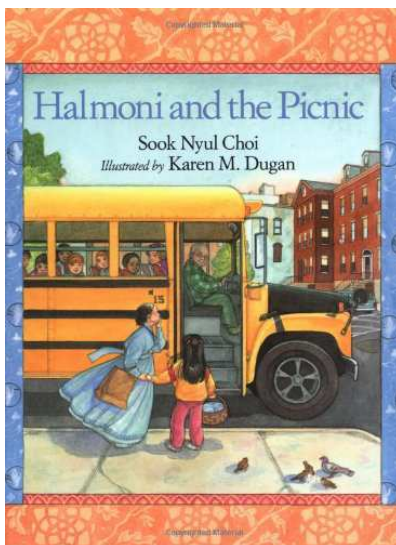
- **Useful Websites**

<http://park.org/Korea/Pavilions/PublicPavilions/Korealmage/hangul/litera/> : More Korean folk tales

8. Sook Nyul Choi, Karen Dugan (1993). *Halmoni and the picnic*

- Houghton Mifflin, [ISBN-10: 0395616263] [ISBN-13: 978-0395616260]
- Format : Hardcover
- Themes: Immigrants' adjustment, Family
- WIDA Level : Expanding to Bridging
- Guided Level : M
- Interest Level : preK-2 preK-2 (Especially Grade 1,2)
- Book Available : Roger Williams University Library
- Book Cover Image :

<http://resources.macmillanusa.com/jackets/258H/9780374386894.jpg>



This book is about an immigrant's adjustment in the United States. Yunmi's grandmother, Halmoni, has just moved to New York City from Korea. A Korean-American, granddaughter worries about Halmoni who is having a hard time with the English language and American customs. When Yunmi's friends invite Halmoni to the picnic and Halmoni brings traditional Korean food. Yunmi fears that her classmates may make fun of Halmoni's traditional clothes and foods. Contrary to her worries, Halmoni is welcomed by others thanks to her generous characteristics and good classmates. This story ends with happy ending, however, it give us to think about how immigrants are suffering from cultural differences and miss their homeland despite continuing efforts to adjust to a new environment. The reason I choose this book is it deals with lots of Korean culture such as food "Kimbab", traditional clothing, "Hanbok" and the Korean virtues, "sharing". Also interestingly, this author uses the Korean word, Halmoni, which means grandmother in Korean. "Halmoni" is regarded as one of the most friendly word as well as unforgettable person in people's minds. Also it shows the close relationship between a grandmother and her granddaughter and the strong bond of family in Korea so it makes us smile.

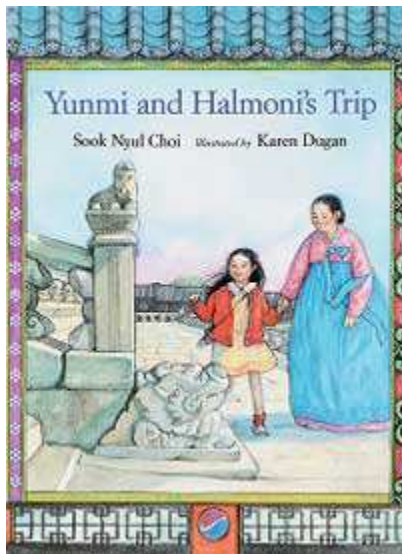
● Useful Websites

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gimbap> : About Korean food, Kimbap

9. Sook Nyul Choi, Karen Dugan (1997). *Yunmi and Halmoni's trip*

- Houghton Mifflin, [ISBN-10: 0395811805] [ISBN-13: 978-0395811801]
- Format : Hardcover
- Themes: Korean Culture, Holiday
- WIDA Level : Expanding to Bridging
- Guided Level : L
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially Grade 1,2)
- Book Available : Roger Williams University Library
- Book Cover Image :

http://www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/gr3/gr3_th5_sel2.jpg



Yunmi and her grandmother Halmoni, are going to Korea where Halmoni lived. She moved to New York City to take care of Yunmi. Yunmi enjoys seeing Korea for the first time and helping the family prepare the annual picnic feast to commemorate grandfather's birthday. Halmoni, who was very isolated and lonely in New York, is greeted by a large and loving family. However, Yunmi feels like an outsider in Korea. She realizes that Halmoni prepares to spend another year with her in New York City and she is moved by her great love. This warm hearted story makes us rethink the importance of family, no matter what happens. Also this book acts as tour guide to the sight of Seoul from Kyong Bok Palace to East Gate Market. It describes detailed Korean customs to us including preparing traditional foods and

visiting the tombstones of ancestors every holidays. I think this book will be great chance for ELLs to look at the Korean culture, especially, holidays.

● Useful Websites

<http://quizlet.com/47007/yunmi-and-halmonis-trip-flash-cards/> : Voca activities

http://www.eduplace.com/kids/tnc/gr3/gr3_th5_sel2.html : More activities using this book

<http://www.serflo1.com/Yunmi%20and%20Halmoni's%20Trip.html> : More useful activities

10. Soyung Pak, Susan Kathleen Hartung (2001). *Dear Juno*

- Puffin Books. [ISBN-10: 0142300179] [ISBN-13: 978-0142300176]
- Format : Paper, Hardcover
- Themes: Immigrants' Communication, Korean letter, Family
- WIDA Level : Expanding
- Guided Level : M
- Interest Level : preK-2 (Especially Grade 1,2)
- Book Available : East Providence Public Library
- Book Cover Image :

<http://ecx.images-mazon.com/images/I/51m9KR5RDbL. SL500 AA300 .jpg>



This book is about Juno, a Korean-American boy, who is communicating with his grandmother in Seoul, in spite of the fact that they can't understand each other's language. Juno is discovering a new way of communicating with her so the grandmother writes in Korean, and Juno writes in drawings. It seems that using the different languages doesn't mean they can't exchange letters. For me, it looks so amazing to share words and pictures with each other. They did not care about the language barrier itself. In reality, the miscommunication and conflict between Korean-Americans and only Korean speaking

family members – mostly parents - is getting worse and worse, and it makes families feel more isolated. However, this story only shows us positive outcomes. In this moment, we have to think about our ELLs in the classroom. Most of the ELLs are afraid of writing when they do not know much about the language. Moreover, they feel nervous when they are asked to write because fear and lack of English. However, communication can be possible even though Juno and his grandmother use different languages, as we can see from this story. This book tells us about importance of communication, and I hope we can be of help for ELLs to lower their psychological barrier, enjoy learning the new language, which is English.

- Useful Websites

<http://cuii.blog.cz/1111/dear-juno-lesson> : Introducing some lesson plans

http://www.glencoe.com/ebooks/reading/9780022033743/twe/unit3_week2_1.pdf :

Classroom activities using this book

● **More Useful Websites**

These are more websites for students as well as teachers to learn more about Korea, and these will be helpful for us to understand Korean ELLs.

1. More children's book on Korean culture

<http://www.comeunity.com/adoption/books/0korea-culture.html>

2. Official Korea Tourism Organization Site

: This is official site provides you with all kinds of information about Korean culture with lots of pictures and explanation.

<http://visitkorea.or.kr/>

3. Education in South Korea

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_South_Korea

<https://sites.google.com/site/southkoreaneducation/>

4. Korean Pronunciation Errors

<http://nathanbauman.com/nathanbaumankoreanpronunciation.html>

5. Common Errors by Korean Learners

<http://englishbloopers.com/ESL/ckerrors.html>

6. A Catalogue of Errors Made by Korean Learners of English

<http://onlinepedagogy.wordpress.com/2009/08/11/a-catalogue-of-errors-made-by-korean-learners-of-english/>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

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M.Ed. In TESL Program,



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