

Recommended Books Grades 9-12
Combined List from Mary Connor and Mt. Saint Mary's website:
<http://www.msmc.la.edu>

The American Experience:

Clay Walls, Ronyoung Kim

The story of the early Korean immigrants who arrived in Los Angeles in the decade prior to World War II and their American-born children.

East to America: Korean American Life Stories, Elaine Kim and Eui-Young Yu

Interviews with thirty Korean-Americans about their stories about the Korean community. These stories grapple with racial tension, class and gender differences, and the notion of family and home.

Finding My Voice, Marie Lee

As she tries to enjoy her senior year and choose which college she will attend, Ellen Sung must deal with the prejudice of some classmates and pressure from her parents.

Gathering of Pearls, Sook Choi

Sookan struggles to balance her new life as a college freshman in the United States with expectations from her family at home in Korea.

Generation One Point Five, Tanya Ko

This is a collection of poems that explores the author's feelings of being torn between two different cultures and customs. Bilingual English/Korean text

In the Absence of Sun, Helie Lee

This is the sequel to Helie Lee's *Still Life with Rice*. It is the story of her dramatic rescue of nine of her relatives from North Korea. The book also deals with issues of identity.

If It Hadn't Been for Yoon Jun, Marie Lee

Alice Larsen is a Korean teenager adopted and raised by American parents who had trouble coming to terms with the new Korean boy, Yoon Jun, at her Junior High School.

Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America, Mary Paik Lee

Born in 1900, the author left Korea in 1905 with her family as political refugees. Among the earliest Korean immigrants to America, they settled in California.

Still Life with Rice, Helie Lee

Writing in her grandmother's voice, Lee tells the story of her courageous and inspiring grandmother and in the process reveals much about Korean history and culture from the early 20th century until the period after the Korean War. This is an outstanding introduction to someone who knows little about Korea. Highly recommended.

Tales of a Korean Grandmother, Frances Carpenter

Thirty-two of these richly imaginative Korean folk tales, each an enchanting mixture of fact, fancy and genuine folklore, are told against the background of the Kim family.

Saying Goodbye, Marie Lee

As she tries to enjoy her senior year and choose which college she will attend, Ellen Sung must deal with the prejudice of some classmates and pressure from her parents.

Folk Tales

Tales of a Korean Grandmother, Frances Carpenter

Thirty-two of these richly imaginative Korean folk tales, each an enchanting mixture of fact, fancy and genuine folklore, are told against the background of the Kim family.

Games

Korean Games with Notes on the Corresponding Games of China and Japan, Stewart Culin

This work was first published in 1895 by Stewart Culin who was Curator of the Department of Ethnology at the Brooklyn Museum and an expert on games of the world. This text provides a detailed description of over 100 Korean games with historical notes and descriptions of their analogues in Chinese and Japanese cultures.

History of Korea (expressly for high school students)

The Koreas: A Global Studies Handbook, Mary E. Connor

This book is written for high school students and is part of ABC-CLIO's new series on Asia. Published in 2002. The first chapter is an overview of Korean history. The subsequent chapters relate to the economic, political, social and cultural developments since 1945. Sections also include information on language, etiquette, food, organizations and significant people, places and events. This is a useful resource for students, their teachers and the general reader.

Outstanding Books for High School Students Based on Historical Events

Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood, Richard E. Kim

A moving account of Kim's boyhood experiences growing up during the Japanese occupation of Korea. Highly recommended. "One of the most memorable and moving accounts of Korean history that I have read." (Mary Connor)

Still Life with Rice, Helie Lee

Writing in her grandmother's voice, Lee tells her own struggles with her identity and subsequently tells the story of her remarkable grandmother's life from approximately 1910 through the Korean War. An outstanding introduction to Korean history and culture.

In the Absence of Sun, Helie Lee

This is Helie Lee's "Still Life with Rice." It is the story of her dramatic rescue of nine of her relatives from North Korea.

Interracial Friendships

Finding My Voice, Marie Lee

As she tries to enjoy her senior year and choose which college she will attend, Ellen Sung must deal with the prejudice of some classmates and pressure from her parents.

Saying Goodbye, Marie Lee

Ellen Sung explores her interest in creative writing and in her Korean heritage during her freshman year at Harvard.