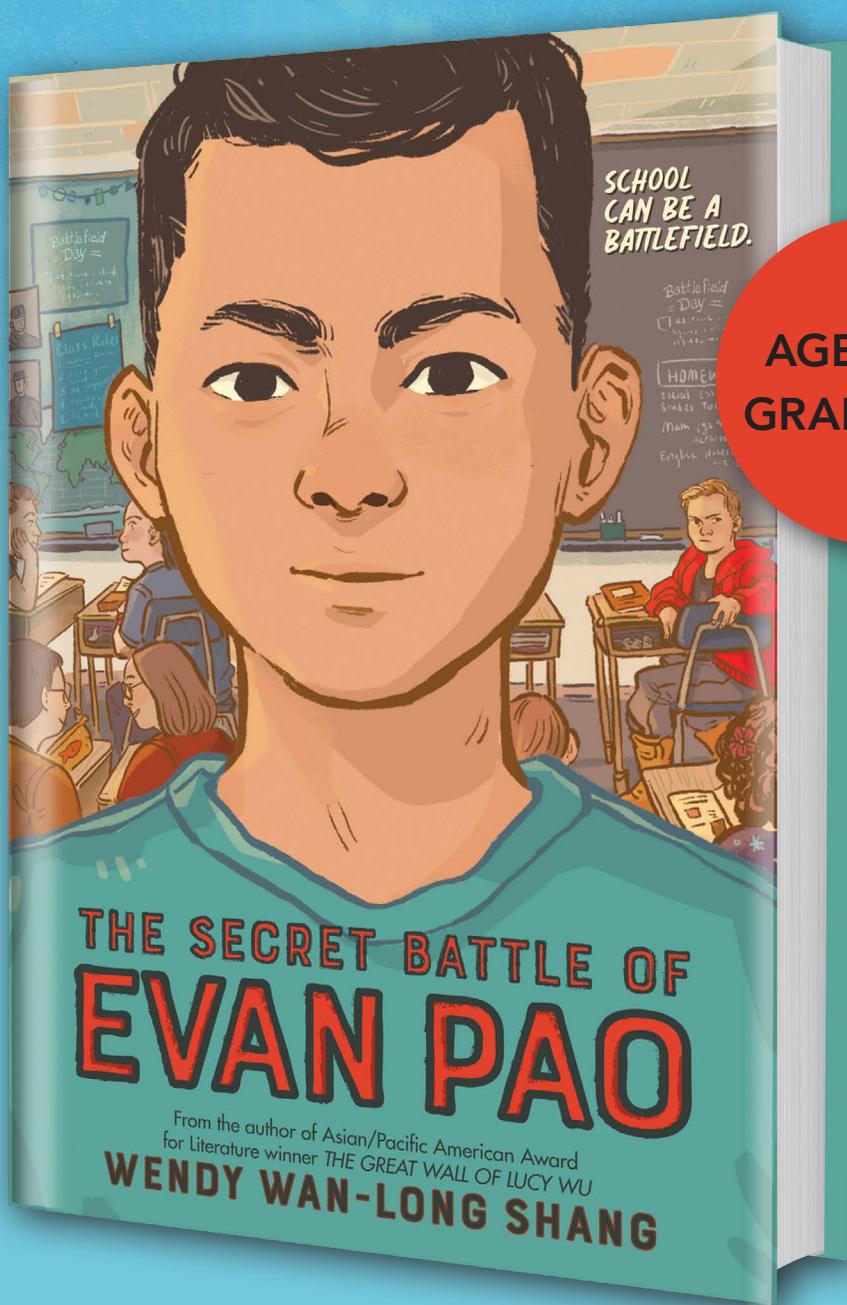


# EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDE

## SUPPORT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT U.S. HISTORY, ANTI-ASIAN RACISM, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

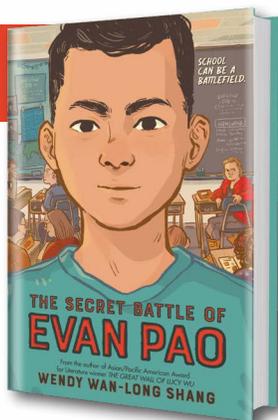


AGES 8-12  
GRADES 3-7

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

A fresh start. That's all Evan Pao wants as he, along with his mother and sister, flee from California to Haddington, Virginia, hoping to keep his father's notoriety a secret. But Haddington is a southern town steeped in tradition, and moving to a town immersed in the past has its own price. Although Evan quickly makes friends, one boy, Brady Griggs, seems determined to make sure that as a Chinese American, Evan feels that he does not belong. When Evan finds a unique way to make himself part of the school's annual Civil War celebration, the reaction is swift and violent. As all of his choices at home and at school collide, Evan must decide whether he will react with the same cruelty shown to him, or choose a different path.

## PRAISE FOR THE SECRET BATTLE OF EVAN PAO

- ★ "Explores how our lens of the past and present can change as we learn new information . . . Full of thoughtful prose and dialogue, Shang's timely story is full of realistic portrayals and powerful messages."  
—*Booklist*, starred review
  - ★ "Sensitively portrayed . . . handles with nuance questions about how uncomfortable history can be approached in classrooms and communities. A thoughtful and timely read."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
  - ★ "Told through a range of alternating perspectives, the thoughtfully rendered text explores with empathy the way the town navigates a Chinese American family's arrival, and works in themes of community, justice, and trust through the past and present . . . a well-paced and nuanced story that follows Evan's growing stronger in his sense of self."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review
- "A thoughtful and nuanced novel, with relatable characters, that treats white complacency and complicity with forbearance, though it certainly doesn't excuse it."  
—*New York Times Book Review*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wendy Wan-Long Shang is the author of *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*, which was awarded the Asian/Pacific American Award for Children's Literature; *The Way Home Looks Now*, an Amelia Bloomer Project List selection and a CCBC Choices List selection; *The Secret Battle of Evan Pao*, which received multiple starred reviews; Sydney Taylor Honor Book *This Is Just a Test*, which she cowrote with Madelyn Rosenberg; and *Not Your All-American Girl*, a Tablet Magazine Best Children's Book, also cowritten with Madelyn Rosenberg. She lives with her family in the suburbs of Washington, DC.

## ABOUT THE WRITER OF THIS RESOURCE GUIDE

Crystal Chen is the Teen Center Coordinator at The New York Public Library and a 2018 American Library Association Emerging Leader. She received her MSLIS from Pratt Institute and is an active member of the Chinese American Librarians Association and Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. She also serves as a community admin for We Here (wehere.space), a supportive community for BIPOC in LIS.



Scholastic.com/PowerOfStory



# LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CHINESE AND AAPI HISTORY

## CHINESE AND AAPI HISTORY

When Evan discovers that Chinese American soldiers served in the American Civil War, he's elated to see himself reflected and linked to the longstanding traditions of his new town. Despite often being perceived as foreign or "other"—or presumed to be recent immigrants—Chinese Americans have lived in America for generations, and their histories are intertwined with foundational historical events, from the California Gold Rush to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad to the development of agricultural economies. Their stories are not forgotten, and the lives of soldiers like Joseph Pierce, Edward Day Cohota, and Antonio Dardelle continue to shine light on the oft-overlooked Chinese American experience. To learn more, start with these resources:

- **America's National Parks | Asian and Pacific Islanders of the Civil War Handbook** [americasnationalparks.org/asians-and-pacific-islanders-in-the-civil-war](https://americasnationalparks.org/asians-and-pacific-islanders-in-the-civil-war)  
The stories of Civil War soldiers from Asia and the Pacific Islands are collected in this official National Park Service handbook. This free digital publication, including authors like Ruthanne Lum McCunn and Dr. Gary Y. Okihiro, is dense with engaging text and images that help paint an in-depth portrait of life during and after the war and aims to remedy the omission of AAPI in historical accounts.
- **The Blue, the Gray and the Chinese** [bluegraychinese.blogspot.com](http://bluegraychinese.blogspot.com)  
This blog features links to primary sources, articles/books, and video/audio about American Civil War participants of Chinese descent, building upon the work of Gordon Kwok and the Association to Commemorate the Chinese Serving in the American Civil War: [sites.google.com/site/accsacw/Home](https://sites.google.com/site/accsacw/Home).
- **Library of Congress | Chinese Immigration and Relocation in U.S. History** [loc.gov/classroom-materials/immigration/chinese](https://loc.gov/classroom-materials/immigration/chinese)  
This Library of Congress webpage offers classroom materials to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the Library's vast digital collections in their teaching about Chinese immigration and relocation throughout U.S. history.
- **Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) | Learning Resources** [mocanyc.org/learn/learning-resources](https://mocanyc.org/learn/learning-resources)  
Based in New York, MOCA highlights the stories of Chinese Americans and preserves their 200-year history in America. Created for different age ranges, MOCA's downloadable digital magazines offer an interactive experience for students to engage with history and learn about notable contemporary and historical Chinese American figures.
- **Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) | Asian Americans** [pbs.org/show/asian-americans](https://pbs.org/show/asian-americans)  
This five-part PBS documentary series casts a fresh eye on the American experience, highlighting the perspectives of Asian Americans and their role in U.S. history. Linked teaching resources provide an intimate look at notable events such as Japanese American incarceration, early South Asian immigration, the 1992 L.A. Riots, and the Filipino American farmworkers' fight for rights.
- **Ruthanne Lum McCunn | "Chinese in the Civil War: Ten Who Served"** [mccunn.com/Civil-War.pdf](https://mccunn.com/Civil-War.pdf)  
McCunn's article in *Chinese America: History and Perspectives, 1996* uses primary sources to reconstruct the lives of 10 Chinese individuals who served in the American Civil War. The profiles provide nuanced insights into the Chinese experience in America, from their participation in military service to their fight for citizenship and pensions as war veterans.

## LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AND VIOLENCE

The Pao family experience a disturbing act of violence that shakes their growing connections to their new community. Over 11,000 hate incidents against Asian Americans were reported between March 2020 and March 2022, including physical assault, verbal harassment, shunning, and vandalism. Anti-China rhetoric such as the label “China virus” further demonized and scapegoated Asian American Pacific Islander communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. While anti-Asian racism, exclusion, and discrimination are deeply rooted in the history of the United States, just as deeply rooted is the history—and future—of Asian American resistance. To learn more, start with these resources:

- **The Asian American Foundation | Rapid Response Toolkit** [taaf.org/toolkit](https://taaf.org/toolkit)  
This toolkit aims to support and protect Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities from anti-Asian xenophobia and racism through practical tools and resources, including a checklist for responding to hate crimes, action steps for community and individual safety, and guidance for advocacy and media engagement.
- **AAPI Youth Rising** [aapiyouthrising.org](https://aapiyouthrising.org)  
This youth-led organization initiates positive change through small, concrete actions, and advocates for the teaching of Asian American history in schools.
- **Cornell University | Anti-Racism Resources for the AAPI Community** [asianamericanstudies.cornell.edu/anti-racism-resources-aapi-community](https://asianamericanstudies.cornell.edu/anti-racism-resources-aapi-community)  
Compiled by Cornell University’s Asian American Studies Program, this comprehensive list of local and national resources addresses relevant issues within the community, including anti-Blackness, COVID-19, mental health, anti-racism, ableism, coalition building, and general advocacy.
- **Learning for Justice | Speaking Up Against Racism around the Coronavirus** [learningforjustice.org/magazine/speaking-up-against-racism-around-the-coronavirus](https://learningforjustice.org/magazine/speaking-up-against-racism-around-the-coronavirus)  
Learning for Justice works with communities to seek racial justice, dismantle white supremacy, and advance human rights. They offer robust classroom resources, professional development opportunities, and informative articles discussing activism and social justice—like this article to help educators understand the historical context and confront racist tropes and xenophobia from students and colleagues in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Project READY: Reimagining Equity & Access for Diverse Youth** [ready.web.unc.edu](https://ready.web.unc.edu)  
A joint project of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina Central University, and Wake County (NC) Public Schools (WCPSS), Project READY is an anti-racist curriculum developed to help school and library workers support and provide services to Black and Indigenous youth and youth of color. Centered on core tenets of racial equity, cultural competence, and social justice, Project READY offers comprehensive, self-guided modules that help users deepen their understanding of racial equity work, particularly within classrooms and libraries.
- **Stop AAPI Hate | Resources** [stopaapihate.org/resources](https://stopaapihate.org/resources)  
Stop AAPI Hate began as a coalition to track and analyze incidents of hate, violence, harassment, discrimination, shunning, and child bullying against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through reports and advocacy, they continue to raise national awareness about the issue of anti-Asian hate and offer practical solutions, community resources, and policy recommendations for long-term change. This resource page contains helpful information and tip sheets for educators and caregivers, including tips for discussing anti-Asian racism with students.

## LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND RESOLUTION

After police trivialize the violent incident, Evan's classmates decide to collectively administer punishment through social ostracization. But throughout, Evan wages an internal battle and ultimately chooses his own form of empathy-driven justice, leading to effective resolution and reconciliation. Stemming from Indigenous origins, restorative justice practices focus on repairing harm to victims and provide alternatives to retributive discipline, thereby strengthening relationships and communities rather than fracturing them. Educators may find restorative practices a useful approach to conflict resolution within classroom settings. To learn more, start with these resources:

- **Act to Change** [acttochange.org](https://acttochange.org)  
Act to Change, a nonprofit organization springing from a 2015 national public awareness campaign, works to fight discrimination and stop bullying, including within the AAPI community. They offer anti-bullying resources in multiple languages and anti-racism toolkits to help facilitate discussion within K-12 classrooms.
- **Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) Connection | Restorative Practices** [creducation.net/conflict\\_resolution\\_education\\_practice\\_areas/restorative\\_practices](https://creducation.net/conflict_resolution_education_practice_areas/restorative_practices)  
The Conflict Resolution Education Connection is a web site devoted to the promotion of conflict resolution education throughout the world. This teacher-facing page offers an overview of restorative justice practices as well as a list of videos and resources to learn more.
- **Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility** [morningsidecenter.org](https://morningsidecenter.org)  
Morningside Center aims to facilitate transformative experiences for members of the school community to co-create joyful, equitable, and rigorous learning environments. They offer classroom resources that support social and emotional learning, restorative practices, racial equity, and more.
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline** [thehotline.org](https://thehotline.org)  
This hotline provides free, confidential support and crisis intervention for those experiencing domestic violence or those seeking more information about abusive or unhealthy relationships. Trained advocates are available 24/7 online, through text chat (text START to 88788), and by phone (1-800-799-7233).
- **Western Justice Center (WJC) | School Tools** [schooltools.info](https://schooltools.info)  
Western Justice Center (WJC) empowers people to strengthen their communities by growing the conflict resolution skills and capacity of youth, educators, schools, and community partners. Their School Tools program offers lesson plans, handouts, and videos to teach conflict resolution to grades 4-12. This curriculum is arranged into progressive levels and covers topics like conflict analysis, regulation strategies, culture, and identity.



# FURTHER READING

## FOR MIDDLE GRADE STUDENTS

- *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan
- *Freestyle* by Gale Galligan
- Front Desk series by Kelly Yang
- *The Many Meanings of Meilan* by Andrea Wang
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *Not Your All-American Girl* by Wendy Wan-Long Shang and Madelyn Rosenberg
- *Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park
- *The Tryout* by Christina Soontornvat and Joanna Cacao

## FOR YOUNG ADULTS

- *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang
- *Days of Infamy: How a Century of Bigotry Led to Japanese American Internment* by Lawrence Goldstone
- *From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement* by Paula Yoo
- *Making It Right: Building Peace, Settling Conflict* by Marilee Peters
- *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo
- *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, and Harmony Becker

## FOR ADULTS

- *The Chinese in America: A Narrative History* by Iris Chang
- *Ghosts of Gold Mountain: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad* by Gordon H. Chang
- *The Making of Asian America: A History* by Erika Lee
- *Yellow Peril!: An Archive of Anti-Asian Fear* by John Kuo Wei Tchen and Dylan Yeats

