Novels

Adiga, Aravind  The White Tiger  F ADI:A
Meet Balram Halwai, the 'White Tiger': servant, philosopher, entrepreneur and murderer. Born in a village in the dark heart of India, the son of a rickshaw puller, Balram is taken out of school by his family and put to work in a teashop. As he crushes coal and wipes tables, he nurses a dream of escape. His big chance comes when a rich village landlord hires him as a chauffeur for his son. Arriving in Delhi with his new master, Balram's re-education begins, as he learns of a new morality at the heart of a new India.

Adiga, Aravind  Between the Assassinations  F ADI:A
In his compelling new work of fiction, Aravind Adiga has imagined the small Indian city of Kittur, an everytown nestling on the coast south of Goa and north of Calicut. Through the myriad and distinctive voices of its in habitants, an entire Indian world comes vividly and unforgettably to life. Adiga has produced a microcosm of Indian life in the 80s, the years between the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv. Muslim, Christian and Hindu, high-caste and low-caste, rich and poor: all of Indian life - the 'sorrowful parade of humanity' - is here.

Adiga, Aravind  Last Man in Tower  F ADI:A
A suspense-filled story of money and power, luxury and deprivation; a rich tapestry peopled by unforgettable characters, not least of which is Bombay itself, Last Man in Tower opens up the hearts and minds of the inhabitants of a great city - ordinary people pushed to their limits in a place that knows none.

Alexander, Goldie  The Youngest Cameleer  F ALE:G
Ahmed Ackbar, a thirteen-year-old Afghan and the 'youngest Afghan cameleer' speaks Pashto and a very little English. In late 1872 he sails into the prosperous city of Adelaide with three cameleers (Uncle Kamran, Alannah and Jemma Khan) to help look after four camels. As the expedition treks into an unexplored interior, Ahmed must cope with Jemma Khan’s enmity, his own homesickness, a very different culture and language, and the difficulties of exploration.

Aslam, Nadeem  The Blind Man's Garden  F ASL:N
Jeo and Mikal, foster-brothers from a small Pakistani city, secretly enter Afghanistan: not to fight with the Taliban, but to help and care for wounded civilians. From the wilds of Afghanistan to the heart of the family left behind - their blind father haunted for years by the death of his wife, by the mistakes he may have made in the name of Islam and nationhood, Jeo's steadfast wife and her superstitious mother - Aslam's prose takes us on an extraordinary journey.

Baillie, Allan  Songman  F BAI:A
This story is set in northern Australia in 1720, before the time of Captain Cook. Yukuwa sets out across the sea to the islands of Indonesia. It is an adventure contrasting lifestyles and cultures, based on an episode of our history rarely explored in fiction.
Suddenly there was a trench across the beach, about ten meters away from the fishermen, where before there had been nothing but flat sand. The fishermen moved quickly away as the trench heaved grey ash across the sand. They sprinted when it hurled black rocks at them. Kerta didn't want to go to Krakatoa. He knows that a dark spirit, Orang Aljeh, is there and he is terrified he might wake it. But Kerta is there on the volcano, and the Ghost of Krakatoa has woken up.

Tiananmen Square is the climax of the story of teenage Leah and her mother Joan, on a quest to find the other half of an ancient Chinese coin. Joan is Penang-Chinese, her late husband English, their daughter Australian. The half coin was a bequest from Leah's unknown Chinese grandfather, but Dad had been the one keenest to unravel its mystery. Now there are only the two of them to take up the mission, an uneasy search that is to take them across much of China looking for possible ancestors and the answer to an indecipherable riddle.

Set in war-torn Kampuchea, this is the powerful story of Vithy's search for his brother, lost in their flight from the Khmer Rouge.

There had always been the Running Man…always that phantom form somewhere in the distance, always shuffling relentlessly closer…Fourteen-year-old Joseph, a talented artist, is drawing a portrait of his silent, brooding neighbour, Tom Leighton. To draw him accurately, Joseph must see beyond the rumours and gossip to the man himself, the Vietnam War veteran who passes his days tending his silkworms and keeping his dark secrets. Joseph's own horror of the running man, the dishevelled figure of his nightmares, endlessly repeating a pattern, recedes with his growing understanding of the difficult relationships in his family.

When two Mongolian brothers inexplicably appear one morning in Julie's sixth grade class, no one, least of all Julie, knows what to do with them. But when Chingis, the older of the two brothers, proclaims Julie as their Good Guide - a nomadic tradition of welcoming strangers to a new land - Julie must somehow navigate them through soccer, school uniforms, and British slang.

August 1611. Jack Fletcher is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan - his beloved father and the crew lie slaughtered by ninja pirates. Rescued by the legendary sword master Masamoto Takeshi, Jack's only hope is to become a samurai warrior. And so his training begins. But life at the samurai school is a constant fight for survival. Even with his friend Akiko by his side, Jack is singled out by bullies and treated as an outcast. With courage in his heart and his sword held high, can Jack prove himself and face his deadliest rival yet?

Mai Linh and her brother, Minh, are given new names when they arrive in Australia from Vietnam and go to Boundary Park School. When Minh falls into real trouble, it's up to Mai Linh (Maddie) to help him solve his present problems and overcome past fears.
Catran, Ken, Teresa Moran, Soldier  

Teresa Moran is a fourth-generation soldier. She wants to live up to her father and uphold the family name, but must fight to gain acceptance among her male comrades. In Timor and Iraq she is put to the test. Can she break the cycle of wartime and peacetime violence that has always beset her family - and find the courage to change the future?

Coerr, Eleanor  

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes  

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when an atom bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima in Japan, where she lived with her family. Ten years later, she had leukaemia as a result of radiation from the bomb. Sadako's letters were collected by her classmates and published in Japan. This book is the result of the author's research into those letters and Sadako's family background. The author portrays Sadako as a spirited, brave girl who faced her future with courage, surrounded by the love and warmth of her family. Today, Sadako is a heroine to the children of Japan who visit her memorial in the Hiroshima Park to leave the paper cranes they have made in her honour.

Crist-Evans, Craig  

Amaryllis  

Amaryllis - the name of the ship that ran aground on Singer Island, Florida, during a hurricane in 1965. For three years, its hulk jutted out into the Atlantic, creating perfect sets of waves. It became a battle cry for Jimmy Staples and his older brother, Frank, and a code word for going surfing together. But now that Frank is off battling the enemy, as well as his own demons, in Vietnam and Jimmy is left to deal with the repercussions at home, 'Amaryllis' takes on an ominous new meaning, as a symbol of what happens when life places the unexpected in our paths.

Dark Dreams: Australian Refugee Stories by Young Writers  

An anthology of essays, interviews and short stories written by children and young adults aged 11-20. These young people relate or imaginatively recreate the story of someone who came to Australia as a refugee.

Desai, Anita  

The Village by the Sea  

Hari and his sister Lila are the eldest children of an Indian family. Their mother is ill and their father spends most of his time in a drunken stupor. Grimly, Lila and Hari struggle to hold the family together until one day, in a last-ditch attempt to break out of this poverty, Hari leaves his sisters in the silent, shadowy hut and runs off to Bombay.

Disher, Garry  

The Divine Wind  

This is the story of four friends growing up in Broome before World War II. Alice and Hartley Penrose, Mitsy Sennosuke and Jamie Kilian have very different lives and backgrounds, but they swim, joke and watch films together happily. Until war breaks out and Japanese bombs start falling.

Ellis, Deborah  

Parvana  

There are many types of battle in Afghanistan. Imagine living in a country where women and girls are not allowed to leave the house without a man. Imagine having to wear clothes that cover every part of your body, including your face, whenever you go out. This is the life of Parvana, a young girl growing up in Afghanistan under the control of an extreme religious military group. When soldiers burst into her home and drag her father off to prison, Parvana is forced to take responsibility for her whole family, dressing as a boy to make a living in the marketplace of Kabul, risking her life in the dangerous and volatile city.
Ellis, Deborah Shauzia F ELL:D
Parvana’s friend Shauzia continues the story when she is in a refugee camp, focused on getting to France. She can see no other option, even when a different line of work is offered, making use of her nursing and humanitarian skills right there where she is needed.

Evans, Alwyn Walk in My Shoes F EVA:A
After a perilous and terrifying escape from war-torn Afghanistan, Gulnessa and her family find themselves in Australia, a place they know nothing about. They are exhausted and traumatised but so full of hope. At last somewhere safe to call home. But their struggle isn't over yet. They are confined a detention centre for asylum seekers and forced to prove their refugee status.

Farmer, Graeme Brothers in Arms F FAR:G
The story of a young Japanese boy's quest to lay his grandfather to rest. In order to achieve this Yukio needs to search for his grandfather's bones in the bay of the small Australian town of Yanyan. This quest creates tensions with his father, though at the same time it unites two local boys who have been continuing with their own fathers' feud. While Yukio's search relates to the Second World War, Josh and Daniel's fathers have been hostile towards one another since the Vietnam War.

Flynn, Warren Escaping Paradise F FAR:G
A tropical holiday turns into a nightmare for Nicki when she is kidnapped by freedom fighters and held to ransom. But, it's not her that the kidnappers want. They think she is the daughter of an oil magnate, whose money can pay for the weapons they need. When they discover she isn't, things can only go from bad to worse.

Gibb, Camilla The Beauty of Humanity Movement F GIB:C
Tu is a young tour guide working in Hanoi. As he leads bands of Westerners on 'war tours' through the scarred landscape of Vietnam, he wonders what his clients see - and what they miss. Maggie is Vietnamese by birth but has lived most of her life in the US. Returning to her homeland, she sifts through history for clues as to the fate of her dissident father. Old Man Hung has lived through decades of political upheaval. But Hung has found a way to provide hope in his waterside community: The Beauty of Humanity Movement.

Gleeson, Libby Mahtab’s Story F GLE:L
Mahtab and her family are forced to leave their home in Afghanistan and journey secretly through the rocky mountains to Pakistan and from there to faraway Australia. Months go by, months of waiting, months of dread. Will they ever be reunited with their father, will they ever find a home? Based on the true story of one girl's voyage to Australia with her family.

Gleeson, Libby Refuge F GLE:L
Andrew's sister Anna believes she can do something. She likes fighting for causes and she's getting Andrew involved. Now he has to keep secrets from his parents, from his friends, from the girl he really likes. Andrew's never broken the law before. But the law and the government don't seem to care about a stranger who's had to run for her life. Escaping a hostile regime. Seeking refuge.
Gleitzman, Morris   Boy Overboard   F GLE:M
Jamal and Bibi have a dream. To lead Australia to soccer glory in the next World Cup. But first they must face landmines, pirates, storms and assassins. Can Jamal and his family survive their incredible journey and get to Australia?

Grant, Neil   Indo Deaming   F GRA:N
A surf odyssey that reveals a rarely seen glimpse of Indonesia and its people: funny, compassionate, angry, wild, clever. It's for anyone who has the spirit of travel wedged in their soul. Goog's best mate Castro vanished into the Southern Ocean, but his body was never found. So Goog flies north, chasing the ghost of his dead friend. He hooks up with Niagara - a young American hunting his own illusions - and together they set off on a wild, gritty surf odyssey.

Grant, Neil   The Ink Bridge   F GRA:N
Omed is a boy from Afghanistan. After making an enemy of the Taliban on the day the Buddhas of Bamiyan are destroyed, he undertakes a perilous journey to seek asylum in Australia. Hector is a grieving Australian boy who has given up on school and retreated into silence. Their paths meet at a candle factory where they both find work.

Grindley, Sally   Broken Glass   F GRI:S
When Suresh and Sandeep run away from home to escape their abusive and bullying father, they do so with the hope that they are going to find something better. However, soon Sandeep and Suresh find themselves working to collect rubbish (broken glass) in the big city - and their new home is a traffic island in the middle of a busy road. Is this their future forever, or can the brothers change their fates to something much more hopeful?

Hamid, Mohsin   The Reluctant Fundamentalist   F HAM:M
At a cafe table in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an uneasy American stranger. As dusk deepens to night, he begins the tale that has brought them to this fateful encounter. Changez is living an immigrant's dream of America. At the top of his class at Princeton, he is snapped up by the elite valuation firm of Underwood Samson. He thrives on the energy of New York, but in the wake of September 11, Changez finds his position in his adopted city suddenly overturned.

Harris, Christine   Fortune Cookies   F HAR:C
Sarah has nightmares, Huong is threatened, Miki longs to follow her dreams, but she might destroy the dreams of those close to her, Lacey is haunted by memories, Halil's father disappears, the daughter of Ta-wha risks darkness and wild animals for a taste of freedom. The mixture of funny and sad stories in this collection gently lifts the familiar imagery of places like China, Vietnam, Singapore, Korea, the Philippines, Bali and Australia and allows us to share the reality of lives that are at best only half understood.

Harris, Christine   Foreign Devil   F HAR:C
Long fingers from the past reach out to Tyler Norton, crossing boundaries of logic and time. In China, he finds reality and illusion are difficult to separate.
Razaq Nadeem lives in the tribal area of Kala Dhaka, known as Black Mountain, in Pakistan. When an earthquake strikes and his family is lost, Razaq is told by his dying father to flee to Rawalpindi, where his uncle Kamil lives. In the aftermath of the quake, all is chaos. Razaq is sold into slavery by a man preying on orphans in the area, and is desperate to escape.

Jaime Richards was brought up in Muslim Pakistan. Will she ever find her own place in Australia or will she forever live in a borderland - the space between two countries and two cultures? Or is the borderland a true place of her own?

Shahana lives alone with her young brother in the shadow of the Line of Control, the border patrolled by Pakistani and Indian soldiers that divides Kashmir in two. Life is hard, but Shahana ekes out a living with her beautiful embroidery. Then she finds a boy lying unconscious near the border. Zahid is from across the Line of Control, and Shahana takes a terrible risk by sheltering him. But how can she give Zahid up to the authorities when she knows he'll be imprisoned - or worse?

In a novel set in a land much like ancient Japan, a young boy named Takeo becomes a pawn in the ceaseless wars between rival warlord clans in a culture ruled by codes of honour and formal rituals.

Ikal is a student at Muhammadiyah Elementary, on the island of Belitong, where graduating from sixth grade is considered a major achievement. His school is under constant threat of closure. In fact, Ikal and his friends - a group called the Rainbow Troops - face threats from every angle: pessimistic, corrupt government officials; greedy corporations hardly distinguishable from the colonialism they've replaced; deepening poverty and crumbling infrastructure. But in the form of two extraordinary teachers, they also have hope, and Ikal's education is an uplifting one.

Winter, 1975. Afghanistan - a country hidden in the corner of Asia, quietly ruled over by a fading monarchy on the verge of an internal coup. But in Kabul, 12-year-old Amir has his own concerns. He is desperate to win the annual kite fighting tournament, then chase the last kite and bring it home triumphantly, to prove to his father that he has the makings of a man. But when the day of the tournament comes, it brings with it events that will change the lives of Amir and his best friend Hassan forever.

Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry the troubled and bitter Rasheed, who is thirty years her senior. Nearly two decades later, in a climate of growing unrest, tragedy strikes fifteen-year-old Laila, who must leave her home and join Mariam's unhappy household. With the passing of time comes Taliban rule over Afghanistan, the streets of Kabul loud with the sound of gunfire and bombs, life a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear, the women's endurance tested beyond their worst imaginings.
Hosseini, Khaled And the Mountains Echoed F HOS:K
A father tells his son, Abdullah, a story of a father’s sacrifice of one of his children, to ensure that child has a better life than he’s born to. This is on the night before the man is walking to Kabul with his little daughter, Pari. Abdullah loves Pari so much that he refuses to stay behind; he doesn’t yet know that his father has promised the girl to a rich, childless couple. The separation that follows will scar not only the siblings, but many of the people closely involved in the transaction, and even into the next generation.

Hyde, Michael Hey Joe F HYD:M
Jimi doesn't know his father, Joe; the least he can do is go to Vietnam and try to find him. With the aid of Joe's half-written novel, an uncanny sense of direction and more than a dash of luck, Jimi sets off on a search for his father... and himself.

Jaivin, Linda The Empress Lover F JAI:L
Peking, 1944: Sir Edmund Backhouse is a man of many parts. A polyglot scholar. A closeted homosexual. A genius of perversity, a forger, arms salesman, occasional spy and fantasist. Also, if he is to be believed, the onetime lover of the redoubtable Empress Dowager of China, a woman many decades his senior.

Jian, Ma The Noodle Maker F JIA:M
Every week, a writer of political propaganda and a professional blood donor meet for dinner. They are unlikely friends - one of them tortured by his 'art', the other fat and wealthy from the earthy business of providing spare blood for the citizens of China. Over the course of one especially gastronomic evening, the writer starts to complain about his latest Party commission: the story of an ordinary soldier who sacrifices his life to the revolutionary cause. This is not the novel he wants to write, he tells his friend. Inside his head lives an unwritten book about the people he knows or sees everyday on the streets - people who lives are far more representative of the world in which he lives.

Khan, Rukhsana Jameela F KHA:R
Jameela lives with her family in a war-torn village in Afghanistan. Life is hard, but when her mother dies, and her father remarries, Jameela has to face a greater horror. To survive, she draws on the strong sense of self that her mother gave her.

Lahiri, Jhumpa The Namesake F LAH:J
Born to an Indian academic and his wife, Gogol is afflicted from birth with a name that is neither Indian nor American nor even really a first name at all. He is given the name by his father who, before he came to America to study at MIT, believed he was saved from being killed in a train crash because he was sitting in the sleeping car reading Nikolai Gogol's 'The Overcoat.' Awkwardness is Gogol's birthright. He grows up a bright American boy, goes to Yale, has pretty girlfriends, becomes a successful architect, but like many second-generation immigrants, he can never quite find his place in the world.

Lahiri, Jhumpa Unaccustomed Earth F LAH:J
A new collection of stories that explore the heart of family life and the immigrant experience, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Interpreter of Maladies and The Namesake.
These elegant stories tell the lives of Indians in exile, of people navigating between the strict traditions they've inherited and the baffling New World they must encounter every day.

Moving to America turns Ha's life inside out. For all the ten years of her life, Ha has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by, and the beauty of her very own papaya tree. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Ha and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, Ha discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food, the strange shape of its landscape, and the strength of her very own family.

Cardiff in the 1980s is a place where maths can get you noticed. Rumi Vasi is the town's 'maths prodigy': untangling numbers and Rubik's Cubes protects her from the harsh vagaries of the playground and gives a pattern to her world. But after years of her father's determined tutoring, Rumi finds that numbers are beginning to lose their innocence. India infuses her with a romantic sense of belonging and, as she grows older, the idea of love is opened up to painful examination.

Nam Le’s family left Vietnam for Australia, an experience that inspires the first and last stories in The Boat. In between, however, Le's imagination lays claim to the world. The Boat takes us from a tourist in Tehran to a teenage hit man in Colombia, from an ageing New York artist to a boy coming of age in a small Victorian fishing town, from the city of Hiroshima just before the bomb is dropped to the haunting waste of the South China Sea in the wake of another war. Each story uncovers a raw human truth.

When Hana's suitcase arrives from Germany at the small Holocaust Education Centre in Japan, all the children want to know what happened to Hana. Fumiko decides to find out. She embarks on a journey across Europe and America, and 70 years of history. What Fumiko finds in Hana's suitcase is a story of terrible sadness and great joy.

Aceh, Indonesia, December 2004. Two teens find themselves surrounded by the destruction left in the wake of the most devastating tsunami the world has ever seen: Ruslan, a native of Aceh, in search of his missing father, and Sarah, an American girl, who has already lost her mother and is now struggling to find medical treatment for her sick brother. Only together can they find what they're searching for.

The story is set in the 2nd century AD, during the Han Dynasty. Two very different boys, both dreaming of glory. One year in their lives will be more dangerous than they ever imagined. Where the Great Wall meets the Yellow River, Hu's family struggles on the edge of starvation.
Lloyd, Alison  
**Battle of the Jade Horses**  
F LLO:A  
Far from the capital a group of bandits challenge the Emperor's rule. At stake are hundreds of priceless war horses and the power of the mighty Chinese empire. Even best friends, Hu and Ren, find themselves on opposite sides, torn apart by family loyalties. Ren and Hu must make terrible choices that could destroy them all.

Mah, Adeline Yen  
**Chinese Cinderella**  
F MAH:A  
When Adeline Yen Mah's mother died giving birth to her, the family considered Adeline bad luck and she was made to feel unwanted all her life. This is the story of her struggle for acceptance and how she overcame the odds to prove her worth.

Mansell, Deryn  
**Tiger Stone**  
F MAN:D  
Java, fourteenth century. The villagers are fearful of Mbah Merapi, the rumbling volcano that overshadows their lives. Kancil, the lowliest kitchen servant, knows the real danger is human but is fatherless and mute - and she will lose everything if her identity is revealed. How can Kancil warn the villagers of the danger they are in?

Massey, David  
**Torn**  
F MAS:D  
Afghanistan. In the heat and dust, young British army medic Elinor Nielson watches an Afghan girl walk into a hail of bullets. But when she runs to help, Ellie finds her gone. Who is she? And what's happened to her? What Ellie discovers makes her question everything she believes in - even her feelings for the American lieutenant who takes her side.

Masson, Sophie  
**The Tiger**  
F MAS:S  
Nick has imagined himself in Yogyakarta in Indonesia since before he could remember - his father's childhood home has been just as much a part of his life as his own Australian upbringing. But the real Indonesia stirs many emotions and poses unanswered questions about what really happened all those years ago. Why has it taken so long for Nick's father to return?

McCaughrean, Geraldine  
**Tamburlaine’s Elephants**  
F MCC:G  
Rusti is a Tartar, travelling and pillaging with the legendary Horde of Tamburlaine, Conqueror of the World. He dreams of honour and riches, and is proud to capture his first prisoners - an elephant and her keeper. Yet amidst the death and destruction, an unlikely friendship takes hold in this breathtaking tale.

McCormack, Patricia  
**Sold**  
F MCC:P  
Lakshmi lives in a small and remote village in Nepal. She is aware of the hardness of life, where there is never enough to eat and little hope that her stepfather will ever be anything but selfish and lazy. Then one day her stepfather hands her over to an aunty in exchange for money and she is taken away to work, she thinks, as a maid. Unfortunately, 13-year-old Lakshmi is destined for a squalid brothel in India.

McDonald, Ian  
**River of Gods**  
F MCD:I  
Set in the mid twenty-first century, Mother India is all the things she is now - ancient and vibrant, poor yet staggeringly rich. Diverse, violent, beautiful and terrible, thrilling and bewildering. A nation choked with peoples and cultures, riven with almost seismic contrasts and contradictions. Nearly two billion humans crowd the subcontinent and her seething cities - the cyberabads - where timeless culture and the highest of high-technologies meet to spawn new societies, and - possibly - new sentient species.
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**Meehan, Kierin - Night Singing**

A tale of survival in Hiroshima at the end of the second World War. When Josh breaks his leg, he is rescued by his kind but mysterious neighbour, Mrs. Murakami. Then Isabelle comes rollerblading into his life, bringing with her a circus-full of excitement, the key to Mrs. Murakami's tragic past and a whole new world of friends with secrets and mysteries of their own.

**Mitchell, Jane - Chalkline**

It's an ordinary morning at nine-year-old Rafiq's school in rural Kashmir when the silence of dawn prayers is ripped apart by gunfire. Soldiers of the Kashmir Freedom Fighters have raided the village in search of new recruits - they scrawl a line in chalk across the schoolroom wall, and any boy whose height reaches the line will be taken to fight. Rafiq is tall for his age - the first boy to cross the chalkline into a life of brutality and terrorism. This is the story of Rafiq's transformation from child to boy soldier, as he is indoctrinated into the cause of fanatical belief. But his family have not forgotten him; when he can no longer recognize himself, they remember the boy he was, and reach out a hand of redemption as he spirals towards a final act of atrocity.

**Morpurgo, Michael - Shadow**

When Hero, a bomb-sniffing spaniel, goes missing in the middle of war-torn Afghanistan, his soldier-owner is devastated. Meanwhile, Hero makes friends with a local Afghan boy, and sees a whole other side of the war.

**Morpurgo, Michael - Kensuke’s Kingdom**

Washed up on a desert island in the Pacific, Michael struggles to survive on his own. He can't find food or water, and lies down to die. When he wakes up there is a plate of fish and fruit and a bowl of fresh water beside him. Then he realises he is not alone on the island after all.

**Morrison, Rob - The Secret Sandwich**

When a former bank manager returns to his home town as a Buddhist monk, his presence stirs the community into various levels of scepticism and outrage. 14-year-old Brian, the narrator, becomes the Bunte's (meaning teacher) best friend and disciple of sorts, while remaining a slightly confused Catholic. Bunte's quiet persistence in maintaining his lifestyle and teachings eventually wins the acceptance and admiration of the townsfolk - and the violent ire of the local religious fanatic and madman.

**Mulligan, Andy - Trash**

In an unnamed Third World country, in the not-so-distant future, three dumpsite boys make a living picking through the mountains of garbage on the outskirts of a large city. One unlucky-lucky day, Raphael finds something very special and very mysterious. So mysterious that he decides to keep it, even when the city police offer a handsome reward for its return. That decision brings with it terrifying consequences, and soon the dumpsite boys must use all of their cunning and courage to stay ahead of their pursuers. It's up to Raphael, Gardo, and Rat--boys who have no education, no parents, no homes, and no money--to solve the mystery and right a terrible wrong.

**Mulligan, David - Angels of Kokoda**

A novel based on actual events written around Australian battles along the Kokoda Trail during World War II. The story centres around the intertwined lives of Derek, the son of Australian missionaries, and Morso, a native Papuan. When all are evacuated from PNG, Derek and Morso disappear into the jungle.
Murray, Kirsty  India Dark  F MUR:K
Madras 1910. A troupe of child performers are stranded, having staged a strike against their manager. Their fate now depends on the outcome of a court case, and an alliance with gentlemen of the British Raj. Based on a true story, India Dark recreates shifting friendships and loyalties and the clash of innocence versus experience against the backdrop of India's seductive mysteries.

Palmer, Tony  Break a Day  F PAL:T
On the Kokoda track, in the disease-filled jungles of Papua New Guinea, Murray Barrett and the rest of the 39th battalion are the only thing standing between Australia and a Japanese invasion. Everyone thinks they'll be slaughtered, and Murray finds that he will have to fight along side his worst enemy.

Park, Linda Sue  A Single Shard  F PAR:L
Tree-ear is an orphan in twelfth-century Korea. He lives under a bridge with Crane-man, a homeless widower who has taken him under his wing. Tree-ear hasn't got many prospects, but he is fascinated by master potter, Min, who lives in the nearby village. Secretly watching Min work, Tree-ear longs to be a potter himself. He persuades Min to let him do little jobs, until one day he has the chance to provide a service for him - one that could bring glory to Min and the village and fulfil his own dreams. But there are others seeking glory and many obstacles for a young boy to overcome.

Park, Linda Sue  When My Name Was Keoko  F PAR:L
Sun-hee and her older brother, Tae-yul, live in Korea with their parents. Because Korea is under Japanese occupation, the children study Japanese and speak it at school. Their own language, their flag, the folktales Uncle tells them—even their names—are all part of the Korean culture that is now forbidden. When World War II comes to Korea, Sun-hee is surprised that the Japanese expect their Korean subjects to fight on their side. But the greatest shock of all comes when Tae-yul enlists in the Japanese army in an attempt to protect Uncle, who is suspected of aiding the Korean resistance. Sun-hee stays behind, entrusted with the life-and-death secrets of a family at war.

Perera, Anna  Guantanamo Boy  F PER:A
In the tradition of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, this is the story of one boy's experience of the war against terror - behind the barbed wire. Khalid is a normal fifteen-year-old. He likes seeing his friends and playing football at the park. He isn't too excited about visiting his family in Karachi, but his Mum and Dad shame him into going with them - for the family's sake. So he goes, and one day opens the door to an unthinkable nightmare. Kidnapped by unknown assailants, Khalid is forced to go to a place no child should ever see.

Phommavanh, Oliver  Punchlines  F PHO:O
As long as you can make a girl laugh, she'll go for you, right? Well, unless you're a seriously weird teenager like Johnny Khamka. Surviving high school is hard enough, but how on earth can he get his childhood bestie, Josie, now a seriously hot teenager, to take him seriously? The answer is to keep her laughing. But when Johnny decides to take comedy seriously, he's suddenly at risk of not being funny at all.
Phommavanh, Oliver  **Thai-Riffic**  
Albert (Lengy) Lengviriyakul, is fed up with being Thai. His parents own a Thai restaurant with the cheesy name of Thai-riffic! and Lengy is sick of being his father's curry guinea pig, longing to just eat pizza! At school he is a bit of a troublemaker, going to any lengths to hide his background. But when his best friend decides to become Thai for a day for a school project, Lengy stubbornly comes to the realisation that there may just be some pretty cool things about his culture.

Phommavanh, Oliver  **Thai-No-Mite!**  
I'm Lengy and I'm Thai. My parents run a restaurant named Thai-riffic! but I'm always craving hot chips and pizza. Mum and Dad's idea of a holiday? Going to Thailand to visit all our relatives. Recipe for getting there? Survive Dr Needlemouse and his arsenal of needles. Squeeze in a snappy budget trip to Dreamworld. Catch a red-back spider for my Auntie. Fight off a savage bat attack. Celebrate Christmas, Thai-riffic style! Recipe for surviving the planning? A heap of good luck and plenty of THAI-NO-MITE! Phew! I'll need a holiday after this...

Rai, Bali  **City of Ghosts**  
It's 1919 and Amritsar is a city on the brink of rebellion. Riots, violence and tension spill onto the streets ...Bissen Singh fought bravely for the British Empire during World War One. Now he waits patiently for news from England. Gurdial, a young orphan, is desperate to marry Sohni, the daughter of a rich and evil man. And Jeevan, Gurdial's oldest friend, is swept up in the revolution and changing beyond all recognition. Bissen, Gurdial and Jeevan are looking to the future whilst trying to escape ghosts from the past. But as the fight for Amritsar reaches a terrifying climax, their lives will be changed for ever.

Rai, Bali  **The Night run**  
Amritsar, India, 1919. A city on the verge of meltdown, as tensions between the local people and the British colonial rulers explode. 12-year-old Arjan Singh learns that his father has been falsely charged with serious crimes and faces hanging.

Reedy, Trent  **Words in the Dust**  
Zulaikha hopes. She hopes for peace, now that the Taliban have been driven out of Afghanistan. She hopes for a better relationship with her hard stepmother. And she hopes one day even to go to school. Then she meets Meena, who offers to teach her the poetry she once taught her mother. And the Americans come to the village, promising not just new opportunities, but surgery to mend Zulaikha's face. But can Zulaikha dare to hope they will come true?

Rippin, Sally  **Chenxi and the Foreigner**  
Anna never imagined living in such a foreign place. Fresh out of high school, she has joined her father, who works in Shanghai. Too bad Anna seems nothing but trouble for Chenxi. His ideas about art already rankle the authorities, and he could do without the added attention of being with a wai guo ren - - a foreigner. Even so, he is intrigued by Anna's brashness and the freedoms she takes for granted. The novel is set around the time of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rong, Jiang</td>
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It is the 1960s, and Beijing intellectual Chen Zhen volunteers to live in a remote nomadic settlement on the Inner Mongolian grasslands. There, he discovers an age-old synergy between the nomads, their livestock, and the wild wolves who roam the plains. Chen learns about the rich spiritual relationship that exists between these adversaries, and what each might learn from the other. But when members of the People's Republic swarm in from the cities to bring modernity and productivity to the grasslands, the peace of Chen's solitary existence is shattered, and the delicate balance between humans and wolves is disrupted.

Set against a background of political turbulence in Kerala, this novel tells the story of twins Esthappen and Rahel. Amongst the vats of banana jam and heaps of peppercorns in their grandmother's factory they try to craft a childhood for themselves amidst what constitutes their family.

On a beautiful night in the city of Kahani in the land of Alifbay a terrible thing happened: twelve-year-old Luka's storyteller father, Rashid, fell suddenly into a sleep so deep that nothing and no one could rouse him. To save him from slipping away entirely, Luka must embark on a journey through the Magic World, encountering a slew of phantasmagorical obstacles along the way, to steal the Fire of Life.

A collection of stories as rich and absorbing as any novel. From traditional mothers trying to marry off their Westernised children to software billionaires, chauffeurs and the legacy of the Raj, Lavanya Sankaran's stories of Bangalore, India's Silicone Valley, are a pleasure from first to last.

Two boys, both sons of doctors, are sent to the top of a mountain for "re-education" in Mao's China; an education that involves carting buckets of excrement up and down precipitous paths. They discover instead the discreet charm of bourgeois literature and the local tailor's attractive daughter.

Ever since he can remember, Animal has gone on all fours, the catastrophic result of what happened on That Night when, thanks to an American chemical company, the Apocalypse visited his slum. Now not quite twenty, he leads a hand-to-mouth existence with his dog Jara and a crazy old nun called Ma Franci. When a young American doctor, Elli Barber, comes to town to open a free clinic for the still suffering townsfolk, Animal plunges into a web of intrigues, scams and plots with the unabashed aim of turning events to his own advantage.

The emotional, tension-filled story of a 14-year-old boy's attempt to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest is an action-packed adventure about friendship, sacrifice, family and the drive to take on Everest, despite the incredible risk.
Staples, Suzanne Fisher  
**Under the Persimmon Tree: A Story of Survival in War-torn Afghanistan**

Northern Afghanistan, 2001. When the Taliban takes her brother and father to be soldiers and the bombing of her tiny village kills her mother and baby brother, Najmah makes a dangerous journey over the mountains to Pakistan. Najmah joins Elaine's refugee school under the persimmon tree, until, sure that both their families are dead, Elaine tries to persuade her to go to America. But when Najmah's brother arrives at the school, still alive, she bravely decides to return with him to the village of their birth.

Starke, Ruth  
**Nips XI**

If white boys can't jump, can Asian kids play cricket? Lan's fed up with being called a nip. He wants to be a true-blue Aussie. What better way than by playing the greatest Anglo game of all? Lan gathers a team together and defiantly gives it a name: NIPS XI. Now all they have to do is get some equipment, find a coach, get themselves a sponsor and learn the rules of the game. Then it's time to challenge the best cricket team in the district.

Starke, Ruth  
**Noodle Pie**

Meeting relatives for the first time isn't easy. When they speak a different language and seem to be greedy and impatient and, worst of all, run a pretty crummy restaurant, it's the pits. For Andy and his dad, a former refugee, returning to Vietnam is full of surprises.

Swarup, Vikas  
**Slumdog Millionaire: a Novel**

Ram Mohammad Thomas has just got twelve questions correct on a TV quiz-show to win a cool one billion rupees. But he is brutally slung in prison on suspicion of cheating. How can a kid from the slums know who Shakespeare was, unless he is pulling a fast one? In the order of the questions on the show, Ram tells us which amazing adventures in his street-kid life gave him the answers. From orphanages to brothels, gangsters to beggar-masters, and into the homes of Bollywood's rich and famous, Ram's story is brimming with the chaotic comedy, heart-stopping tragedy and tear-inducing joyousness of modern India.

Tan, Amy  
**The Joy Luck Club**

In 1949 four Chinese women - drawn together by the shadow of their past - begin meeting in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks, eat dim sum, and say stories. They call their gathering the Joy Luck Club. Nearly forty years later, one of the members has died. When her daughter comes to take her place, she learns of her mother's lifelong wish, and the tragic way in which it has come true.

Tolbert, Steve  
**Tracking the Dalai Lama**

Her world shattered by tragedy, Jess withdraws from school, family and friends. She is angry, and life is bleak. When Tim, Jess's father, is asked to interview the Dalai Lama in Northern India, a reluctant Jess agrees. They end up tracking the Dalai Lama on a trip across the roof of the world into Tibet, where life is under threat from the Chinese military as well as the bitter climate and harsh terrain. For Jess the trip becomes two journeys, over land and through the soul, difficult and dangerous, with unknown destinations.
Tomo: Friendship through Fiction: an Anthology of Japan Teen Stories
(Edited by Holly Thompson)
Authors from Japan and around the world have contributed works of fiction set in or related to Japan. Young adult English-language readers will be able to connect with their Japanese counterparts through stories of contemporary Japanese teens, ninja and yokai teens, folklore teens, mixed-heritage teens, and non-Japanese teens who call Japan home. Tales of friendship, mystery, love, ghosts, magic, science fiction, and history will propel readers to Japan past and present and to Japanese universes abroad.

Vondra, Josef
No-name Bird
East Timor. 1975. Jose Rodrigus was fourteen years old when the Indonesians came. This is his moving and extraordinary story. It is the story of his unusual relationship with Uncle Adolfo and the fighting bird they train. As the politics of their country erupt and the people, including Jose's family, have their daily lives changed for ever, Jose is caught up in adventure and danger.

Waheed, Mirza
The Collaborator
It is Kashmir in the early 1990s and war has finally reached the isolated village of Nowgam close to the Pakistan border. Indian soldiers appear as if from nowhere to hunt for militants on the run. Four teenage boys, who used to spend their afternoons playing cricket, or singing Bollywood ballads down by the river, have disappeared one by one, to cross into Pakistan and join the movement against the Indian army. Only one of their friends, the son of the headman, is left behind.

Whelan, Gloria
Goodbye Vietnam
When Mia's family learns that her grandmother is about to be arrested, they decide to flee for their lives. Leaving Vietnam behind, they sail for Hong Kong in a rickety boat full of refugees. When the captives can't navigate and the boat continually breaks down, Mia's hope for Hong Kong and freedom start to dwindle.

White, Trudy
Japan Diary
Amy Deerson and Taro Nakagawa are exchanging lives for six months and they are taking their diaries with them, Amy to Japan, and Taro to Australia.

Whyman, Matt
The Wild
Alexi and his little brother Misha have grown up in the shadow of the nuclear arms. Living in a bleak and increasingly destitute town next to the old Aral Sea in Kazakhstan, the boys and their 'crew' are the first to spot the rocket and missile testing out in the nearby desert, and first to scavenge for nuclear debris, from which they can make a good living on the black market.

Wilkinson, Carole
Blood Brothers
The year is 325. The powerful Han Dynasty is a distant memory and tribes of barbarian soldiers fight over what was once the Empire. It is a dangerous time. Kai is 465 years old - a teenager in dragon years. He is searching for the person predestined to be his dragonkeeper.
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<td>Wilson, Dominique</td>
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<td>Yan, Mo</td>
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It's 1872 and China - still bruised from its defeat in the two Opium Wars - sends a group of boys, including seven-year-old Chen Mu, to America to study and bring back the secrets of the West. But nine years on Chen Mu becomes a fugitive and flees to Umberumberka, a mining town in outback Australia. He eventually finds peace working for Matthew Dawson, a rich pastoralist.

Seventy-five years in the future, Earth is ruled by China, cities span entire continents, history has been erased. 2087: Japan lies under a radioactive cloud, its denizens wiped out. America has been subjugated, its inhabitants scattered.

Presents life in this vibrant city through the eyes of its young protagonists. It was a time of tremendous growth for the territory not only in economic terms, but more significantly in terms of local self-confidence and the forging of a Hong Kong identity. It was also a time in which political and social problems which plague Hong Kong to this day came to the fore - the influx of Chinese and Vietnamese refugees, and the shadow of China.

The six stories in this volume explore the limits and the very meaning of fiction. From honeymooners, grasshoppers and a trolley bus accident to the purchasing of a ten-piece imported fibreglass fishing rod, the author creates art in language in these extraordinary short stories.

It's December 1937. The Japanese have taken Nanking. A group of terrified schoolgirls hides in the compound of an American church. Among them is Shujuan, through whose thirteen-year-old eyes we witness the shocking events that follow. Run by Father Engelmann, an American priest who has been in China for many years, the church is supposedly neutral ground in the war between China and Japan. But it becomes clear the Japanese are not obeying international rules of engagement.

Mo Yan chronicles the sweeping history of modern China through the lens of the nation's controversial one-child policy. Frog opens with a playwright nicknamed Tadpole who plans to write about his aunt. In her youth, Gugu--the beautiful daughter of a famous doctor and staunch Communist--is revered for her skill as a midwife. But when her lover defects, Gugu's own loyalty to the Party is questioned. She decides to prove her allegiance by strictly enforcing the one-child policy, keeping tabs on the number of children in the village, and performing abortions on women as many as eight months pregnant.

Yurei is the Japanese word for ghost. They are the souls of dead people, unable--or unwilling--to shuffle off this mortal coil. Yurei are many things, but friendly isn't the first word that comes to mind. Not every yurei is dangerous, but they are all driven by emotions so uncontrollably powerful that they have taken on a life of their own: rage, sadness, devotion, a desire for revenge, or even the firm belief that they are still alive.
Yoshimura, Akira  Shipwrecks  F YOS:A
The narrator of this short novel, set in medieval Japan, is Isaku, a nine-year-old boy living in a remote fishing village. To save the family from starvation, the father has sold himself into indentured servitude, leaving Isaku and his strong-willed mother to care for three younger children.

Non Fiction

Carey, Peter  Wrong About Japan  920 CAR
When Peter Carey offered to take his son to Japan, 12-year-old Charley stipulated no temples or museums. He wanted to see manga, anime, and cool, weird stuff. His father said yes. Out of that bargain comes this enchanting tour of the mansion of Japanese culture, as entered through its garish, brightly lit back door.

Demick, Barbara  Nothing to Envy: Love, Life and Death in North Korea  306.095193
Follows the lives of six North Koreans over fifteen years, a chaotic period that saw the rise to power of Kim Jong Il and the devastation of a famine that killed one-fifth of the population, illustrating what it means to live under the most repressive totalitarian regime today.

Do, Anh  The Happiest Refugee  920 DO
Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. But nothing - not murderous pirates, nor the imminent threat of death by hunger, disease or dehydration as they drifted for days - could quench their desire to make a better life in the country they had dreamed about.

Duyal, Yasar  Paper Boats: an Anthology of Short Stories About Journeys to Australia  325.94 PAP
Paper Boats is a compelling collection of 21 short stories written by students from immigrant, refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds, reflecting their origins, their journeys and their arrivals in Australia.

Galloway, Priscilla  Adventures on the Ancient Silk Road  951 GAL
A gripping account of three dramatic journeys that changed history. The fabled Silk Road conjures up the sights, smells and sounds of faraway lands. But traveling the Silk Road took years, and those who set out encountered bandits, starvation and treacherous storms. The book introduces readers to three great historical figures: Buddhist and pilgrim Xuanzang, warrior Genghis Khan and merchant Marco Polo.

Hall, Lincoln  Alive in the Death Zone  796.522 HAL
Lincoln Hall's story of climbing the world's highest mountain, being left for dead near the summit and his subsequent return to life and safety, is an incredible and exciting adventure that will inspire anyone who reads it. It's a story of survival against all odds using sheer willpower, courage and determination.

Harden, Blaine  Escape From Camp 14  920 SHI:H
Twenty-six years ago, Shin Dong-hyuk was born inside Camp 14, one of five sprawling political prisons in the mountains of North Korea. This is the gripping, terrifying story of his escape from this no-exit prison-- to freedom in South Korea.
Joyful Strains collect twenty-seven memoirs from writers describing their expatriation to Australia. These are stories about what they found, who they became and what they now think of Australia – stories that provide entertainment, perspective and cause to celebrate our increasingly diverse nation.

Li, Cunxin
Mao's Last Dancer
In a small, desperately poor village in north-east China, a young peasant boy sits at his rickety old school desk, interested more in the birds outside than in Chairman Mao's Red Book and the grand words it contains. But that day, some strange men come to his school - Madame Mao's cultural delegates. They are looking for young peasants to mould into faithful guards of Chairman Mao's great vision for China. This is the true story of how that day changed the course of a small boy's life in ways that are beyond description. One day he would dance with some of the greatest ballet companies of the world.

Li, Charles N.
The Bitter Sea: Coming of Age in a China Before Mao
Born near the beginning of World War II, Li Na was the youngest son of a wealthy Chinese government official. By the time he was twenty-one, he had witnessed enough hardship, hope, and tremendous change to last a lifetime. Li saw his family's fortunes dashed when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists came to power in 1945, transforming his father from a powerful official to a prisoner jailed for treason. He survived a year in a dangerous Nanjing slum and watched from his aunt's Shanghai apartment as the Communist army marched in and seized the city in 1948. He went from being Li Na - the dutiful Chinese son yearning for a harsh, manipulative father's love - to Charles, an independent Chinese American seeking no one's approval but his own.

Macinnis, Peter
Kokoda Track: 101 Days
An extraordinary story of a small force defeating a much larger one. It is the tale of 550 men of the 39th Militia Battalion. In eight short and brutal weeks, these soldiers slowed, and eventually stopped the advance of 6000 experienced Japanese troops of the Nankai division across the massive Owen Stanley range.

Mah, Adeline Yen
Falling Leaves Return to Their Roots
Her grand aunt formed the Shanghai Women's Bank. Her father was known as the miracle boy with the power of turning iron into gold. Yet in this affluent Chinese family the fifth child and youngest daughter, Adeline, suffered appalling emotional abuse. Set against the background of changing political times and the collision of East and West, this story describes how, despite the legacy of her painful childhood, the author survived to make a successful career.

Mah, Adeline Yen
China: Land of Dragons and Emperors
a journey through China, land of dragons and emperors, mystery and history. Discover the secrets of the past and the wonder of the present in this extraordinary land.

Mortenson, Greg
Three Cups of Tea
Here we drink three cups of tea to do business; the first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, and the third, you join our family, and for our family we are prepared to do anything; even die. In 1993, after a terrifying and disastrous attempt to climb K2, a mountaineer called Greg Mortenson drifted, cold and dehydrated, into an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karakoram Mountains. Moved by the inhabitants’ kindness, he promised to return and build a school.
Mortenson, Greg  
**Stones into Schools**  
The continuing story of this determined humanitarian's efforts to promote peace through education. In this dramatic first-person narrative, Greg Mortenson picks up where *Three Cups of Tea* left off in 2003, recounting his relentless, on-going efforts to establish schools for girls in Afghanistan; his extensive work in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan after a massive earthquake hit the region in 2005; and the unique ways he has built relationships with Islamic clerics, militia commanders, and tribal leaders even as he was dodging shootouts with feuding Afghan warlords and surviving an eight-day armed abduction by the Taliban.

Moshinsky, Sam  
**Goodbye Shanghai: a Memoir**  
During the first seventeen years of his life, spent in Shanghai, Sam experienced wars, changing regimes, different currencies and a variety of schools that reflected the evolving political landscape. In a world obsessed with conflicting nationalism, his family survived as stateless residents, neither subject to, nor the responsibility of, any country. They were instead, sustained by their Russian Jewish culture and community. Through Sam's memories of early life and his love of history, we learn of Shanghai's uniqueness as a home and haven to thousands of Jews over many centuries.

Pung, Alice (Ed)  
**Growing Up Asian in Australia**  
This is an anthology of writing about what it is really like to grow up Asian-Australian. Including contributions from established writers, public figures and exciting new talents, this diverse and unpredictable collection throws out the clichés and takes readers behind the stereotypes.

Pung, Alice  
**Unpolished Gem**  
Alice Pung's memoir, *Unpolished Gem*, tells the story of an East Asian family making a go of it in Australia after Cambodia's Pol Pot years. Conceived in a Thai refugee camp to Chinese-Cambodian parents, Alice Pung was born just after her parents and her paternal grandmother arrived in Melbourne in the 1970s. Set in the streets of Footscray, this is a story of a migrant child coming to grips with two cultures.

Stickler, John  
**Land of Morning Calm: Korean Culture Then and Now.**  
As North and South Korea quickly become important players in global politics, *Land of Morning Calm* gives us a better understanding of the people behind the news and the traditions we dont get to see on television. It opens a window into another way of life, reminding us once again that we are all as similar as we are different.

Wong, Jan  
**Beijing Confidential**  
Canadian Wong was a student in Beijing during the 70s, during which time she betrayed a fellow (Chinese) student to the authorities for harbouring western sympathies. She returns to a very different country thirty-three years later to try to find the woman she betrayed.
Graphic Novels

Delisle, Guy  
*Pyongyang: a Journey in North Korea*  
When the fortress-like country recently opened the door a crack to foreign investment, cartoonist Guy Delisle found himself in its capital Pyongyang on a work visa for a French film animation company, becoming one of the few Westerners to witness current conditions in the surreal showcase city. Armed with a smuggled radio and a copy of '1984', Delisle could only explore Pyongyang and its countryside while chaperoned by his translator and a guide. But among the statues, portraits and propaganda of leaders Kim Il-Sung and his son Kim Jong-Il - the world's only Communist dynasty - Delisle was able to observe more than was intended of the culture and lives of the few North Koreans he encountered.

Delisle, Guy  
*Burma Chronicles*  
An informative look at a country that uses concealment and isolation as social control, where scissor-wielding censors monitor the papers, the de facto leader of the opposition has been under decade-long house arrest, insurgent-controlled regions are effectively cut off from the world, and rumour is the most reliable source of current information. Drawn by Guy Delisle.

Lat  
*Kampung Boy*  
Recounts the life of Mat, a Muslim boy growing up in rural Malaysia in the 1950s: his adventures and mischief-making, fishing trips, religious education, and work on his family's rubber plantation. Meanwhile, the traditional way of life in his village (or kampung) is steadily disappearing, with tin mines and factory jobs increasingly overtaking the village's agricultural way of life. When Mat himself leaves for boarding school, he can only hope that his familiar kampung will still be there when he returns.

Satrapi, Marjane  
*Persepolis*  
This is the story of a girl growing up in Iran during the Revolution. Wise, often funny, sometimes heartbreaking, Persepolis tells the story of Marjane Satrapi's life in Tehran from the ages of six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.

Yang, Gene Luen  
*American Born Chinese*  
The novel follows three stories: the tale of a monkey that strives to be seen as God-like; a young boy with naturalized Chinese parents acclimating to his new home and school in the predominantly white American suburbs; and a seemingly-white adolescent trying to maintain his social posture.
### Picture books

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<td>Photographs in the Mud</td>
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- **Do, Anh**
  Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. Life in suburban Australia was also hard for a small boy with no English and funny lunches. But there was a loving extended family, lots of friends, and always something to laugh about for Anh, his brother Khoa and their sister Tram.

- **Cunxin, Li**
  This true story of a poor Chinese peasant boy who, plucked unsuspectingly at the age of ten from millions of others across the land to be trained as a ballet dancer, is a fairytale that has already captivated many children and young adults. (A picture book adaptation of Cunxin's novel, 'Mao's Last Dancer'.)

- **Maruki, Toshi**
  On 6 August, 1945, the first atom bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Toshi Maruki, a Japanese artist and writer, went into the burnt-out city to give what help she could to the survivors. Deeply moved by her experience, she painted a series of pictures and wrote this account of what happened to one family in Hiroshima.

- **Morimoto, Junko**
  Junko Morimoto personally experienced the bombing of Hiroshima and this is her story of that day, recollected as a child's memories. Early illustrations reveal happy times, then increasingly a military build-up in Japan. Absent from school the day of the bomb, Morimoto recalls crawling from the ruins of her house to view terrible destruction and human suffering. Impressionistic paintings evoke a sense of horror.

- **Tan, Shaun**
  What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown? This graphic novel is the story of the migrants, refugees and displaced persons who have made this journey.

- **Wolfer, Dianne & Harrison-Lever, Brian**
  It is 1942 on the Kokoda Track in New Guinea. Jack and Hoshi are soldiers on opposite sides of the war, who meet in battle, discovering that they have much more in common than they had ever realized.
### DVDs

**At Five in the Afternoon**  
_Director: Samira Makhmalbaf_  
_DVD F AT_

Nogreh is a young Afghani woman living with her father and her sister-in-law, Leylomah, whose husband, Akhtar, is missing. She aspires toward a life in a western styled democracy. Although the Taliban are no longer in power in Afghanistan, traditional forces are still active in the country. Nogreh often displays signs of rebellion, such as wearing a pair of white pumps instead of the traditional slipper beneath her burqa. But mostly, she wants to be educated. Without her father's knowledge, Nogreh is attending a secular girls school with a view to becoming Afghanistan's first woman President.

**Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress**  
_Director: Sijie Dai_  
_DVD F BAL_

In 1971 China, in the lingering grip of the cultural revolution, two university students, Luo and Ma, are sent to a mountain mining village as part of their re-education duty to purge them of their classical western oriented education. Amid the backbreaking work and stifling ignorance of the community, the two boys find that music, and the presence of the beautiful local young women is the only pleasant things in their miserable life. However, none compare to the young seamstress, granddaughter of the local tailor. Stealing a departing student's secret cache of forbidden books of classic western literature, such as the works of Honore de Balzac, they set about to woo her and teach her things she has never imagined.

**Bend it Like Beckham**  
_Director: Girinder Chadha_  
_DVD F BEN_

A comedy about bending the rules to reach your goal, the film explores the world of women's football, from kick-abouts in the park to freekicks in the Final. Set in Hounslow, West London and Hamburg, the film follows two 18 year olds with their hearts set on a future in professional soccer. Talent doesn't seem to be enough when your parents want you to hang up your football boots, find a nice boyfriend and learn to cook the perfect chapatti.

**Blackboards**  
_Director: Samira Makhmalbaf_  
_DVD F BLA_

In the brutal mountains along the Iran/Iraq border, two nomadic teachers, Reeboir and Said, roam the landscape in search of pupils. They carry their blackboards on their backs, sometimes using them as a shelter, as camouflage and as shields against gunfire. Reeboir encounters a group of young border smugglers for whom education has little meaning, whilst Said becomes involved with some old men seeking a safe route back over the border to Iraq.

**Cave of the Yellow Dog**  
_Director: Byambasuren Davaa_  
_DVD F CAV_

The little nomad girl Nansal finds a baby dog in the mongolian veld, who becomes her best friend - against all the rejections of her parents. Only after the little dog, Zocher, saves the life of the youngest son, do father and mother finally see his good soul. A story about a mongolian family of nomads - their traditional way of life and the rising call of the City.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
Director: Ang Lee
Set against the breathtaking landscape of 19th century China, two master warriors confront formidable opponents when the treasured Green Destiny sword is stolen. As each warrior battles for justice, they face their worst enemy, the inescapable and enduring power of love.

Cup
Director: Norbu Khyentse
While the soccer World Cup is being played in France, two young Tibetan refugees arrive at a monastery/boarding school in exile in India. Its atmosphere of serene contemplation is somewhat disrupted by soccer fever, the chief instigator being a young student, the soccer enthusiast Orgyen. Prevented by various circumstances from seeing the Cup finals on television in a nearby village, Orgyen sets out to organize the rental of a TV set for the monastery. The enterprise becomes a test of solidarity, resourcefulness and friendship for the students, while the Lama, head of the monastery, contemplates the challenges of teaching the word of Buddha in a rapidly changing world.

Dersu Uzula
Director: Akira Kurosawa
Against a backdrop of the treacherous mountains, rivers and icy plains of the Siberian wilderness, acclaimed Japanese director Akira Kurosawa stages an extraordinary adventure of comradeship and survival. Dersu Uzala is the enthralling tale of an eccentric mongolian frontiersman who is taken on as a guide by a Russian surveying crew. While the soldiers at first perceive Dersu as a naïve and comical relic of an uncivilized age, he quickly proves himself otherwise with displays of ingenuity and bravery unmatched by any member of the inexperienced mapping team, on more than one occasion becoming their unlikely saviour.

Endless Way
Director: Wensheng Shen
As he comes of age Ah Ming must begin a life of endless labour to bring sacred water to his family. Forced into an arranged marriage with a young girl from a neighbouring village he must forsake his true love.

Fire
Director: Deepa Mehta
In a barren, arranged marriage to an amateur swami who seeks enlightenment through celibacy, Radha's life takes an irresistible turn when her beautiful young sister-in-law seeks to free herself from the confines of her own loveless marriage and into the supple embrace of Radha.

Gabbeh
Director: Mohsen Makhmalbaf
Early one morning, an old couple emerge from a hut, she carrying a gabbeh, a small carpet, that she wove many years ago while waiting for her husband-to-be to carry her on horseback away from her family clan. As they wash the gabbeh, it comes to life, telling the old woman's story of waiting for marriage.

Gandhi
Director: Richard Attenborough
The biography of Mohandas K. Gandhi, who rose from a small-time lawyer to India's spiritual leader through his philosophy of non-violent but direct-action protest. The film dramatises his life and times as he manages to free his country from British rule using peaceful means.
Hidden Fortress Director: Akira Kurosawa DVD F HID
Princess Yuki Akizuki is to be led through enemy territory, where she may rebuild her kingdom with gold that she has in her caravan. She is assisted by her trusted general, Rokurota Makabe, who insists that she masquerades as a mute farmer. Two minions, Tahei and Matashichi help unknowingly, as they believe they will get a piece of the gold if they help the princess attain her goals.

House of Flying Daggers Director: Yimou Zhang DVD F HOU
During the reign of the Tang dynasty in China, a secret organization called "The House of the Flying Daggers" rises and opposes the government. A police officer called Leo sends officer Jin to investigate a young dancer named Mei, claiming that she has ties to the "Flying Daggers". Leo arrests Mei, only to have Jin breaking her free in a plot to gain her trust and lead the police to the new leader of the secret organization. But things are far more complicated than they seem.

Howl's Moving Castle Director: Hayao Miyazaki DVD F HOW
An animated love story between an 18-year-old girl named Sofi, cursed by a witch into an old woman's body, and a magician named Hauru. Under the curse, Sofi sets out to seek her fortune, which takes her to Hauru's strange moving castle. In the castle, Sophie meets Hauru's fire demon, named Karishifâ. Seeing that she is under a curse, the demon makes a deal with Sophie--if she breaks the contract he is under with Hauru, then Karushifâ will lift the curse that Sophie is under, and she will return to her 18-year-old shape.

Iron Island Director: Mohammad Rasoulof DVD F IRO
Squatters, mostly Arabs in Persia, live on a mothballed oil tanker in the Persian Gulf. The children attend a school on board; men harvest scrap metal and old oil in the hull; women keep house and raise children. Captain Nemat runs things with an iron hand, orienting new residents, keeping the books, negotiating with new buyers who may want to scrap the ship, arranging things, keeping discipline.

Joy Luck Club Director: Wayne Wang DVD F JOY
Tells the epic story of four families whose extraordinary lives are filled with joy and heartbreak, richness and magic. From the war-torn fields of early-century China to the streets of modern-day San Francisco, the hopes, dreams and triumphs of two generations are revealed through the startling events that shaped their lives.

Kandahar Director: Mohsen Makhmalbaf DVD F KAN
Nafas is a reporter, born in Afghanistan, and fled with her family to Canada when she was a child. However, her sister wasn't so lucky; she lost her legs to a land mine while young, and when Nafas and her family left the country, her sister was accidentally left behind. Nafas receives a letter from her sister announcing that she's decided to commit suicide during the final eclipse before the dawn of the 21st century. Desperate to spare her sister's life, Nafas makes haste to Afghanistan, where she joins a caravan of refugees who, for a variety of reasons, are returning to the war-torn nation. As Nafas searches for her sister, she soon gets a clear and disturbing portrait of the toll the Taliban regime has taken upon its people.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kiki's Delivery Service</td>
<td>Hayao Miyazaki</td>
<td>DVD F KIK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kite Runner</td>
<td>Marc Forster</td>
<td>DVD F KIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lin Family’s Shop</td>
<td>Puzi Linjia</td>
<td>DVD F LIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lost in Translation</td>
<td>Sofia Coppola</td>
<td>DVD F LOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mao’s Last Dancer</td>
<td>Bruce Beresford</td>
<td>DVD F MAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marooned in Iraq</td>
<td>Bahman Ghobadi</td>
<td>DVD F MAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monsoon Wedding</td>
<td>Mira Nair</td>
<td>DVD F MON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother India</td>
<td>Mehboob Khan</td>
<td>DVD F MOT</td>
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Kiki's Delivery Service

It is tradition for all young witches to leave their families on the night of a full moon to learn their craft. That night comes for Kiki, who follows her dream and embarks on the experience of a lifetime. With her chatty black cat, Jiji, She flies off to find the perfect spot in a faraway city. There, a bakery owner befriends Kiki and helps her start her own business: A high-flying delivery service.

Kite Runner

A tale of friendship, family, devastating mistakes and redeeming love. In a divided country on the verge of war, two childhood friends, Amir and Hassan, are about to be torn apart forever. It's a glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are bursting with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fearful act of betrayal will mark their lives forever and set in motion an epic quest for redemption.

Lin Family’s Shop

In the 1930s, many small businesses had a hard time surviving with the confusion generated by the political uncertainty of the time. Whose law is to be followed, the Japanese occupation forces or the bureaucrat nationalist government? Lin, who owns a family shop, racks his brain to save himself from bankruptcy.

Lost in Translation

An aging, world weary movie star with a sense of emptiness, and a young neglected newlywed meet up as strangers in Tokyo and form an unlikely bond.

Mao's Last Dancer

A drama based on the autobiography by Li Cunxin. At the age of 11, Li was plucked from a poor Chinese village by Madame Mao's cultural delegates and taken to Beijing to study ballet. In 1979, during a cultural exchange to Texas, he fell in love with an American woman. Two years later, he managed to defect and went on to perform with the Australian Ballet.

Marooned in Iraq

During the war between Iran and Iraq, a group of Iranian Kurd musicians set off on an almost impossible mission. They will try to find Hanareh, a singer with a magic voice who crossed the border and may now be in danger in Iraqi Kurdistan. As in his previous films, this Kurdish director is again focusing on the oppression of his people.

Monsoon Wedding

A stressed father, a bride-to-be with a secret, a smitten event planner, and relatives from around the world create much ado about the preparations for an arranged marriage in India.

Mother India

When Radha was married, her mother-in-law borrowed five hundred rupees from the village money-lender, Sukhilala. The payment plan was simple: each year, Sukhilala would get one-fourth of the crop they grew. That was what Radha's mother-in-law thought was the deal. Sukhilala had actually taken advantage of her lack of education and written in the contract that he would receive three quarters of the crop. When his evil came to light, the village elders, not wanting the police to come to the village, ruled in Sukhilala's favor. Mother India is the evergreen story of a family's struggle to survive against the evil of Sukhilala.
My Neighbour Totoro  Director: Hayao Miyazaki  DVD F MY
Two young girls, Satsuki and Mei, have moved with their father into a new home in the country, while their mother recovers from illness in a nearby hospital. To their surprise, they soon discover that they share this home with some rather unusual creatures and even stranger neighbours, forest guardians that the girls dub Totoro. When trouble occurs, their new friends will help them rediscover hope.

Not One Less  Director: Yimou Zhang  DVD F NOT
In a remote mountain village, the teacher must leave for a month, and the mayor can find only a 13-year old girl, Wei Minzhi, to substitute. The teacher leaves one stick of chalk for each day and promises her an extra 10 yuan if there's not one less student when he returns. Within days, poverty forces the class troublemaker, Zhang Huike, to leave for the city to work. Minzhi, possessed of a stubborn streak, determines to bring him back. She enlists the 26 remaining pupils in earning money for her trip. She hitches to Jiangjiakou City and begins her search.

Persepolis  Director: Marjane Satrapi & Vincent Paronnaud  DVD F PER
'Persepolis' is an animated film that tells the story of Marjane Satrapi's life in Tehran from the ages of six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.

Phommavanh, Oliver  Con-nerd  F PHO:O
Mama tells me I'm gifted and talented. But I know the truth. I'm just a nerd. Kids call me Con-nerd - half Connor and all nerd. Only a nerd goes to tutoring classes on weekends and in school holidays! I'm supposed to become a doctor but I have this deep, dark secret: I just want to draw. But I'm not sure my family will see it quite that way.

Pinjar  Director: Chandra Prakash Dwivedi  DVD F PIN
The story of Pinjar is set against the backdrop of riots during the partition of India and Pakistan.

Princess Mononoke  Director: Hayao Miyazaki  DVD F PRI
The time and place is the Muromachi era, Japan. A prince of a small village is cursed to a slow but certain death by a Boar God turned Tatari-Gami (Cursing God). To find a possible cure to the curse, he travels westwards. Hearing of a Shishi-Gami (Deer-God) that may be his salvation, he soon comes across a village of iron miners and there finds himself in the middle of a battle between the animal gods of the forest, lead by a girl called Princess Mononoke.

Rashomon  Director: Akira Kurosawa  DVD F RAS
In ancient Japan, a woman is raped and her husband killed. The film gives us four viewpoints of the incident - one for each defendant - each revealing a little more detail. Which version, if any, is the real truth about what happened ?

Ran  Director: Akira Kurosawa  DVD F RAN
Akira Kurosawa's re-telling of Shakespeare's King Lear magically mixes Japanese history, Shakespeare's plot and Kurosawas' own feelings about loyalty.

Red Beard  Director: Akira Kurosawa  DVD F RED
In a charity hospital, a hard-bitten but honourable older doctor, Dr. Niide, takes a young intern under his guidance through the course of a number of difficult cases.
### Asian Perspectives

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Film Title</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>DVD Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaam Bombay</td>
<td>Mira Nair</td>
<td>DVD F SAL</td>
<td>The story of Krishna, a 10 year-old boy who comes to Bombay dreaming of making 500 rupees to take home to his mother in the village. Once in the city, he is immediately surrounded by its madness and cacophony; policemen, madmen, middlemen, the trading of drugs and flesh, impossible movie fantasies. And everywhere there are children like himself, surviving and succumbing to the appetite of the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanjuro</td>
<td>Akira Kurosawa</td>
<td>DVD F SAN</td>
<td>A group of idealistic young men, determined to clean up the corruption in their town, are aided by a scruffy, cynical samurai who does not at all fit their concept of a noble warrior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanshiro Sugata</td>
<td>Akira Kurosawa</td>
<td>DVD F SAN</td>
<td>The directorial debut of Akira Kurosawa. The film tells the tale of the emergence of the fighting art of Judo in old Japan. Set in the late 19th century, the film follows a wayward young man Sugata and his quest for knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slumdog Millionaire</td>
<td>Danny Boyle</td>
<td>DVD F SLU</td>
<td>Slumdog Millionaire is the story of Jamal Malik, an 18 year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, who is about to experience the biggest day of his life. With the whole nation watching, he is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?” But when the show breaks for the night, police arrest him on suspicion of cheating; how could a street kid know so much? Desperate to prove his innocence, Jamal tells the story of his life in the slum where he and his brother grew up, of their adventures together on the road, of vicious encounters with local gangs, and of Latika, the girl he loved and lost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirited Away</td>
<td>Miyazaki, Hayao</td>
<td>DVD F SPI</td>
<td>Chihiro and her family are on their way to their new house in the suburbs when her father decides to take a shortcut along a lonely-looking dirt road. After getting out of the car and walking along a path for a while, they discover an open-air restaurant filled with food but with no workers or customers present. Mom and Dad don't hesitate to sit down and dig in, but Chihiro senses danger and refuses. As night falls, she is terrified to see the area fill with faceless spirits, but when she runs to find her parents, she discovers that they have been turned into pigs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumo Do, Sumo Don’t</td>
<td>Masayuki Suo</td>
<td>DVD F SUM</td>
<td>With his grades sliding at university, Shuhei's professor blackmails him into joining the Sumo wrestling team. He begrudgingly accepts, knowing it's the only way for him to graduate. Drafting together a motley bunch of wrestlers, including an English rugby player who's afraid of baring his legs, he himself becomes inspired to show what the worst-ranked Sumo team in Japan can really do!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtles Can Fly</td>
<td>Bahman Ghobadi</td>
<td>DVD F TUR</td>
<td>Set in a village on the border between Iran and Turkey, just as the world's news networks announce the US led invasion of Iraq. The villagers desperately seek a satellite dish antenna to keep informed of the impending attack. No adult is up to the job, so it falls to a 13-year-old boy called 'Satellite' and his underage army to find the treasured antenna. Arriving suddenly from a neighbouring village, is a clairvoyant boy called Henkov. The war is getting closer and Henkov has a strong foreboding about what is going to happen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Water**  
**Director:** Deepa Mehta  
**DVD F WAT**

Set in 1938 Colonial India, against Mahatma Gandhi’s rise to power, the story begins when eight-year-old Chuyia is widowed and sent to a home where Hindu widows must live in penitence. Chuyia’s feisty presence affects the lives of the other residents, including a young widow, who falls for a Gandhian idealist.

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**Whale Rider (PG)**  
**Director:** Caro, Niki  
**DVD F WHA**

In a small New Zealand coastal village, Maori claim descent from Paikea, the Whale Rider. In every generation, a male heir has succeeded to the chiefly title. When twins are born and the boy twin dies, Koro, the chief is unable to accept his granddaughter Pai as a future leader. A contemporary story of love, rejection and triumph as a young girl fights to fulfil her destiny.

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**Yojimbo**  
**Director:** Akira Kurosawa  
**DVD F YOJ**

The story of a samurai who wanders into a town in turmoil. Pitting the town's two warring clans against each other, the mysterious samurai plays a profitable, yet dangerous game.