

Contact Us

We would love to hear your ideas on how to expand this list of materials and discuss how we can improve your visit.

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DR. SUN YAT-SEN
CLASSICAL
CHINESE
GARDEN

Discover...



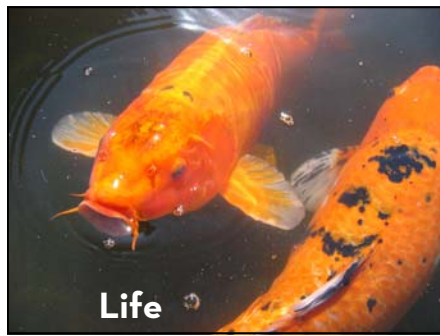
Nature



Architecture



History



Life

Symbolism



Preparation Materials

2010-2011

Getting the most out of *your*
visit to the Ming Dynasty...



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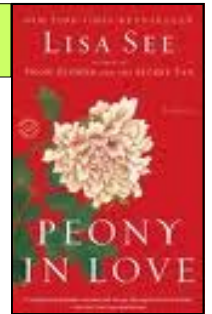
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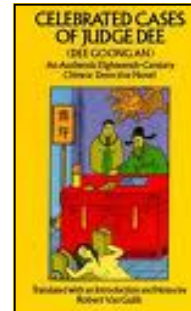
One of the Garden moongates

Peony in Love by Lisa See

Peony is a girl living a sheltered life in 17th century China. Lisa See's story watches Peony fall in love. She is thrust into the afterlife and watches the China she grew up in go through hard times.



Topics: 273 pages. This story is based on actual events and does a wonderful job of explaining the difficult times after the fall of the Ming dynasty when China was under Manchu rule. See the reading group questions at the back.



Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee Translated by Robert van Gulik

Imagine a Chinese Sherlock Holmes from the 8th century with nearly limitless legal power - meet Judge Dee, a magistrate, who almost single-handedly solves three murder mysteries in his county at the same time. Employing a variety of methods, from physical torture to psychological warfare, Judge Dee creatively and stubbornly tracks down the killers, without regard for the social classes of the victims.

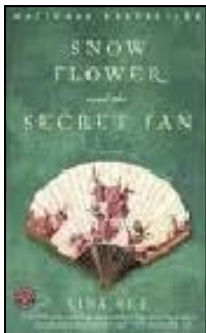
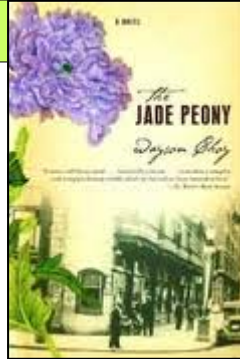
Topics: 237 pages. A translated primary source, the original was written during the last dynasty in China, and talks about a scholar-official who lived in the 8th century in a Garden home. This book contains details on life, politics, culture, and beliefs during China's imperial era.

Secondary

***The Jade Peony* by Wayson Choy**

Set in Vancouver's Chinatown in the late 1930s and 1940s, this novel effectively describes the many different emotions that came with living in this historic neighbourhood during the Depression.

Topics: 294 pages. Literary Review of Canada Top 100 Canadian Fiction books. This novel highlights relationships between generations and across races.



***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See**

Lily and Snow Flower are two girls growing up and leading very different lives in China in the 19th c.

Topics: 288 pages. This book explains the history around the Taiping Rebellion, a terrible time where it has been estimated that 20 million Chinese died in civil wars. Lisa See does an excellent job of making foot binding, marriages and having children something personal and not merely historic.

Letter from the Garden

Dear educator;

Whether you are coming for an interactive tour or one of our dynamic educational programs, the Garden has something for you! This resource manual is designed to help your group get the most out of their visit.

The following pages have some great reading resources for you and your students. Let us know which books you've been reading in class and we'll do our best to work them into your program. After all, new information is often easier to learn when it's rooted in something we already know.

I look forward to working with you and your students.

Claudette Martin
Head of Education

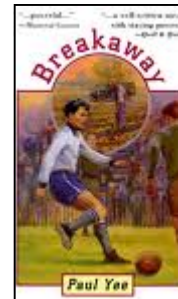


Come join us in this unique classroom!

Preparing for your visit

To make your visit to the Garden as enriching as possible you can do a few simple things in the classroom before coming.

- Pick your program. See: School Brochure
- Refer to our reading list. Find a book or two that complement the program.
- Read the book in class.
- Let the Garden know which book you've read.
- Come with questions about the book and about the Garden.
- Come to the Garden with an open mind!



Breakaway by Paul Yee

Breakaway is the story of a boy who grows up on his family's pig farm near Vancouver during the time of the Depression. Kwok wants nothing other than to be a soccer player but in his way he finds racism, a clear blockade to his winning the soccer

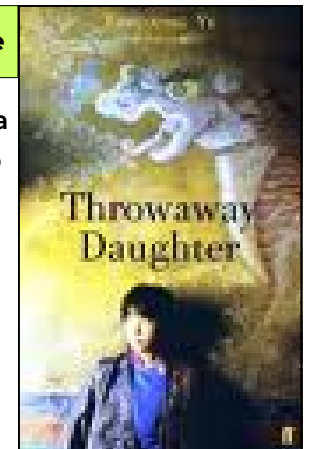
scholarship that he dreams about.

Topics: 144 pages. *Breakaway* is open about racism in a way that the intermediate age group can relate to. Although it is set in the Depression, themes surrounding family and the relations between first and second generation Chinese with their parents and communities continue to be relevant today.

Throwaway Daughter by Ting-Xing Ye

Grace was born in China and adopted by a Canadian family in the 1980s. Growing up without knowing her city of birth, her history or even her birthday, Grace finds it difficult to fully fit-in.

Topics: 227 pages. This story is told from the point of view of several members of Grace's family in Canada and in China. This book does an admirable job of drawing empathy from the reader for each character's unique emotional situation and attachment to the government situations in China through the second half of the 20th C.



Intermediate

The Curses of Third Uncle by Paul Yee

A young girl in Chinatown Vancouver in the early 1900s is left to struggle with her family after her father disappears to help in a revolution happening in China that she does not know anything about. Taking things into her own hands she travels to Revelstoke in search of her Father.



Topics: 139 pages. This short novel is a great way to understand the revolution in China led by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, how it ended the Imperial Dynasties, and how the revolution affected the Chinese people in Vancouver.

White Jade Tiger by Julie Lawson



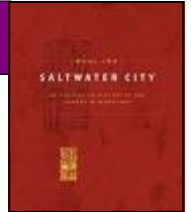
Jasmine doesn't like that she must move to Victoria and live with her aunt for one year while her father is in China. After a trip down Fan Tan Alley Jasmine is propelled back in time needing to locate a cursed white jade tiger in order to cure her family of the curse that comes with the tiger amulet.

Topics: 168 pages. Locations described in this book are all real places that classes can visit today. This book does an excellent job of describing the personal challenges including racism that often came with being Chinese in BC in the 1800s.

Teacher Resources

Saltwater City by Paul Yee

174 pages rich with pictures, descriptive captions and paragraphs that brings to life much of the history of Vancouver's Chinatown leading up to Expo '86.



Note: A very good index and large photographs on every page. Look inside for famous visitors such as Shirley Temple's visit in 1936!

Heritage Walks Around Vancouver by Michael Kluckner & John Atkin



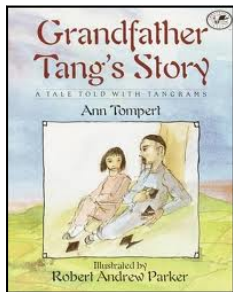
28 pages on a 1.5 hour walking tour around historic Strathcona, the neighbourhood beside Chinatown where many Chinese people lived and went to school at Strathcona Secondary. There are also heritage walks around other parts of Vancouver including nearby Gastown. To book a walking tour with John Atkin please contact the Garden.

Exploring Vancouver's Chinatown Prepared by Valerie Overgaard for Vancouver's Schoolboard

VSBC resource for how to most effectively plan a trip to Vancouver's Chinatown, important things to explain to a class, a guide preparing for a visit to the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, and more. For clarification on any of the information please contact the Garden.

Elementary

Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert



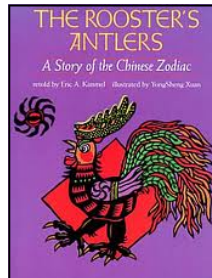
A grandfather tells the story of 2 rabbits that change into other animals using Tangrams, an 7 piece ancient Chinese puzzle. Children can follow along with the story making their own Tangram animals out of paper. Tracer in the back.

Topics: Stories and activity

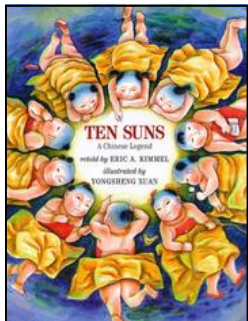
The Rooster's Antler's by Eric A. Kimmel

Before the Chinese Zodiac animals were chosen by the Jade Emperor the rooster had antlers. Rooster gives them up to dragon and the race for a place in the zodiac begins.

Topics: How the Chinese Zodiac came to be



Ten Suns: A Chinese Legend by Eric A. Kimmel



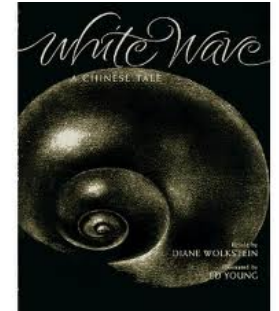
The 10 child suns take turns traveling across the sky and lighting up the world until one day when they all go together and the world below burns. To save the Earth, 9 are turned to crows and 1 remains today.

Topics: Legends and stories

White Wave by Diane Wolkstein

A farmer comes across a moon goddess who later saves him from a small harvest.

Topics: Legends and stories



Grandfather Counts by Andrea Cheng

A man comes over from China to live with his daughter and grandchildren. The family slowly overcomes their language barrier by learning the language of the other.

Topics: Family overseas and modern family dynamics

A Great Resource...

Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats by Nina Simonds and Leslie Swartz

Focusing on the legends of origin, this book is a collection of short stories about Chinese holidays and celebrations. For every one there are recipes and crafts central to the holiday.

