



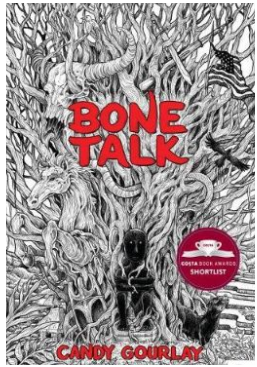
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**ESEA HERITAGE MONTH**

***KS3 Reading List***

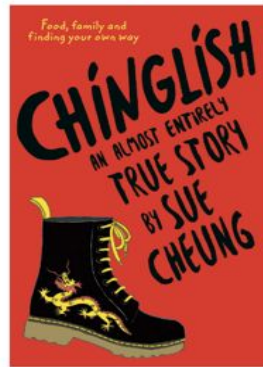


# EAST & SOUTH EAST ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



**Bone Talk**  
Candy Gourlay  
Filipino

Samkad lives in a tribe deep in the Philippine jungle at the end of the nineteenth century, and has never encountered anyone from outside his own tribe before. He's about to become a man, and while he's desperate to grow up, he's worried that this will take him away from his best friend, Little Luki. However, Samkad's world is about to change utterly. A strange man with white skin arrives in his village, and Samkad discovers the brother he never knew he had. A brother who tells him of people called 'Americans'. Americans who are bringing war, and burning, to his home...



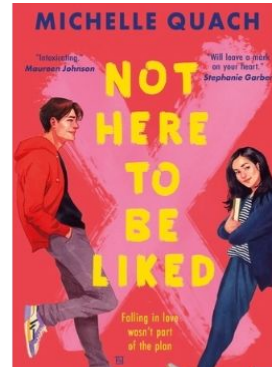
**Chinglish**  
By Sue Cheung  
British Chinese

It is difficult trying to talk in our family cos:

- a) Grandparents don't speak English at all
- b) Mum hardly speaks any English
- c) Me, Bonny and Simon hardly speak Chinese
- d) Dad speaks Chinese + English – but doesn't like talking

In other words, we all have to cobble together tiny bits of English and Chinese into a rubbish new language I call 'Chinglish'. It's awkward.

Jo Kwan is a teenager growing up with her annoying little sister, too-cool older brother, a series of unlucky pets and bonkers parents. But unlike the other kids at her new school or her posh cousins, Jo lives above her parents' Chinese takeaway. She finds a BFF who likes her for who she is, even with the popular girls who bully Jo for being different and unruly customers. Jo dreams of is breaking free and forging a career as an artist.



**Not Here To Be Liked**  
By Sue Cheung  
British Chinese

Eliza Quan fully expects to be voted the next editor-in-chief of her school paper. She works hard, she respects the facts, and she has the most experience. Len DiMartile is an injured star baseball player who seems to have joined the paper just to have something to do. Naturally, the staff picks Len to be their next leader. Because while they may respect Eliza, they don't particularly like her - but right now, Eliza is not here to be liked. She's here to win. But someone does like Eliza. A lot. Shame it's the boy standing in the way of her becoming editor-in-chief.



**Front Desk**  
By Kelly Yang  
Chinese American

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets.

**Number 1:** She lives in a motel, where her immigrant parents clean the rooms, 10 year-old Mia manages the front desk and tends to its guests.

**Number 2:** Her parents hide immigrants in the empty rooms- and if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out the Tangs will be doomed.

**Number 3:** She wants to be a writer. But her mom thinks she should stick to Maths because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?





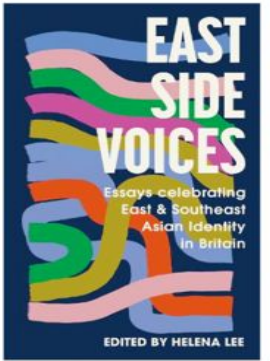
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**ESEA HERITAGE MONTH**

***KS4 + KS5 Reading List***

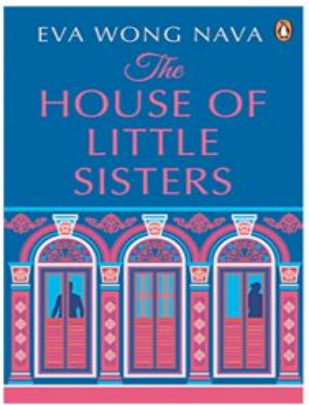


# EAST & SOUTH EAST ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



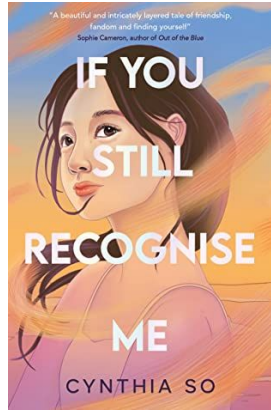
**East Side Voices**  
*Helena Lee (ed.)*  
*Various British ESEA*

In this collection of essays, *East Side Voices* invites us to explore a spectrum of experience from the East and Southeast Asian diaspora living in Britain today. Showcasing original essays and poetry from well-known celebrities, prize-winning literary stars and exciting new writers, *East Side Voices* takes us many places: from the frontlines of the NHS in the midst of the Covid pandemic, to the set of a Harry Potter film, from a bustling London restaurant to a spirit festival in Myanmar. In the process we navigate the legacies of family history, racial identity, assimilation and difference.



**House of Little Sisters**  
*Eva Wong Nava*  
*Malaysian/Singaporean*

It's August of 1931 in Singapore, 16-year-old Lim Mei Mei (Ah Mei) arrives at the home of Eminent Mister Lee on the eve of the Hungry Ghost Month. She has been sold to the family as an indentured servant girl. At the Lee household, Lim Mei Mei's life education begins. There she encounters the spirit of Ah Lian and uncovers a shameful secret lurking in the shadows in the Lee house. Ah Mei also meets and falls in love with Hassan Mohamed, an Indian-Muslim and an aspiring poet, breaking every clause in the rule book of love in 1930s British Malaya and the young lovers must find a way to stay together. Through a twist of fate, Ah Mei finds a solution that will keep her and Hassan together, at the same time gaining agency that will secure her own future as an uneducated servant girl in British Malaya.



**If You Still Recognise Me**  
*By Cynthia So*  
*British Chinese*

Elsie has a crush on Ada, the only person in the world who truly understands her. Unfortunately, they've never met in real life and Ada lives an ocean away. But Elsie has decided it's now or never to tell Ada how she feels. That is, until her long-lost best friend Joan walks back into her life.

In a summer of repairing broken connections and building surprising new ones, Elsie realises that she isn't nearly as alone as she thought. But now she has a choice to make...





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**ESEA HERITAGE MONTH**

***Reading List for Educators***



# EAST & SOUTH EAST ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

## Anti-Racism and Cultural Inclusivity in Education

- **Start Here Start Now**, Liz Kleinrock. Korean American author. Addresses how educators can start cultivating an antibias and antiracist classroom and school community.
- **Representation Matters**, Aisha Thomas. Representation Matters equips all teachers and school leaders with what they need to understand the impact of race in education.
- **Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria**, Beverley Daniel Tatum guides us through how racial identity develops, from very young children all the way to adulthood, in black families, white families, and mixed race families, and helps us understand what we can do to have better conversations with our children and each other about race
- **I Heard What You Said**, Jeffrey Boakye. Boakye recounts his experiences, such as being the only Black student in class, through to being the only Black teacher in various schools. Provides an unforgettable insight into racism in modern education and sets out what we can do to change things for the better.





# EAST & SOUTH EAST ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

## Non-fiction

- **East Side Voices** – ed. Helena Lee. Book of essays by UK-based ESEA authors
- **The Good Immigrant**, ed. Nikesh Shukla





# EAST & SOUTH EAST ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

## Fiction

- **The Mountains Sing** –Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai. A multigenerational tale of the Trần family, set against the backdrop of the Việt Nam War
- **Peach Blossom Spring** Melissa Fu. A novel about war, migration, and the history of modern China, told through the story of one family.
- **The Weight of Our Sky** Hanna Alkaf. A music loving teen with OCD finds herself stranded in the historic race riots in 1969 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **Patron Saints of Nothing** Randy Ribay. A coming-of-age story about grief, guilt and one Filipino-American teenager's discovery of President Duterte's war on drugs







# EAST & SOUTH EAST ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

## Graphic novels

- **The Best We Could Do, Thi Bui.** An intimate look at one family's journey from their war-torn home in Vietnam to their new lives in America
- **Pie In The Sky, Remy Lai.** Told in prose and graphic novel elements, this middle-grade novel is about a boy's immigration experience, his annoying little brother, and their cake-baking hijinks!

