

2026 Heritage Month Kit Guide 4th–5th Grade

This suggested guide can be modified as needed. It is provided to give context and assistance in using and facilitating the Heritage Month Kit materials.

Hello there!

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. At Asian American Voices for Education, we see history as more than the past. It is a critical tool for Georgia's diverse student population to understand interconnected histories and become change-makers in their local and global communities.

2026 is our fourth Heritage Month Kit, and our theme this year is **home and belonging**.

Designed for Georgia classrooms, you will find:

1. A book for your classroom
2. Discussion prompts for some deep-thinking conversations
3. Classroom coloring art
4. A sample of our "Bite Sized Lesson Guide" in alignment with GA Standards of Excellence.

Check out our website for more!



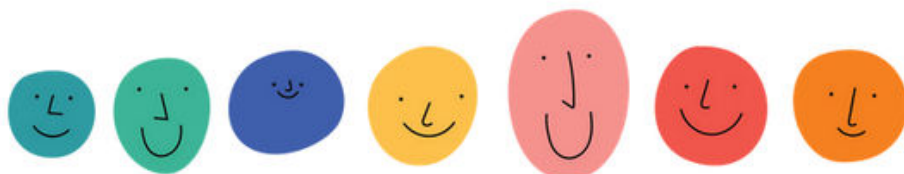
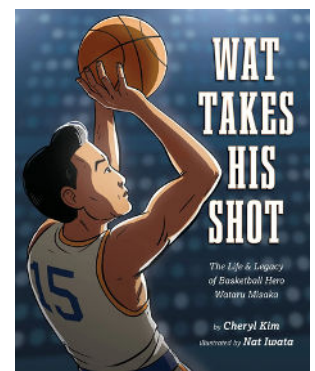
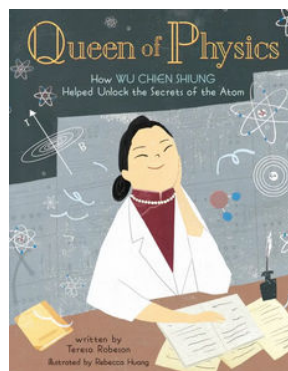
Thoughts to Ponder:

What does **home** mean to you?
Can you have more than one **home**?
What does **belonging** feel like?

Book:

Each kit contains one of the following books:

- *Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom*
- *Wat Takes His Shot: The Life & Legacy of Basketball Hero Wataru Misaka*

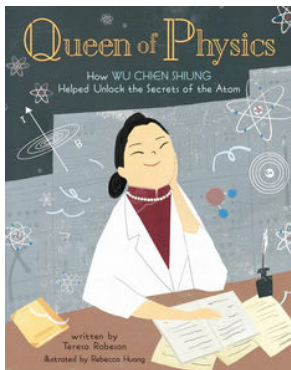


AANHPI Heritage Month Kit

Discussion Prompts

Queen of Physics:

How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom

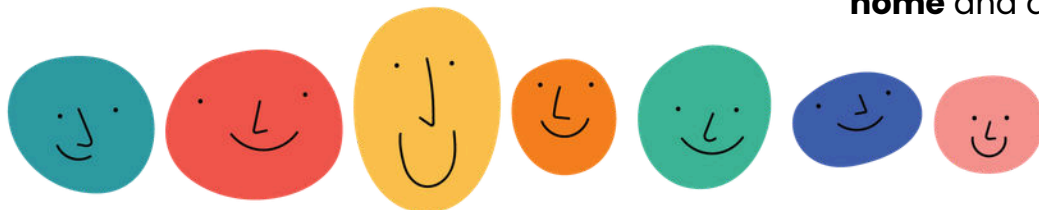


Before Reading:

1. Look at the cover—What do you see? The title calls her the "Queen of Physics." What do you think a physicist does?
2. This is a true story about a woman who had to leave her **home** in China to follow her dreams in America. Let's read to see how she created a sense of **home** and **belonging** in a new country while facing many challenges.

After Reading:

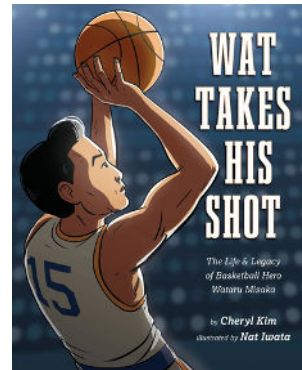
1. Wu Chien Shiung was a "pioneer." What were some of the big discoveries she made in physics? Why was her work so important to the world of science?
2. When Wu Chien Shiung moved to America, she faced prejudice because of how she looked and where she came from. How did these challenges affect her sense of **belonging** in her new **home**?
3. Even though she lived far away from China for many years, she often wore traditional Chinese dresses (qipaos) while working in her lab. Why do you think she chose to keep this part of her culture? How did it help her feel at **home** with herself?
4. In the story, she wasn't always given the credit she deserved, like the Nobel Prize. Despite this, where did she find her greatest sense of **belonging**—was it in the awards she won or in the "**home**" she built within the scientific community?
5. Have you ever moved to a new place or joined a new group where you felt like an outsider? What helped you feel like you finally **belonged**?
6. As a leader in our school, how can you make sure that people from different backgrounds feel like they have a **home** and a voice in our community?



AANHPI Heritage Month Kit

Discussion Prompts

Wat Takes His Shot: The Life & Legacy of Wataru Misaka

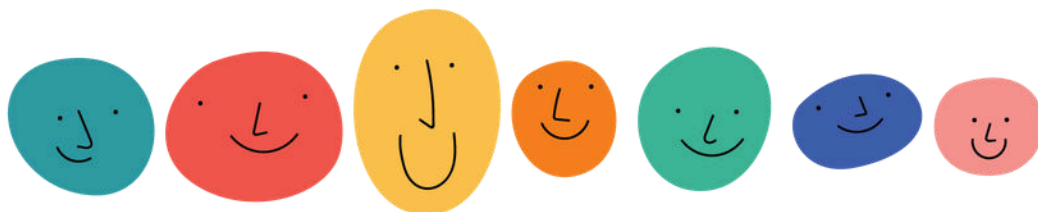


Before Reading:

1. What does the word **“home”** mean to you? Is it a place, people, or a feeling?
2. Where do you feel like you truly **belong**? Why? Have you ever felt like you didn't **belong**?
3. What are sports or activities that are important to you? How do you practice or improve at them?
4. This book is about a Japanese American basketball player. How do you think sports or teams can help someone feel like they **belong**?
5. This story takes place during World War II, when many Japanese Americans were forced to leave their **homes** and live in camps. How do you think that might affect someone's sense of **home** and **belonging**?

After Reading:

1. Why did Wat and his community have their own basketball league?
2. What happened on December 7, 1941? How did this affect the Japanese American community?
3. Why was Wat not allowed to play during away games? How did he react to this?
4. After winning the national championship, Wat and Tut visited the Topaz relocation center. Why was it important for them to share their victory with those who were incarcerated in the camp?
5. When did Wat feel like he didn't **belong**? What made him feel that way?
6. How did basketball help Wat feel a sense of **belonging**?
7. What does **“home”** mean for Wat by the end of the story?
8. What is one thing you can do to help others feel like they **belong** in your classroom or community?



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Classroom Coloring:

- There are two sets of coloring activity in your craft bag.
- Each student receives 1-2 sheets of coloring page, coloring them with colors that remind them of **home** and **belonging**.
- Assemble the art together (handy dandy numbers on the back of each page to make this easy for you).
- Hang the coloring collage masterpiece on a wall or hallway for all to see!



Art by @tiffblot, class coloring activity inspired by Ms. Karla & Ms. Diane (GA teachers)

Meet the Artist:

Tiff Chau (@tiffblot) is an Asian American illustrator born and raised in Georgia. She celebrates slices of life through her watercolor artwork that captures the warmth of culture and the nostalgia in the well worn corners of our hearts. In honor of her childhood spent working in her family restaurant, Tiff also collaborates regularly with local non-profits and small businesses. Her greatest joy is creating artwork for her community and sharing stories about the little things over a big bowl of soup!

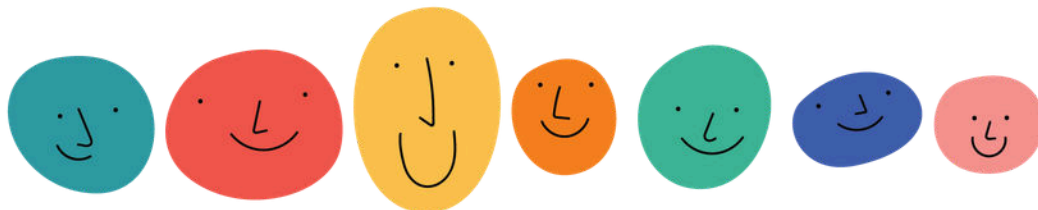


Follow Tiff on social media at @tiffblot



What does Home and Belonging mean to you as an AANHPI artist in Georgia?

“They say home is where the heart is, and my heart has always been found in a noisy, overly warm, too-tight kitchen space with a plate and glass that is always full. **Home** and **belonging** are defined in so many languages, but especially growing up in a multicultural household, my heritage has been defined by the love language of food that has endured oceans and generations so that I can enjoy it today!”



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Thoughtful Tips:

- Be sure to talk about how vast Asian American communities are. They are people of **Asian descent from 48 countries and over 60% of the world's population**. Asian Americans come from many different backgrounds and can be first-generation immigrants or have roots in America since the 1700s.
- Most of us in the US have roots in other countries. Discuss what **your student population's roots may be**.
- Celebrate **more than food, fun, and festivals**. Give space for students to **explore deep thinking skills** by relating the books to personal experiences.

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or [@aaved.org](https://www.facebook.com/aaved.org) 

The post with the most likes by
May 20 will win books for your
classroom library!

