This book group will be looking at one memoir from China (The Good Women of China) and one memoir from a North Korean (A Thousand Miles to Freedom). The focus of the book group will be diving into and reacting to both of these memoirs as well as considering potential applications to the classroom.

This book group is open to anyone, but may be most applicable to English teachers, Social Studies teachers, and librarians who work with middle and high schoolers and will be facilitated by Mr. Morgan McLaughlin.

Session II

January 24-February 27, 2022
Week 1 Jan 24-30 Week 2 Jan 31-Feb 6
Week 3 Feb 7-13 Week 4 Feb 14-20
Week 5 Feb 21-27
Registration deadline: Jan 18, 2022
Register here: https://hls.indiana.edu/machform/view.php?id=261355

This book group will be looking at one graphic novel memoir (Almost American Girl) by a Korean-American author and one memoir (Geisha, A Life) by a Japanese author. The focus of the book group will be diving into and reacting to both of these memoirs as well as considering potential applications to the classroom.

This book group is open to anyone, but may be most applicable to English teachers, Social Studies teachers, and librarians who work with middle and high schoolers and will be facilitated by Mr. Morgan McLaughlin.

One theme, two sessions, four memoirs.

As an unrelated two part book series will examine memoirs of strong women from East Asia as they tell about their own horrors and triumphs. While the two sessions are completely separate from each other (signing up for just one is fine), both sessions share a common theme, strong women who had life-shaping experiences that would test that strength.

**Xinran** was a radio show host who would be changed forever when she dived into one big question - what does it mean to be a woman in China. What Xinran discovers through interviews and fan mail are stories of women who range from a self-imposed homeless mother to a rich self-made modern Chinese woman to a group of women living in the harshest and most remote areas of China in a way utmost entirely unchanged for centuries.

**Eunsun Kim** was a young girl who at one point was so weak that she gave up and accepted death as she laid down one night never expecting to wake up, before being saved by her mother and sister. That surrender would stick with Eunsun and drive her to eventually escape North Korea, survive a Chinese step-family, and eventually make it to South Korea with her mother. While in South Korea Eunsun would double-down on herself and use her strength to succeed in ways that that little girl she had once been would never have considered in her wildest fantasies.

**Robin Ha** was born in South Korea and raised by a mom who had committed a major taboo in traditional Korean society, she was a single mother. Robin’s mother would dedicate herself to making a good life for herself and especially Robin. Robin herself endures cruel classmates and teachers and ultimately finds herself being lied to about a vacation trip to America that will change her life and future forever.

**Mineko Iwasaki** may be best known by Americans for her winning lawsuit against the book and movie Memoirs of a Geisha. Mineko was perhaps the most popular Geisha in all of Japan having entertained a US President and royalty when she decided to retire and close her Geisha house. This memoir is an unflinching look at what life is like for a 20th century, and thus by extension modern Geishas, and the fight for more modern education and fairness in a world ruled by tradition’s iron fist.

**Eunice Kim** was a young girl who would be changed forever when she dived into one big question - what does it mean to be a woman in China. What Xinran discovers through interviews and fan mail are stories of women who range from a self-imposed homeless mother to a rich self-made modern Chinese woman to a group of women living in the harshest and most remote areas of China in a way utmost entirely unchanged for centuries.

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