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.

February 21-27

Registration deadline:  Jan 18, 2022

Register here:
https://hls.indiana.edu/machform/view.php?id=261355

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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

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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.