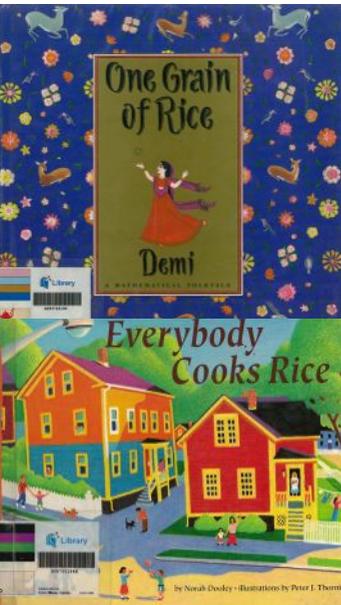


# ALL ABOUT RICE!

An annotated bibliography of rice-themed stories



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It is my pleasure to be launching this second collection of children’s stories with Asian content on a common theme at AFCC2014.

Last year we published *Splash! Asia*, a collection of water-themed stories with the hope to inspire children to treasure our Asian heritage as well as the universal importance of water in our lives, as we celebrated the United Nations International Year of Water cooperation around the world.

The Project Splash! Asia Committee’s enthusiasm flowed from water to rice and, with thanks once again to collaboration with the National Library Board and staff, it has prepared this second annotated bibliography, *All About Rice!*

Our thanks and appreciation to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for enriching the project with an information booth full of interesting facts, stories and beautiful photos, a talk on “Rice: Science, Art and Magic”, introducing authors of rice-themed picture books, and inspiring the creation of a virtual reality rice-bowl challenge and an interactive art installation. All About Rice! and all at AFCC2014!

This publication is shared online as a resource of wonderful stories with Asian content for parents, teachers, storytellers, librarians, researchers, community organisations and, most important, for children and the child in all of us.

Enjoy sampling this feast of rice-themed stories, and share your favourite tales with us!

Claire Chiang  
 Chairman  
 Board of Advisors  
 Asian Festival of Children’s Content



## INTRODUCTION

We hope you enjoyed dipping and diving into the collection of stories in *Splash! Asia: An annotated bibliography of water-themed stories from Asia* that was launched at AFCC2013 last year in celebration of the UN International Year of Water Cooperation.

You may have discovered there was another common theme in many of the stories. Rice! Yes, rice!

In *The Water Dragon*, Ah Bao discovered a magical stone which filled the rice crocks in his home until they overflowed. But soon the rice fields were dying because there was no rain, and Ah Bao was determined to solve the problem. In *Tsunami* a Japanese farmer set fire to his precious rice fields to save the people in his village from a tsunami. The integral part water plays in rice farming and daily life in Bali, Indonesia, is beautifully explained in *Cycle of Rice, Cycle of Life*.

The stories about rice in *Splash! Asia* whet our appetite for more. We have discovered many rice-themed children's picture books; not only folktales, magic and adventure, but also tasty tales of festivals and treasured recipes shared with family and friends - all about rice!

For millions of families and communities around the world, rice is at the core of daily life and culture, especially in Asia. Did you know that over 90% of world's rice is produced in Asia and that rice is the staple food for more than half the world's population?

### ALL ABOUT RICE!

The theme of rice conjures up images of the journey of the story.

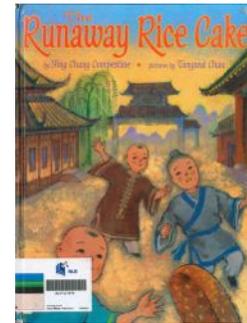
From a seedling planted in the fertile fields of the creator's mind, nurtured with an endless flow of imagination and countless hours of work, the story takes root and grows. With each generation of content creators, undaunted by floods and droughts, there is a growing offering of both old and new varieties. The challenge is not only in the production and processing, but in the distribution of the staple of children's literature to everyone around the world.

This collection of over 60 stories and anthologies from Asia and around the world is presented under five broad themes, described below with a sample of the stories you will discover.

#### 1. Mythical and Mystical Folktales

Mystique and magic are woven into stories transforming the commonplace to something that is otherworldly.

Folk wisdom highlights the importance of not wasting a single grain of rice. Tales of the ill fortune and horrible bad luck that follow, even in the after life, have persuaded many generations of children not to take this staple for granted, and not to leave even a single grain of rice in their bowls.



In a manner reminiscent of the gingerbread man, the Chang family's Chinese New Year celebrations are halted when their rice cake comes to life and escapes.

*The Runaway Rice Cake*  
Author: Compestine, Ying Chang  
Illustrator: Tungwai, Chau



A farmer in Malaysia has been working hard to chase sparrows away from his harvest until, one day, a sparrow speaks to him.

*The Wonderful Sparrow*  
Author & Illustrator: Jainal Amambing

## 2. Customs & Traditions

The harvesting of our stories are rooted in rituals and oral tradition.

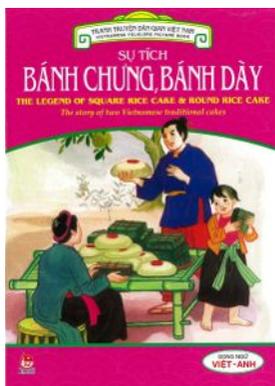
Many Asian cultures revere rice as a special link between the land (and/or the deities) and people. It is used in countless ceremonies and festivals to greet, attract blessings, bring prosperity and promote fertility.

Rice is said to be the first food offered by an Indian bride to her husband in lieu of a wedding cake, the latter being customary in many Western countries.

In China, young girls are told that each grain of rice they leave in their bowls will be the mark they should expect to find on the face of their future husband.

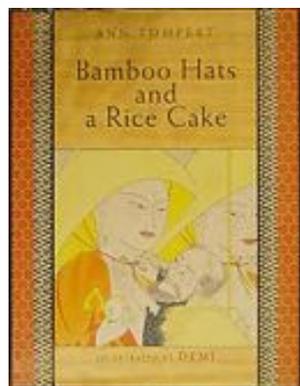
In Japan and in the Philippines, there is a ritual-like process which surrounds the production and preparation of rice from seed selection to land preparation, water and nutrient management, harvesting and postharvest to cite a few. One Japanese belief is that soaking rice before cooking gives the person who eats it a more peaceful soul as the life energy of the rice is released in the process.[1]

[1] Source: <http://www.philrice.net/rice-folklore—the-importance-of-rice-around-the-world/>



Rice is an essential part of Lunar New Year festivities in Vietnam and Japan. Banh Chung (square rice cakes) and Banh Day (round rice cakes) are traditional Vietnamese treats during Lunar New Year.

The Legend of Square Rice Cake and Round Rice Cake  
Author: Hong Ha  
Illustrator: Ta Thuc Binh



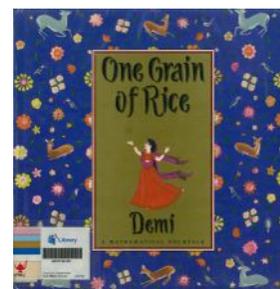
A poor old man who was forced to sell his wife's wedding kimono to buy rice cakes for good luck on New Year's Day is returning home with only bamboo hats but gives even these away before he reaches home.

Bamboo Hats and a Rice Cake  
Author: Anne Tompert  
Illustrator: Demi

### 3. Rice and Survival

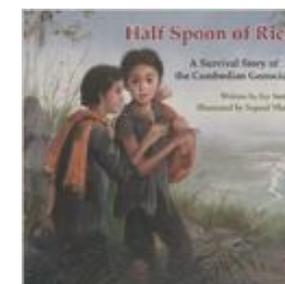
Stories enrich us, and the fertility of a culture is reflected in its narratives.

Rice is the staple food for more than half the world's population, and the only source of nourishment and survival for the less fortunate. Rice is deeply symbolic and is particularly associated with good fortune. In Sanskrit, one of the words for rice, dhanya, also means 'sustainer of the human race'. In China, rice symbolises a link between Heaven (Gods) and Earth (Men). It is one of the twelve symbols of sovereignty, traditionally representing the emperor's capacity to feed the people, and therefore prosperity and fertility.



An intelligent and kind-hearted girl tricks a greedy raja into sharing his hoard of rice with starving villagers.

One Grain of Rice: A mathematical folktale  
Author: Demi



A 9-year old boy endures four years of forced labour in rice fields with only half a spoon of rice a day to eat.

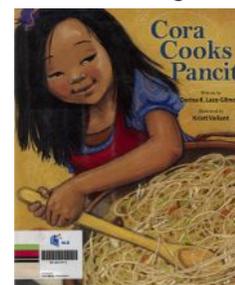
Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of the Cambodian Genocide  
Author: Icy Smith  
Illustrator: Sopaul Nhemw

### 4. Festival of Food

From individual creative toil, the passage to trade for global consumption requires many hands.

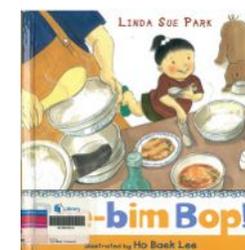
In Asian countries, rice is primarily produced by smallholders and harvesting is still carried out manually by many farmers themselves. Harvesting is followed by threshing, often by hand. Milling, distribution and trade follow.

Similarly, writers and illustrators work to create content in their own houses, followed by editing, publication, distribution and consumption, like the processes of threshing, milling, distribution and trade. It's a hard grind but necessary and, ultimately, worthwhile and rewarding.



Two little girls help their mothers make their favourite food, a Filipino noodle dish called pancit and a Korean favourite, bee-bim bop.

Cora Cooks Pancit - Philippines  
Author: Gilmore, Dorina K. Lazo  
Illustrator: Valiant, Kristi



Bee-bim Bop  
Author: Park, Linda Sue  
Illustrator: Lee, Ho Baek

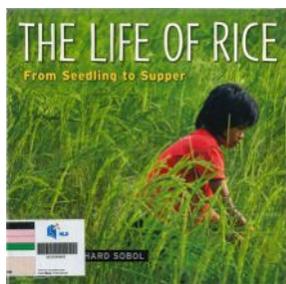
## 5. Gift of Nourishment

As we are sustained by rice, so we are sustained by stories.

Rice was first cultivated in China, and the practice spread to South East Asia and South Asia. It was later introduced to Europe and Africa, and then to the Americas via colonisation. Today rice is not only a staple food in Asia but also the most important grain worldwide in terms of human nutrition. In many Asian countries the words for food and rice are synonymous or interchangeable. Approximately 90% of the rice in the world is grown in Asia[2]

Asian writers, illustrators and publishers are bringing their stories to the world, and the Asian Festival of Children's Content is the catalyst, working with them to make stories from the region a staple in the nourishment of young imaginations everywhere.

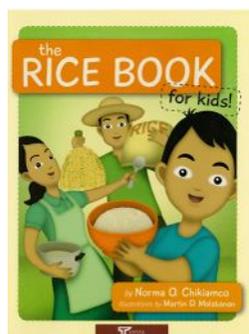
[2] Source: [http://irri.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=9151&lang=en](http://irri.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=9151&lang=en)



In Thailand, the seasons of rice-growing are so important that they are reflected in their holidays and school vacations.

The Life of Rice: From Seedling to Supper

Author: Sobol, Richard



We may eat rice daily, but how much do we know about it? Learn about how rice is grown and cultivated, different types of rice, how to say "rice" in 24 languages and how to cook fun and nutritious dishes!

The Rice Book for Kids!

Author: Chikiamco, Norma O.  
Illustrator: Malabanan, Martin D.

## A Celebration of Asian Children's Content Creators

We hope this bibliography, prepared in collaboration with the National Library in Singapore and AFCC friends, will be another useful resource for parents, teachers, storytellers, librarians, researchers, and children and adults alike.

We would like to thank many AFCC partners and supporters for contributing books and titles, Ken Spillman, author and member of AFCC Board of Advisors, for stirring the creative pot together with Myra Garces-Bacsal, and the Committee for sharing reflections on the journey of the story inspired by the cycle of rice.

Join us in celebrating this harvest of wonderful stories All About Rice! and the writers, illustrators and many helping hands that create, produce and deliver such welcome nourishment to enrich our lives.

*If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.*  
Chinese proverb

### Cultivating the Love of Reading

This collection of rice-themed stories from Asia is far from exhaustive. We would welcome recommendations to add to this resource reference.

We hope the stories in All About Rice! will not only spark the imagination, creativity and pure joy of reading, but also inspire children of all ages to value the importance of rice in our lives, to think about the challenges faced by children and families around the world, and to learn what we can do to make a difference.

We welcome you to draw on this collection of rice themed stories for your reading, storytelling and other programmes.

Contact us at [afcc@bookcouncil.sg](mailto:afcc@bookcouncil.sg)

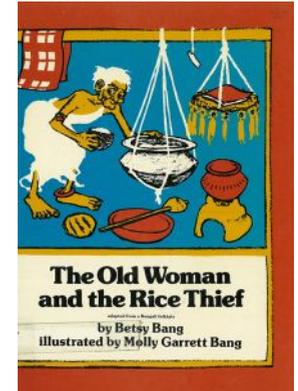
**Evelyn S Wong**  
on behalf of the  
**All About Rice! Committee**

## Mythical and Mystical Tales

### **The Old Woman and the Rice Thief**

Author: Bang, Betsy  
Illustrator: Bang, Molly  
(c1998). New York: Greenwillow Books  
Call No.: RACL 398.2095414 BAN -[FOL]

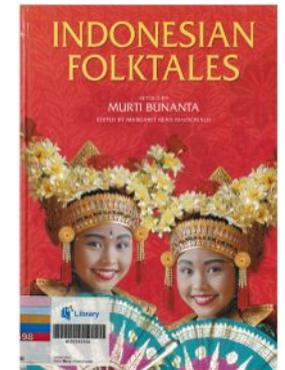
An old woman decides to approach the Raja (King) when she discovers that a thief has been stealing her rice each night. The Raja is out hunting, but fortunately the old woman meets with strange and unusual friends along the way. This Bengali folktale retells how these friends help the old woman outsmart the rice thief.



### **Indonesian Folktales**

Author: Bunanta, Murti  
Illustrator: Sudarta, G.M.  
(2003). Westport: Libraries Unlimited

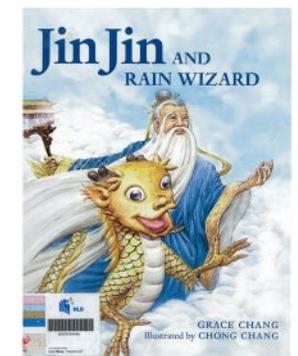
This compilation of 29 folktales contains stories from various sources, many of which were previously unpublished. They are presented in six themes: stories of sibling rivalry, strong women, ungratefulness, origins of things and places, as well as stories about rice – the staple food of most Indonesian people.



### **Jin Jin and Rain Wizard**

Author: Chang, Grace  
Illustrator: Chang, Chong  
(2009). Brooklyn, N.Y.: Enchanted Lion Books  
Call No.: JP 398.2 CHA -[FOL]

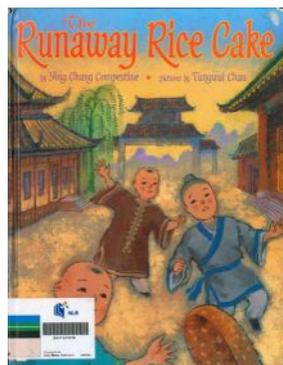
One day, Jin Jin the Chinese dragon discovers that he can no longer breathe out water! After learning that the reason for the loss of his ability is because he had thrown away some rice, Jin Jin goes back in time to learn about the value of rice and to regain his water breathing ability.



### **The Runaway Rice Cake**

Author: Compestine, Ying Chang  
Illustrator: Tungwai, Chau  
(c2001). New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers  
Call No.: JP COM

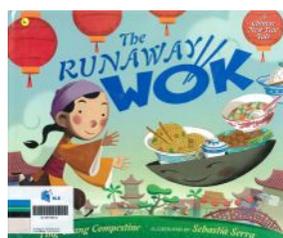
In a manner reminiscent of the gingerbread man, the Chang family's Chinese New Year celebrations are halted when their rice cake comes to life and escapes. When the ensuing chase bumps into a starving elderly woman, the family (and rice cake!) agree that she should have the cake. But will the family go hungry? Read the story to find out its heart-warming ending.



### **The Runaway Wok: a Chinese New Year Tale**

Author: Compestine, Ying Chang  
Illustrated: Serra, Sebastià  
(c2011). New York, N.Y. : Dutton Children's Books  
Call No.: JP COM

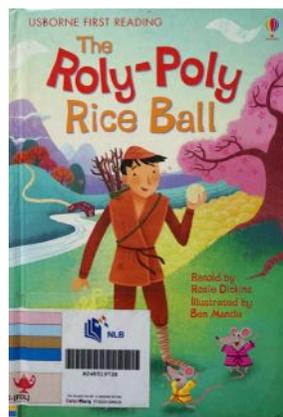
When Ming trades in the last few eggs the family has for a rusty wok instead of a bag of rice as instructed by his parents, he is treated to a surprise as the wok turns out to be a magic wok with a mind of its own!



### **The Roly-Poly Rice Ball: A Japanese Fairy Tale**

Author: Dickens, Rosie  
Illustrator: Mantle, Ben  
(2011). London: Usborne  
Call No.: JP 398.2 DIC -[FOL]

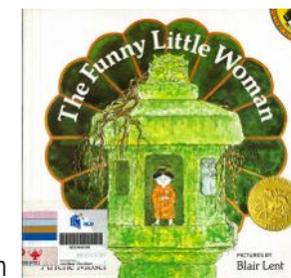
This traditional Japanese tale tells us the story of Miki, a woodcutter so poor that all he had only one roly-poly rice ball. Alas, his roly-poly rice ball rolls into a hole one day! Miki chases after the roly-poly rice ball, lands himself in an adventure, and is never poor again.



### **The Funny Little Woman**

Author: Retold by Mosel, Arlene  
Illustrator: Lent, Blair  
(1972.) New York: Puffin Books  
Call No.: JP 398.2 MOS - [FOL]

A funny little woman is captured by an oni (demon) while trying to find her rice dumpling. Fortunately, she escapes with a magic paddle that can cook a pot of rice from a single grain. Back home, she makes rice dumplings faster than ever with the magic paddle and becomes the richest woman in Japan.



### **The Princess of the Rice Fields**

Author: Kimishima, Hisako  
Illustrator: Mizushi, Sumiko  
(1970). New York: Walker/Weatherhill  
Call No.: RACL 398.209598 KIM -[FOL]

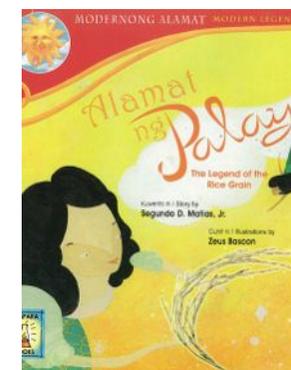
This Indonesian folktale recounts the story of a young princess who falls in love with a young man on earth. She decides to leave her home in the sky. For her action, her father punishes her severely by transforming her into the spirit of a rice plant.



### **Alamat Ng Palay the Legend of the Rice Grain**

Bilingual text  
Author: Segundo, D. Matias Jr.  
Illustrator: Bascon, Zeus  
(2009). Manila: Lampara Publishing House, Inc.

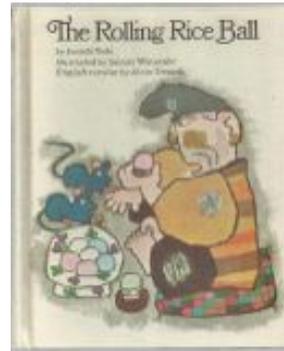
This Filipino legend tells of how the rice plant comes to play such an important part in people's lives. Once a lowly nameless plant, it was shunned by other plants until it sacrificed its life to protect them against the tyranny of men.



### The Rolling Rice Ball

by Tresselt, Alvin (Adapter), Yoda, Junichi (Author), Watanabe, Saburo (Illustrator)  
Parents' Magazine Press; 1st edition (1969)

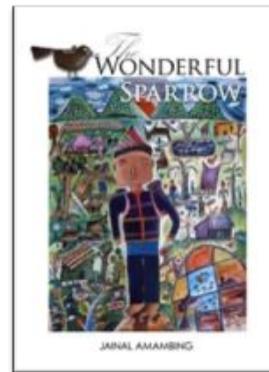
A retelling of one of the oldest Japanese folktales about a kind old woodcutter who falls into a mousehole and discovers singing mice making rice cakes. He returns home to his wife richly rewarded. Their greedy neighbours try their luck with a very different ending.



### The Wonderful Sparrow

Author & Illustrator: Amambing, Jainal  
(2011). Malaysia: Picture Book Art  
ISBN: 967 5250 804

Usan Usan was a hardworking padi farmer. One day he was generous and offered a sparrow some paddy. His generosity was rewarded when the sparrow led him to a palace where he met a beautiful but lonely princess.



### The Paddy that Turned to Gold

Author: Mustapha, Zainun  
Illustrator: Khairulnisak Merman  
(2013). Malaysia: Malaysian Institute of Translation & Books  
ISBN: 9789674301880

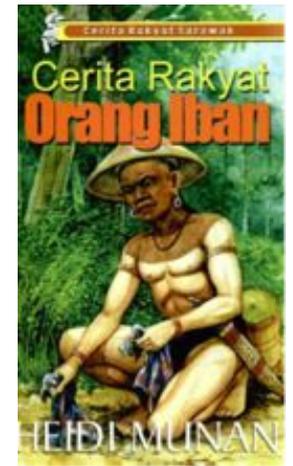
This folktale tells the story of a poor farmer had trouble keeping the sparrows from eating his paddy during harvest. One day he met an old lady and helped her. Following the old lady's advice, the farmer let the sparrows eat some of his paddy, which led to rich rewards



### Cerita Rakyat Orang Iban [Iban Folktales]

from the series Cerita Rakyat Sarawak [Sarawak Folktales]  
Author: Munan, Heidi  
(2007). Malaysia: Utusan Publications & Distributors Sdn Bhd  
ISBN: 978 967 61 2066 9

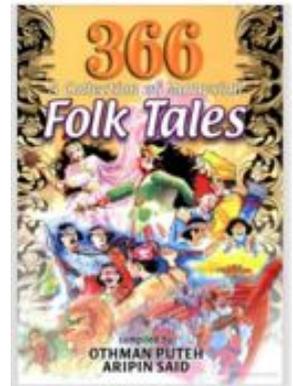
A collection of Iban Folktales including one on the origin of rice - Dayang Petera dan Beras Sakti. Dayang Petera was a fairy who came to earth. She was taught how to grow and harvest paddy but she grew careless and did not follow all the steps. That is why paddy grains today are so small and the planting as well as harvesting of paddy today is a backbreaking effort.



### 366 A Collection of Malaysian Folktales

Compiled by: Puteh, Othman and Said, Aripin  
(2008). Malaysia: Utusan Publications & Distributors Sdn Bhd  
ISBN: 967 61 0505 8

A collection of folktales from every state in Malaysia, one for every day of the year, and for each month as well. Culture and traditions are brought to life for young readers to read on their own or together with their parents, including these tales about rice.



A Pouch of Rice Grains (Pahang)  
<http://bit.ly/pouchofricegrains>

Golden Rice (Selangor)  
[http://bit.ly/golden\\_rice](http://bit.ly/golden_rice)

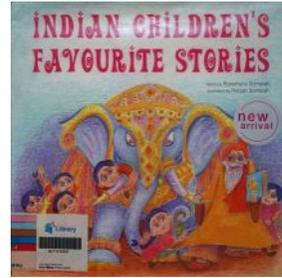
### **Indian Children's Favourite Stories**

Author: Somaiah, Rosemarie

Illustrator: Somaiah, Ranjan

(2006). Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing

Call No.: J 398.20954 SOM -[FOL]

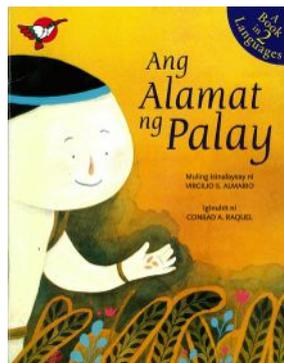


This compilation of Indian folklores tells the tales of mythical creatures, the common man and even supreme beings. The stories feature the intelligence of a simple village girl, the foolishness of a quarrelsome couple, the downfall of a powerful but arrogant demon king, and other inspiring recollections; all are retold in a light-hearted manner.

## Customs and Traditions

**Ang Alamat ng Palay (The Legend of Rice)** bilingual text

Author: Almario, Virgilio S.  
Illustrator: Raquel, Conrad A.  
(2012.) Philippines: Adarna House



A merciless drought forces Danas to travel far to look for food. He falls asleep in a field and wakes up to the mystical songs of the grass. Listening to the songs, Danas learns to pound and winnow rice, cook rice grains for food, plant new crops and study rice farming methods.

**Bu shi fang de, bu shi yuan de**

**(Not Square, Not Round)** text in Chinese only

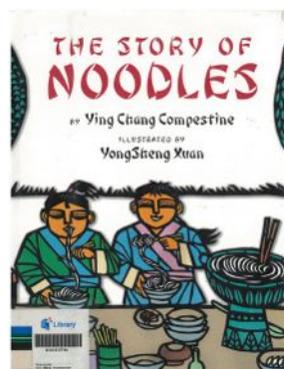
Author: Chunhua, Zheng  
Illustrator: Shu, Chen  
(2008). Shanghai: Shao nian er tong chu ban she  
Call No.: Chinese JP ZCH



On the day of the Dragon Boat Festival, a family of mice discovers a peculiar sweet-smelling object that is neither squarish nor round in the humans' kitchen. As they unwrap the bamboo leaf, they find a delicious rice dumpling and eat it to their hearts' content.

**The Story of Noodles**

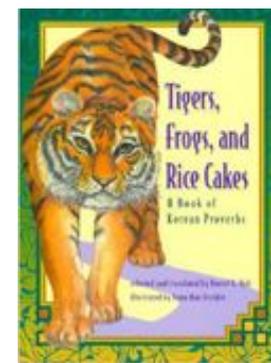
Author: Compestine, Ying Chang  
Illustrator: Xuan, Yongsheng  
(2002). New York: Holiday House  
Call No.: JP COM



Apart from rice, the Kang brothers' mother is famous for her dumplings. And when it is time for the annual contest, she is ready to serve her best dumpling flavours. However, her three boys - Kúai, Pan and Ting - have a different idea. This story narrates the origin of noodles in China.

**Tigers, Frogs and Rice Cakes: A Book of Korean Proverbs**

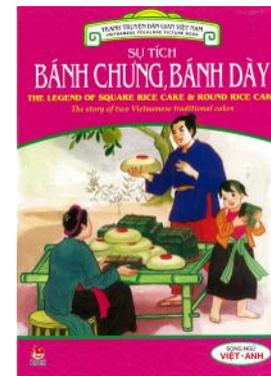
Author: Holt, Daniel D.  
Illustrator: Stickler, Soma Han  
(1999). Auburn, California: Shen's Books  
Call No.: J 398.9 TIG



Beautifully illustrated, this book introduces 20 traditional Korean proverbs that focus on three themes: character, cooperation and accomplishment, and eating. Each proverb is associated with things of symbolism in the Korean culture: tigers, dragons, frogs, watermelons, rice cakes and many more.

**The Legend of Square Rice Cake and Round Rice Cake**

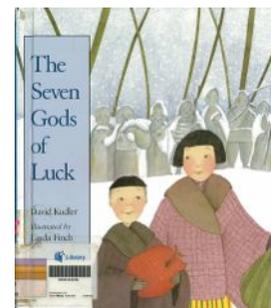
Author: Ha, Hong  
Illustrator: Ta Thuc Binh  
(2014). Vietnam: Kim Dong Publishing House



Prince Lieu impresses King Hung with his creation of two types of rice cakes – square cakes (Banh Chung) and round cakes (Banh Day). Prince Lieu eventually becomes the next king, and both Banh Chung and Banh Day have become traditional Vietnamese food eaten during the Lunar New Year Festival.

**The Seven Gods of Luck**

Author: Kudler, David  
Illustrator: Finch, Linda  
(1997). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.  
Call No.: JP KUD

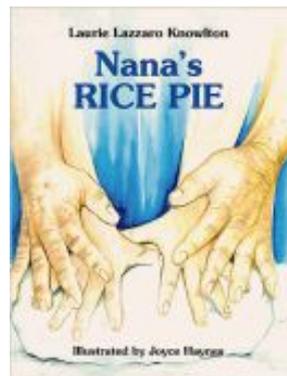


Good-natured yet impoverished siblings Sachiko and Kenji hawk their handmade wares at the market in order to raise money for New Year festivities and basic needs such as rice. On the way, they do some good deeds that earn them blessings from seven gods of good luck.

### Nana's Rice Pie

Author: Knowlton, Laurie  
Illustrator: Joyce Haynes  
(1997). New York: Pelican Publishing

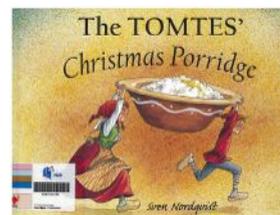
Sara misses her Pa when he stays out late to harvest the rice but Nana reminds Sara of the importance of rice for their family. This story includes a recipe of sweet rice pie!



### The Tomtes' Christmas Porridge

Author: Nordqvist, Sven  
(2011). Edinburgh: Floris Books  
Call No.: JP 398.2 NOR -[FOL]

According to Swedish Christmas tradition, the tomtes' – creatures from Scandinavian folklore – receive a bowl of porridge on Christmas Eve in appreciation of their help around the farm. This year, the farm family has forgotten, and Mama tomte and her children hatch a plan to get the porridge in time for Papa tomte's return.



### Maung Khin Buries His Treasure

Author: Stilwell, Alice  
A Burmese fable retold in *Rice Today*, Jul-Sep 2012. Vol 11. No3, pp38-39

A young farmer returns home from the city when he receives the sad news that his father died. His father left a large bag of treasure for his son with one condition that he has to fulfil.

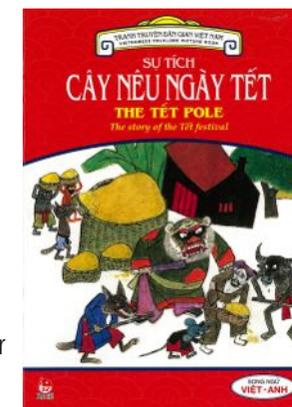


This Burmese tale and seven more rice fables are available online. They have appeared in the Quaterly Rice Today magazine produced by IRRI since Vol. 11 No.3.  
<http://irri.org/resources/publications/rice-today-magazine>

### The Tet Pole: The Story of the Tet Festival

Author: Quoc, Tran  
Illustrator: Nguyen Bich  
(2014). Vietnam: Kim Dong Publishing House

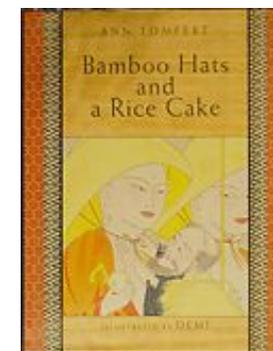
This bilingual picture book (English and Vietnamese) retells the ancient folktale of how some Vietnamese villagers, with the help of Lord Buddha, outwit the greedy devils and succeed in taking back their precious land to grow rice and maize. The Vietnamese celebrate this victory during the Lunar New Year Festival, also known as Tet.



### Bamboo Hats and a Rice Cake

Author: Tompert, Anne  
Illustrator: Demi  
(1993). Japan. Crown Publishers

An elderly couple must sell their heirloom wedding kimono to buy traditional rice cakes for New Year's Day. With no luck at the market, the husband instead returns with bamboo hats, which he uses to cover the exposed heads of Jizo statues, resulting in a wonderful surprise for the couple the next morning.



### Duan wu jie: zong mi piao xiang ai pu chang (Dragon Boat Festival) text in Chinese

Author: Zaozao, Wang  
Illustrator: Lan, Kou  
(2012). Beijing: Beijing shi fan da xue chu ban she  
Call No.: Chinese JP 398.2 WZZ -[FOL]

As two children in China prepare for the arrival of the Dragon Boat Festival, they learn about the origin of the festival, the superstitions involved, and the customs that have to be observed on this special day. The children also demonstrate step-by-step how to make fragrance pouches and rice dumplings.

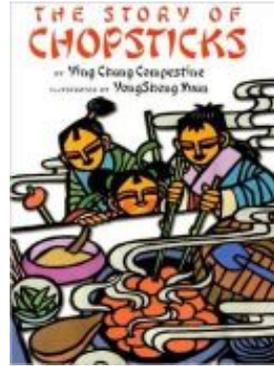


### **The Story of Chopsticks**

Author: Compestine, Ying Chang

Illustrator: YongSheng Xuan

How does little Kuai's plight at the dinner table lead him to an invention that is soon adopted by his family, the people in his town, his whole country, and even other countries? Beautifully illustrated with coloured cut-paper designs, this story includes a recipe used for the wedding feast!



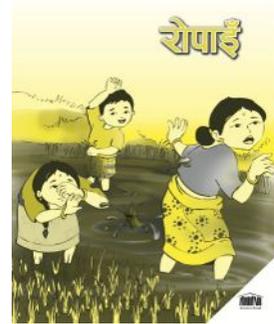
### **Ropain** text in Nepalese

Author: Baral, Janardan

Illustrator: Suman Maharjan

(2011). Nepal: Room to Read

Ropain, the annual festival in Nepal that celebrates the planting of new rice crops, is taking place in the field today. Hari, a curious little boy, wants to contribute. Join Hari as he participates in the different events of the festival.



## Rice and Survival

### **A New Year's Reunion**

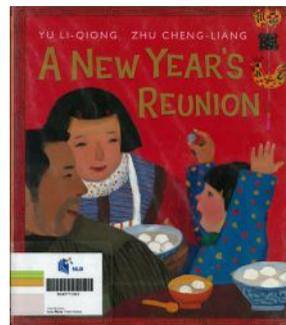
Author: Li-Qiong, Yu

Illustrator: Cheng-Liang, Zhu

(2007.) China: Candlewick Press

Call No.: JP YU

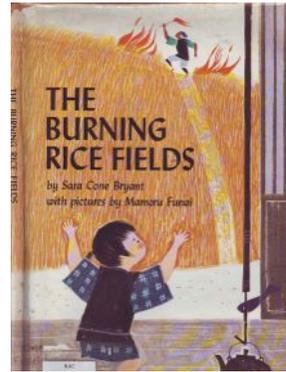
When Maomao's father comes home for Chinese New Year, they make sticky rice balls, go New Year visiting, watch firecrackers and watch the dragon dance through the streets. But after three days of reunion, it is time for Maomao's father to go away again.



### **The Burning Rice Fields**

Author: Bryant, Sara Cone  
Illustrator: Funai, Mamoru  
(1963). New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston  
Call No.: RAC 828.9952 BRY

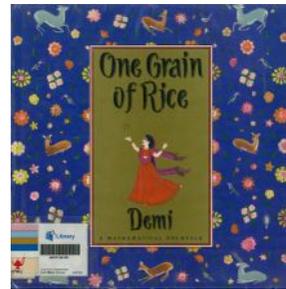
A Japanese folktale of how the quick wit of an old rice farmer saves an entire village is retold in this beautifully illustrated picture book. An old man sets fire suddenly to the village's precious rice fields on the mountainside, saving the villagers from an oncoming tsunami as they rush from their homes on the shore up the hill.



### **One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale**

Author: Demi  
(c1997). New York: Scholastic Press  
Call No.: JP 398.2 DEM - [FOL]

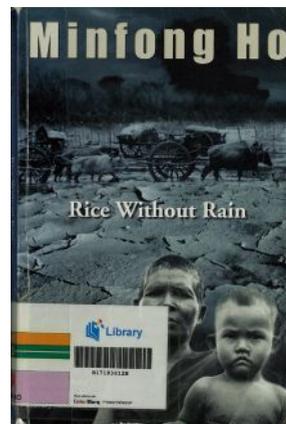
This folktale tells of an intelligent and kind-hearted girl, Rani, who tricks a greedy raja into sharing his hoard of rice with the starving villagers. By using a simple mathematical concept, she solves the famine problem in the village and teaches the king a good lesson.



### **Rice without Rain**

Author: Ho, Minfong  
(2004). Singapore: Times Editions-Marshall Cavendish  
Call No.: YP HO

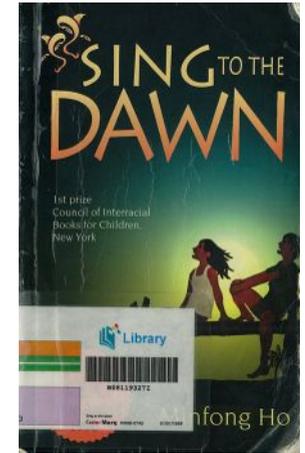
The severe drought has taken a toll on the rice crops. Villagers are starving as they barely have enough to eat, much less to pay the rent. When students from the city sought the villagers' courage to fight for their rights, Jinga put her faith in them completely. However, everything goes awry when Jinga's father is jailed following a scuffle with the landlord. The story depicts how Jinga deals with issues of love and family, as well as her resilience in face of calamity.



### **Sing to the Dawn**

Author: Ho, Minfong  
Illustrator: Ho, Kwongjan  
(2005) Singapore: Times Editions-Marshall Cavendish  
Call No.: Y SING HO

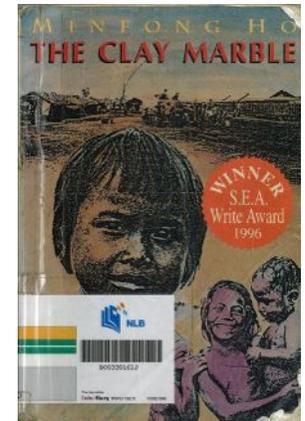
Dawan has been awarded a scholarship to further her studies in the city but she has to first convince her father, a Thai rice farmer, who firmly believes that a city school is no place for a girl.



### **The Clay Marble**

Author: Ho, Minfong  
(1992) Singapore: Times Books International  
Call No.: SING YP HO

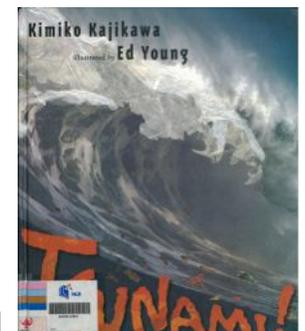
Together with her mother and brother, Dara flees the unrest in Cambodia and joins a refugee camp located on the Thai-Cambodian border, where there are rice seeds for the refugees' use. However, her happiness is short-lived when the unrest escalates and she is separated from her family and friends.



### **Tsunami!**

Author: Kajikawa, Kimiko  
Illustrator: Young, Ed  
(c2009). New York: Philomel Books  
Call No.: JP 398.2 KAJ [FOL]

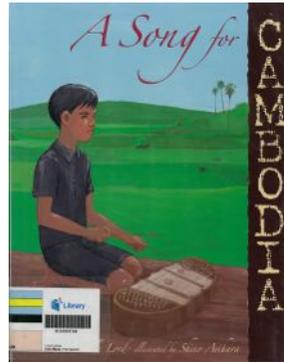
The villagers are celebrating the rice harvest and are unaware that a tsunami is about to strike them. In an effort to alert them, a wise old rice farmer decides to set fire to his own rice fields! This touching folktale shows how one selfless act saved the entire village.



### **A Song for Cambodia**

Author: Lord, Michelle  
Illustrator: Arihara, Shino  
(2008). New York: Lee & Low  
Call No.: J 959.6 LOR

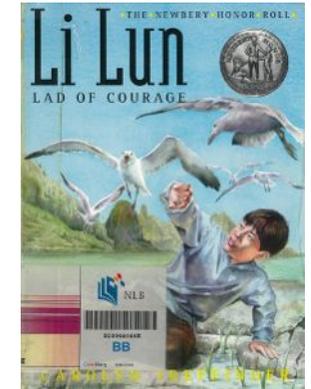
Arn leads a poor but simple life until the Khmer Rouge separates him from his family. He is made to work in the rice paddies and learns khim. Eventually he is adopted by an American. He swears to help his homeland with music that soothed him.



### **Li Lun, Lad of Courage**

Author: Treffinger, Carolyn  
Illustrator: Wiese, Kurt  
(c1947). New York: Walker  
Call No.: J TRE

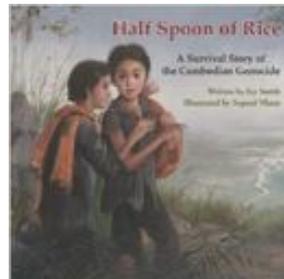
Li Lun refuses to go on a fishing trip due to his fear of sea water. For this, he is called a coward and suffers taunts from the villagers. He is then punished to do the impossible – to grow rice at the very top of a mountain. Does he have the courage to complete this arduous task.



### **Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of the Cambodian**

Genocide  
Author: Smith, Icy  
Illustrator: Sopaul Nhemw  
(2010)

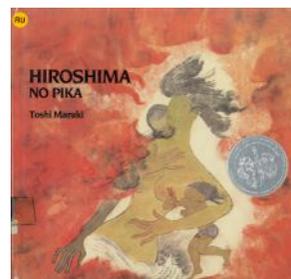
Nine-year-old Nat is forced out of his Cambodian home and marched into the countryside when the Khmer Rouge comes into power. Nat is separated from his family and endures forced labor in rice fields from dawn to midnight with little food. Over the next four years, Nat confronts starvation, fear, and brutality. With the help of his friend Malis, Nat finds hope and the strength to escape, eventually reuniting with the family he loves.



### **Hiroshima No Pika**

Author: Maruki, Toshi  
(1980). New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books  
Call No.: J 940.54 MAR

An unknown flash - later revealed as an atomic bomb explosion- has made everything dark and still in Hiroshima. Mii and her parents struggle to escape to the beach outside Hiroshima. Nothing remains except for a rice ball in a bag, Mii's rice bowl, and the aftermath of war.

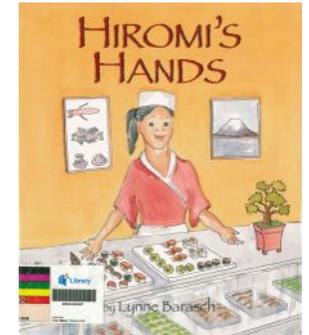


## A Festival of Food

### **Hiromi's Hands**

Author: Barasch, Lynne  
(c2007). New York: Lee & Low Books  
Call No.: JP 641.5092 BAR

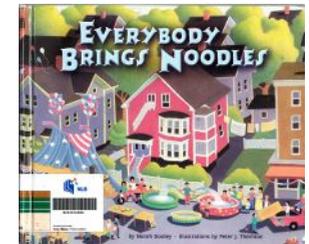
Find out about Hiromi Suzuki, one of the few female sushi chefs around. Follow her long journey to realizing her dream: learning how to properly prepare rice, cut the fish and make sushi of all kinds. Read the author's note to learn about the origins of sushi and how rice plays an important role here.



### **Everybody Brings Noodles**

Author: Dooley, Norah  
Illustrator: Thornton, Peter J.  
(2002). Minneapolis, Minn.: Carolrhoda Books  
Call No.: JP D00

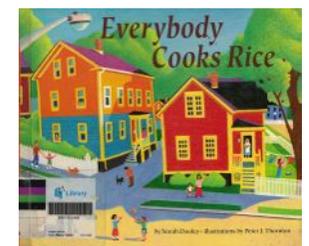
It's the day of the neighbourhood party and Carrie is busy with preparations. As she goes from house to house making final arrangements, she learns that her ethnically diverse neighbours, who come from all over the world, are preparing different types of noodles for the feast.



### **Everybody Cooks Rice**

Author: Dooley, Norah  
Illustrator: Thornton, Peter J.  
(1991). Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Inc.  
Call No.: J 641.6 D00

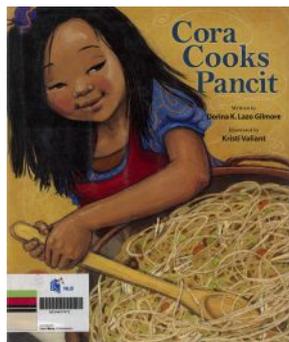
Carrie is sent to look for her younger brother at dinnertime. As she goes from house to house in her neighbourhood, she is introduced to a variety of cultures through the different rice dishes prepared in each household.



### **Cora Cooks Pancit**

Author: Gilmore, Dorina K. Lazo  
Illustrator: Valiant, Kristi  
(c2009). Walnut Creek: Shen's Books  
Call No.: JP LAZ

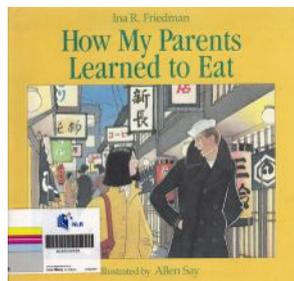
When her older siblings are away, Cora finally gets a chance to help her Mama in the kitchen! They make pancit, a Filipino favourite noodle dish. Cora helps her Mama do "grown-up jobs" such as shredding the chicken and stirring the pot, and has fun doing them!



### **How My Parents Learned to Eat**

Friedman, Ina R  
Illustrator: Say, Allen  
(1984). Boston: Houghton Mifflin  
Call No.: Ref. Asian Childrens Lit 813.54 FRI

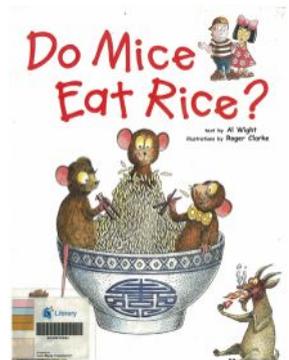
A girl narrates how her parents meet and fall in love. Her mother, then a Japanese schoolgirl, learns in secret the Western way of eating with a knife and fork. On the other hand, her father, an American sailor, learns how to eat rice and sukiyaki with chopsticks.



### **Do Mice Eat Rice?**

Author: Wight, Al  
Illustrator: Clarke, Roger  
(2005). Boston, Mass. : Tuttle Publishing  
Call No.: JP 398.8 WIG

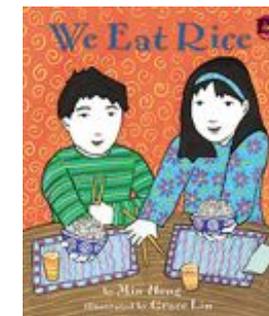
Do you turn up your nose at something new? Have you ever thought about what an animal will or will not eat? This hilarious rhyming story makes you wonder if mice eat rice, parrots eat carrots or if possums eat blossoms.



### **We Eat Rice**

Author: Hong, Min  
Illustrator: Grace Lin  
New York: Lee & Low Books

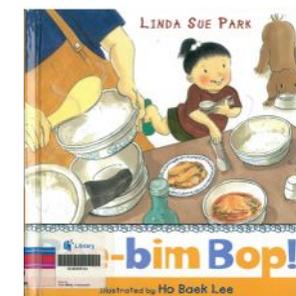
A Korean American girl and boy love rice so much they eat it all the time and in many different ways.



### **Bee-bim Bop**

Author: Park, Linda Sue  
Illustrator: Lee, Ho Baek  
(2005). New York: Clarion Books  
Call No.: JP PAR

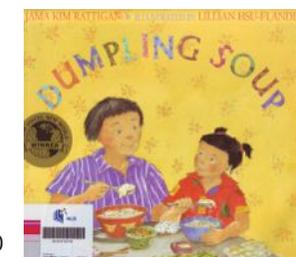
A little girl helps her mother make bee-bim bop ("mix-mix rice"), from shopping and preparing ingredients, to setting the table and sitting down to enjoy her favourite food. The book includes the author's own bee-bim bop recipe too!



### **Dumpling Soup**

Author: Rattigan, Jama Kim  
Illustrator: Hsu-Flanders, Lillian  
(c1993). Boston: Little, Brown  
Call No.: JS RAT

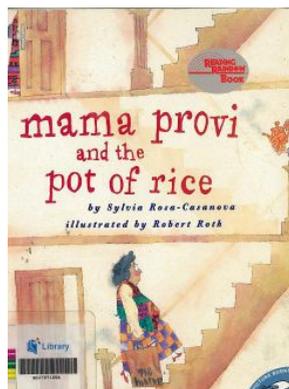
Grandma invites seven-year-old Marisa over to help her wrap New Year dumplings. Her aunties make beautiful dumplings and arrange them neatly in a tray, making them look like baby bottoms wrapped in diapers. Marisa tries hard to copy the dumplings her aunties made but hers look out of shape, sad and lumpy. Marisa worries that nobody will eat the dumplings she makes.



### **Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice**

Author: Rosa-Casanova, Sylvia  
Illustrator: Roth, Robert  
(1997). New York, N.Y.: Simon & Schuster

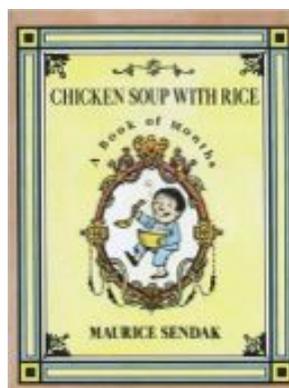
Follow this tale of love between Mama Provi and her granddaughter, Lucy. When Lucy is down with chicken pox, Mama Provi surprises Lucy with her favourite dish, rice with chicken or arroz con pollo in Spanish – so tasty that Lucy's neighbours join in with their own dishes in exchange for Mama Provi's rice and chicken.



### **Chicken Soup with Rice: A Book of Months**

Author: Sendak, Maurice  
Illustrator: Sendak, Maurice  
(1962). New York: Harper & Row  
Call No.: JP SEN

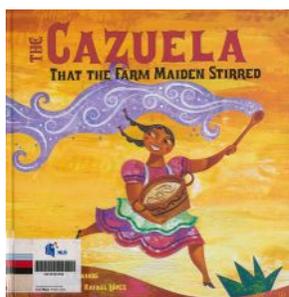
This is a collection of 13 very short poems that revolve around eating chicken soup and rice at different times of the year. The poems, one for each month and a final one that celebrates chicken soup and rice, teach readers about events and seasons that each month brings.



### **The Cazuela that the Farm Maiden Stirred**

Author: Vamos, Samantha R.  
Illustrator: López, Rafael  
(c2011). Watertown, Mass.: Charlesbridge  
Call No.: JP VAM

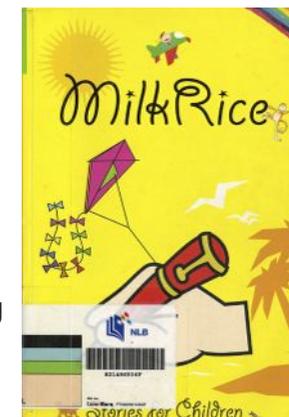
This book tells the tale of how a farm maiden, together with the help of all the farm animals, makes a dish called "Arroz con Leche" (rice pudding). The book also includes a glossary of the Spanish words that are used in the story.



### **Milk Rice - Stories for Children**

Editor: Hussein, Ameena  
(2008). Colombo: Popsicle Books  
Call No.: J MIL

Milk Rice, is a traditional Sri Lankan dish made from rice, common in almost every household, be it rich or poor, very important for auspicious occasions. This compilation includes tales of a village boy's simple outlook in life; a time-travelling adventure with a genie; the secrets of hats in a strange village; a little boy's courage in finally standing up to a bully, and the excitement of a young boy's dream to build an aeroplane that will fly over the paddy fields

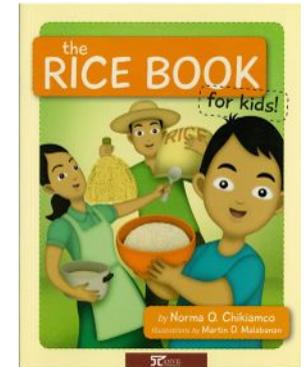


## The Gift of Nourishment

### **The Rice Book for Kids!**

Author: Chikiamco, Norma O.  
Illustrator: Malabanan, Martin D.  
(2013). Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, Inc.

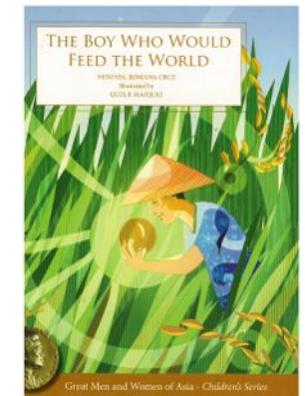
Every minute, in some part of the world, someone is eating rice. Learn more about this grain in this delightful book for kids: How rice grows, its legends and ecosystems, festivals and rituals, how to say rice in 24 languages, and easy rice recipes that are fun and delicious.



### **The Boy who would Feed the World**

Author: Cruz, Neni Sta. Romana  
Illustrator: Maiquez, Quiz P.  
(2007). Makati City: The Bookmark, Inc.

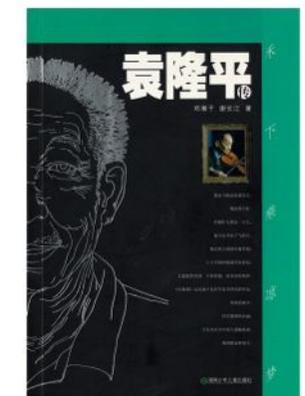
This is the story of how hybrid rice came about, thanks to the perseverance of Yuan, a Chinese agronomist. Troubled by a famine in China, Yuan sets out to discover how to produce enough rice for all his fellowmen. He finally succeeds after conducting over three thousand experiments.



### **A Dream under Seedlings: A Biography of Yuan Longping**

Author: Deng, Xiangzi  
(2003). Changsha: Hunan Juvenile & Children's Publishing House

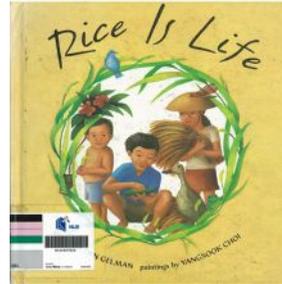
Yuan Longping experiences wartime at a young age and hence develops an interest in social issues. He majors in agronomy and devotes his entire life to the study of hybrid rice. This biography shares his life with readers, focusing on his perseverance and achievements that resulted in increasing production of rice for many countries.



### Rice is Life

Author: Gelman, Rita Golden  
Illustrator: Choi, Yangsook  
(2000). Canada: Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd  
Call No.: ACL 633.1 GEL

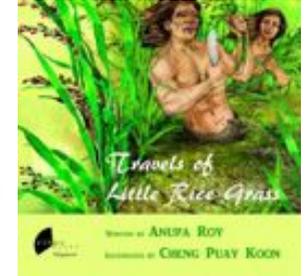
From planting the seeds to harvesting the ripe grain, Rice of Life tells the story of rice and of the Balinese people, in a beautiful, poetic way. In Bali where the eels slip through the mud and dragonflies flutter overhead, farmers plant seedlings in the wet rice field, or 'saweh'. Each plant is then crowned with flowers, and became healthy kernels. When the harvest is finished, farmers give thanks to the goddess of rice for a successful crop that gives them life.



### Travels of Little Rice Grass

Author: Anupa Roy  
Illustrator:  
(2014). Singapore: Ethos Books

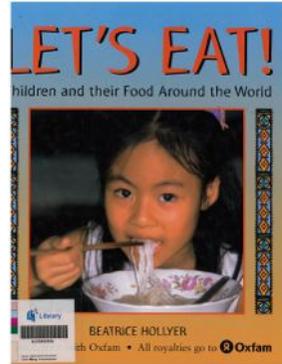
This is the story of how the wild rice grass became a cultivated plant, feeding millions in today's hungry world.



### Let's Eat!: Children and their Food Around the World

Author: Hollyer, Beatrice  
Illustrator: Wilson, Anne  
(2003). London: Frances Lincoln Limited  
Call No.: J 394.1 HOL

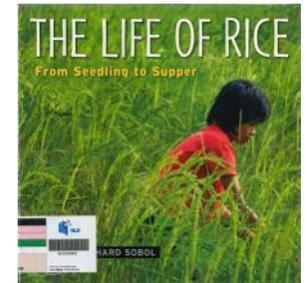
As the title suggests, this book follows five children into their world of food. From France to Thailand, readers will be presented with the everyday meals of these children and a day of their lives. The last chapter also consists of different recipes from the children for readers to try at home!



### The Life of Rice: From Seedling to Supper

Author: Sobol, Richard  
(2010). Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press  
Call No.: J 633.1 SOB

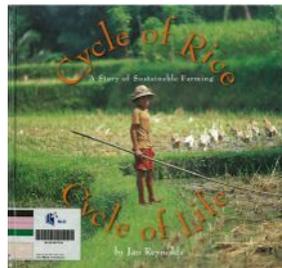
In Thailand, the seasons of rice-growing are so important that they are reflected in their holidays and school vacations. Follow Richard Sobol as he introduces the Thai culture with vivid photographs and delightful personal narration, from showing how rice is planted, grown, and harvested, to how it is celebrated in Thailand.



### Cycle of Rice, Cycle of Life: A Story of Sustainable Farming

Author: Reynolds, Jan  
(2009). New York: Lee & Low Books  
Call No.: J 633.1 REY

This book recounts the true story of Bali's agriculture woes during the era of the Green Revolution: how the Balinese people's rice fields were threatened, how their resilience and traditions saved their main source of income and food, and more importantly, how they saved their environment through sustainable farming.



### The Really Big Food Project

Author: Barnard, Emma and Cho, Thomas, with help from Rippin, Sally  
(2004). Australia: Education Services Australia

A look at how people eat rice in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In their description of the many different types of rice and its uses, the authors use Fact Bites, photos, illustrations and either a recipe or a traditional story about some aspect of rice in each country.



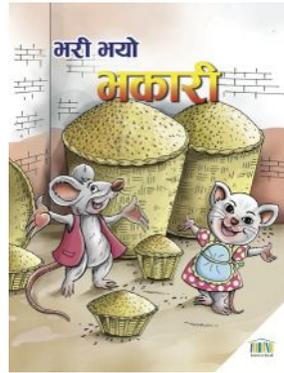
## The Granary is Full

Author: Kapildev Lamichhane

Illustrator: Lamsal, Prem

(2011). Nepal. Publisher - Room to Read

This poetic narrative explores the process of rice cultivation – from the planting of the seeds to the final harvest. Children will enjoy learning about the primary crop of Nepal through the eyes of a mouse.



## Asal Usul Padi (The Origin of Rice)

text in Malay

Author: Abdullah, Dayang Aishah

Illustrator: Abdul Hakim Haji Mokhti

(1989). Brunei: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei

Tugal is a poor orphan who discovers paddy. His life changes after he learns how to cultivate it with the intention to sell.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Project All About Rice! Committee

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Corinne Robson - Projects Manager, WaterBridge Outreach.org

Evelyn S Wong – Author, AFCC Partnership Director, Board of Advisors

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Annotations

National Library Board

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VastPotato

The Edible Art Movement

This ebook was introduced at the **Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC)**. The AFCC is an annual gathering of writers, illustrators, publishers, distributors, teachers, parents and children to celebrate the creation of children's content, with an emphasis on Asian stories, with the following objectives:

DEVELOP

skills for creating stories with Asian content for children.

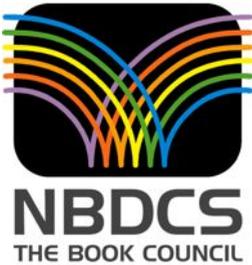
PROMOTE

the publication and production of Asian content for children.

PROVIDE

the world with access to Asian content for children.

for more information, please visit [www.afcc.com.sg](http://www.afcc.com.sg)



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