

# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Worlds collide at a Chicago airport, where twelve young Americans with roots in East and Southeast Asia discover that the journey is just as important as the destination. After an incident at a TSA security checkpoint causes confusion, tension, and a number of flight delays, each of the twelve youths share their own story of navigating family, culture(s), belonging, identity and finding one's voice, as well as their gates. This heartfelt anthology of interconnected stories written by twelve celebrated and award-winning Asian American authors is sure to appeal to young people of all backgrounds, no matter where they are from and where they are headed.

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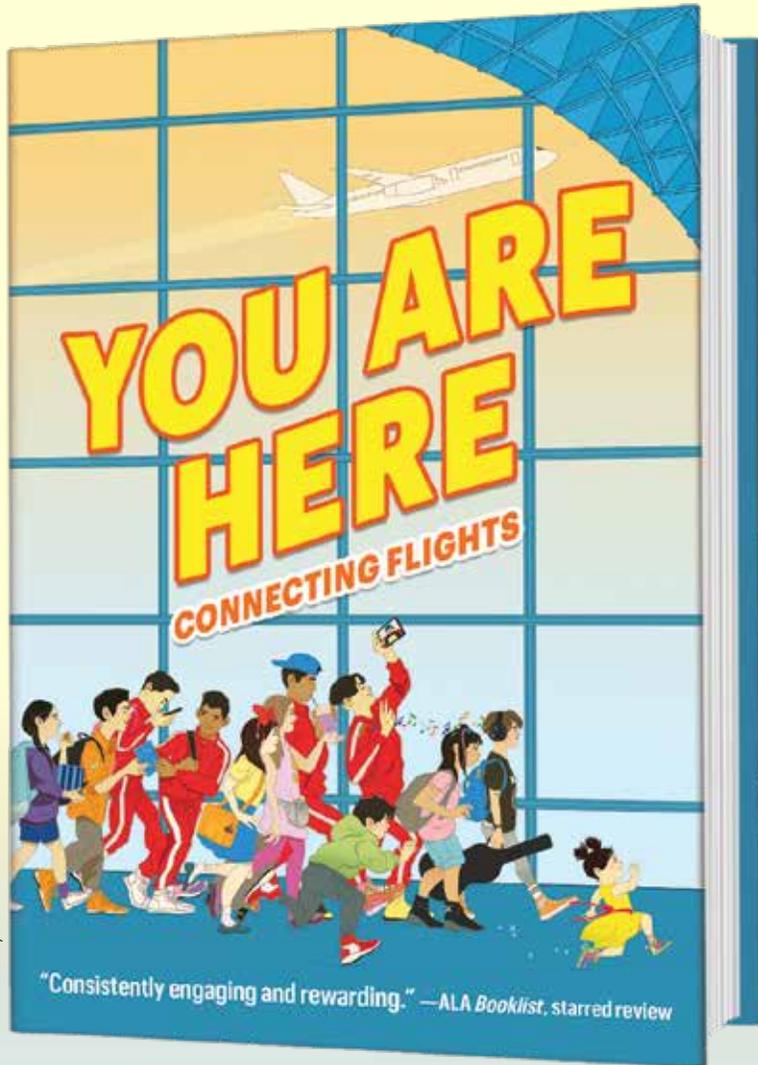
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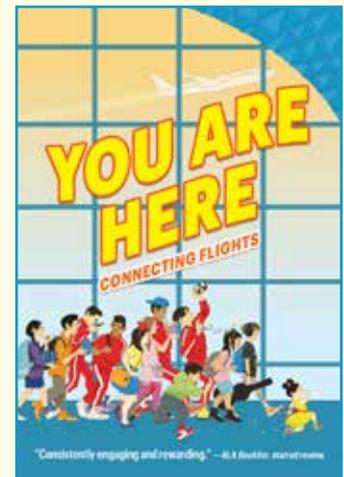
## ABOUT THE EDITOR

**ELLEN OH** is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books and winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award Honor for Children's Literature for *Finding Junie Kim*, as well as middle grade and YA books such as *Haru*, *Zombie Dog Hero*, *The Dragon Egg Princess*, *The Spirit Hunters* series, and the *Prophecy* trilogy. Ellen is a former adjunct college instructor and lawyer with an insatiable curiosity for ancient Asian history. Originally from New York City, Ellen lives in Rockville, Maryland, with her husband, three human children, and two dog children and has yet to satisfy her quest for a decent bagel. You can visit her online at [www.ellenoh.com](http://www.ellenoh.com).

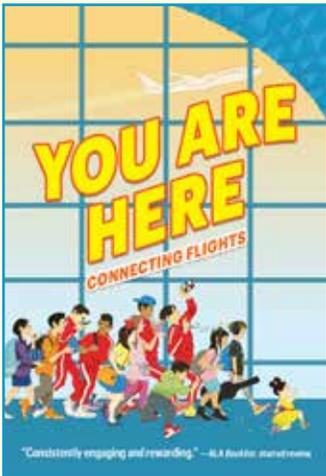


## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Before reading, take a look at the book cover. What catches your eye? Based on the colors and illustration style, what kind of stories do you think are inside? What emotions might the people on the cover be experiencing? Where do you think they are? Where do you think they are going?
2. Read the dedication and think about what it might mean in general and what it means to you specifically. Write a reflection before continuing to read. After finishing the book, return to this reflection. What might you like to change or add to what you wrote earlier?
3. Before reading, quietly think about where your family is originally from and how they got to where you live now. What do you see in your mind when you think about that journey? Draw or write about that trip, but do not share what you created until you have finished reading the book. Once you've finished reading, revisit what you created and write a response on how similar or different your imagined experience was compared with the stories in the book.
4. Before reading, set aside five sticky notes or bookmarks to place on the pages that impact you the most as you read the book. Once you have finished reading the book, choose your favorite impactful page, and share your reasons for selecting it in writing or in group discussion.



Guide prepared by Candice Wing-yee Mack, co-chair of the Asian Pacific American Librarians' Association's Asian Pacific American Awards for Literature, systemwide Teen Services Manager at the Los Angeles Public Library, and adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA. Candice took her first flight when she was less than a year old to visit her Poh Poh in Hong Kong, where her family is from, and having visited Chicago many times, she is now a fan of its famous Garrett Mix.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite memory of a grandparent, older relative or older adult close to you? Do you remember a time when you helped them like explaining something new or translating for them like Paul does for his Grandma (p. 15)? What did you help them with?
2. What do you think that Mr. Peters was implying when he said “I don’t know how they do things where you come from...” (p. 21)? How was he trying to make Jae’s mom feel? How would you have responded to that if you were Jae or his mom?
3. What do you see in your mind when you think of the word “family”? Did your mental image of family change or not while you were reading this book? Write a definition of the word “family,” integrating concepts explored in *You Are Here*.
4. Why do you think Officers Umbridge and Kowler gave Lee a hard time about his guitar (p. 69)? Who is someone famous or professional who inspires you and who shares your background?
5. What is a tradition that your family follows that you don’t think other people would believe that you do? Why do you think that they would not believe that you and your family practice that?
6. Has there been a time where you wanted to stand up for someone (maybe yourself) but didn’t? If you could go back in time, what would you change? What will you try to do if something like that happens again?
7. Why was it so difficult for Natalie to share her feelings with Beth? Think of a time when your friend shared something you did that was wrong or made them uncomfortable. How did you react? Did you change your behavior or learn something new?
8. Do you recognize Henry’s and James’s anxious and uncomfortable feelings in the airport (p. 145-150)? How do they navigate this experience? How would you try to support Henry or a classmate in a similar situation?
9. What are your thoughts on giving away “Clothes, toys, books... anything you don’t want” (p. 168)? Have you done that before? How did it make you feel?
10. Why does Jane’s Gong Gong and Mom keep saying “none of our business” (p. 186) or “Not our business!” (p. 191)? What causes Jane to change her mind about Harrison Douglas (p. 200)?
11. Khoi is very nervous about not knowing the language that his family speaks (p. 204). Do you know more than one language? If yes, what is it? Can you speak it or write it or both?
12. What leads Eomma to take Soojin to move to Korea (p. 222)? What eventually leads Eomma to reconsider making Soojin move?

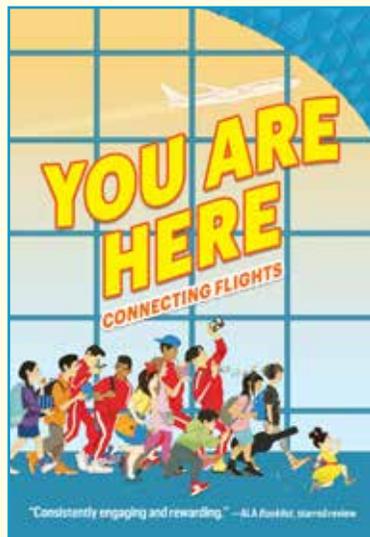
## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- 1. YOU ARE HERE (NOW)** Many Asian countries are mentioned throughout the book. As you read, make a list of these countries, and research how many countries are in Asia and what they are. Explore your own background and where your family members are from. Research the original geographic areas your family is from and the cultural practices from those areas. Reflect on which ones, if any, your family still practices, if and how they may have changed and why.
- 2. YOU ARE THERE** Quietly think about the last time you traveled somewhere with your family. What do you see in your mind when you think about that journey? Now think about your favorite place to visit. Where is it? What about it makes it your favorite place to travel to?
- 3. WE ARE HERE** Do research, online and with the help of your school or community library, to find nonprofit organizations that work to support young people who have experienced bullying. What are ideas you have to help someone who is being bullied? Write what you would say or do and with a friend or partner, practice acting out what you would say or do to help someone being bullied.
- 4. YOU DID IT HERE** Watch a video of Eddie Van Halen playing “Eruption,” mentioned on p. 65 and notice how complicated and difficult the song is to play on the guitar. What is something that you mastered that was once very difficult for you? Did you celebrate being able to do it? If yes, how?
- 5. WE’RE LISTENING HERE** Discuss the power of music to inspire, entertain, learn from or bring back memories, then share a song that you would choose and explain why. Choose one line or a part of the song that is the most meaningful to you, and write it on a piece of paper that you can decorate however you like. Consider making a playlist featuring a song selection for each of the twelve stories in the book.

“Reminds us that a more functional, less ailing America requires not just the courage to speak but the courage to listen.”  
— *New York Times Book Review*

★ “Not only important, but essential.”  
— *School Library Journal* (starred review)

★ “An intersectionally diverse, multifaceted collaboration that’s artfully conceived and executed.”  
— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



★ “Compelling and nuanced.”  
— *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

★ “Consistently engaging and rewarding.”  
— *Booklist* (starred review)

★ “Vividly illustrates the talents of a diverse group of creators as well as the rich and varied range of Asian American experiences and identities.”  
— *BookPage* (starred review)

★ “Compassionate and compelling.”  
— *Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* (starred review)