Delve Deeper into WO AI NI (I LOVE YOU) MOMMY
A film by Stephanie Wang-Breal

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry of Princeton Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming POV documentary Wo Ai Ni (I Love You) Mommy.

What is it like to be torn from your Chinese foster family, put on a plane with strangers and wake up in a new country, family and culture? Stephanie Wang-Breal’s Wo Ai Ni (I Love You) Mommy is the story of Sui Yong, an 8-year-old orphan, and the Sadowskys, the Long Island Jewish family that travels to China to adopt her. Sui Yong is one of 70,000 Chinese children now being raised in the United States. Through her eyes, we witness her struggle with a new identity as she transforms from a timid child into someone that no one—neither her new family nor she—could have imagined.

ADULT NONFICTION

Adoption


MacLeod, Jean and Sheena, Macae. Adoption Parenting: Creating a Toolbox, Building Connections. New Jersey: EMK Press, 2006-7. With the collaboration of over 100 contributors, from experts in their respective fields, to wisdom from adoptive parents themselves and advice from adopted children, this handbook deals with issues all members of the adoption triad face. Contents include, among others: Sleep, Attachment, Language, Food, Transitions, Race, Siblings, and Support.


Robinson, Nancy. Touched By Adoption. Santa Barbara: Green River Press, 1999. An anthology of letters, stories, and poems, providing a glimpse into the wide mosaic of the adoptive experience from the viewpoint of birth parents, adoptive parents, siblings, and adoptees themselves.

Adoption in China


Rauhala, Ann. The Lucky Ones: Our Stories of Adopting Children from China. ECW Press, 2008. From the early stages of the adoption process to bringing the child back home, this collection of personal stories reveals why parents who have adopted children from China feel—despite the challenges they’ve endured—truly lucky.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Adoption


Gorbeatt, Danea. Adopted Teens Only: A Survival Guide to Adolescence. Lincoln, NE: iUniverse, 2004. Based on true stories, extensive research, and Danea Gorbeatt’s background in psychology and education, Adopted Teens Only explores issues many adopted teens face, from bringing up sensitive topics with adoptive parents and what they might be going through, to whether and how to search for birth parents.


Adoption in China

Cummings, Mary. Three Names of Me. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2006. Grades 2-5. A girl adopted from China explains that her three names—one her birth mother whispered in her ear, one the babysitters at her orphanage called her, and one her American parents gave her—are each an important part of who she is. Includes scrapbooking ideas for other girls adopted from China.

Putting down roots.

Motherhood and the necessity of somehow come to terms with both a girl named Turtle, and must three-year-old American Indian completely unexpected child, a time Taylor arrives in Tucson, a functional car, she meets the with high hopes and a barely away. But when she heads west avoiding pregnancy and getting in rural Kentucky with the goals of Trees.

Kingsolver, Barbara. The Bean Trees. New York: HarperTorch, 1998. Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity of putting down roots.

Larkin, Alison. The English American. New York: Simon & Schuster Publishing, 2008. When Pippa Dunn, adopted as an infant and raised terribly British, discovers that her birth parents are from the American South, she finds that “culture clash” has layers of meaning she’d never imagined. Meet The English American, a fabulously funny, deeply poignant debut novel that sprang from Larkin’s autobiographical one-woman show of the same name.

Schooler, Shirley Jean. The Red Sea Place. Frederick, MD: PublishAmerica, 2003. The last thing Laura Dunbar needs is another problem. So when she receives a letter from the daughter she placed for adoption thirty years ago, she panics. Jennifer Lang made contact with her birth father, Gary Frederick, a year ago. Now Jennifer wants to know if lightning can strike twice in the same place. But Laura’s twenty-year marriage to Curt Dunbar is on the rocks.

China’s Lost Girls. A film by Scott Bronstein. National Geographic Television & Film, 2004. TRT: 40 min. Host Lisa Ling examines the consequences of China’s two-decade-old, one-child policy, as it is commonly called. To curb the country’s exploding population, China limits most families to one child, in certain circumstances, two children. Due to cultural, social and economic factors, traditional preference leans toward boys, so girls are often hidden, aborted or abandoned. As a result, tens of thousands of girls end up in orphanages across China.

Found in China. A film by Carolyn Stanek. Tai-Kai Productions, 2007. TRT: 82 min. Since the early ’90s, Americans have adopted nearly 70,000 Chinese children. With thousands of them now at an age to appreciate returning to the homeland, heritage tours have brought adoptees and their families to China, providing an unequaled opportunity for bonding and sharing identity issues. “Found in China” follows six Midwestern families as they observe contemporary trends and ancient Asian traditions in both urban and rural contexts.

A Mother’s Journey. A film by Hugh Taylor. Annabel Films, 1995. TRT: 57 mins. Under China’s restrictive “one child per family” population control laws, girl babies are being abandoned by their parents who seek only a male heir. This film follows an American adoptive mother and another American couple as they travel to China to visit a Chinese orphanage, each to successfully adopt a Chinese female infant. Highlights the legal complexities, personal struggles, and joys of international adoption.