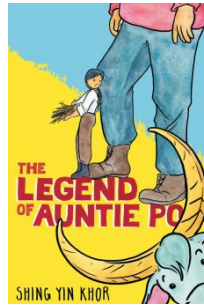


## Further Reading

### **The Legend of Auntie Po (Jun 2021)**

**by Shing Yin Khor**

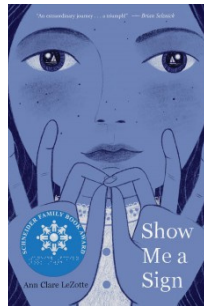
Part historical fiction, part magical realism, and 100 percent adventure. Thirteen-year-old Mei reimagines the myths of Paul Bunyan as starring a Chinese heroine as she works in a Sierra Nevada logging camp in 1885.



### **Show Me a Sign (Mar 2020)**

**by Ann Clare LeZotte**

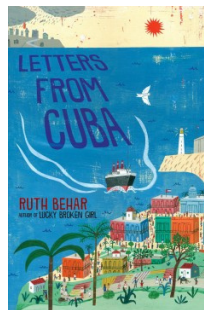
It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard, but recent events have shattered her life; her brother George has died, land disputes between English settlers and the Wampanoag people are becoming increasingly bitter...



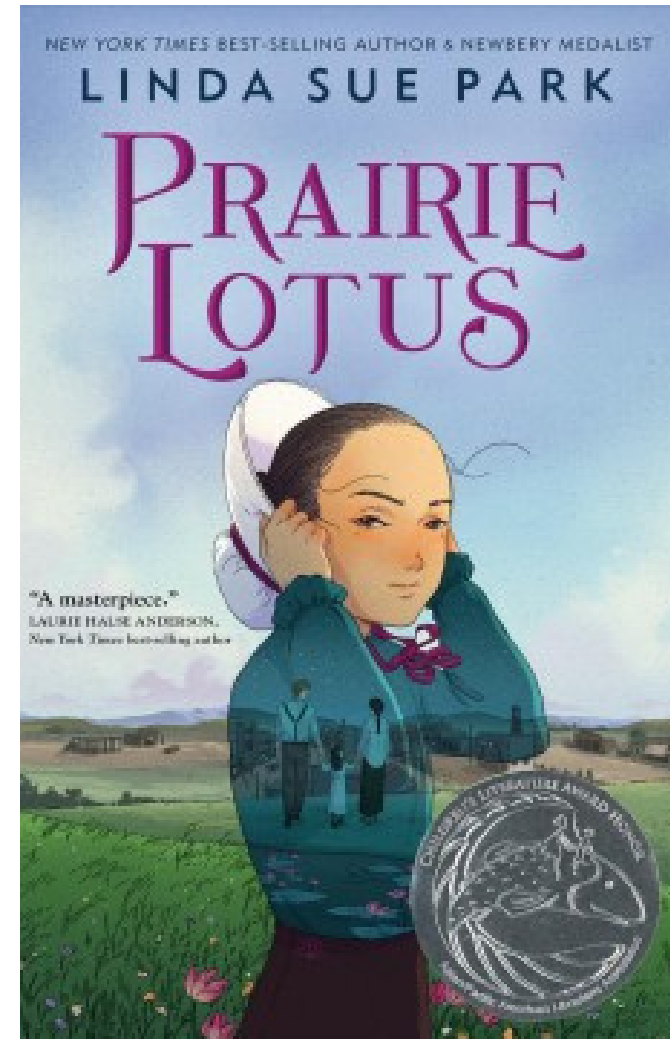
### **Letters From Cuba (Aug 2020)**

**by Ruth Behar**

In 1938, eleven-year-old Esther joins her father in tropical, multicultural Cuba, where they toil together to rescue the rest of their Jewish family from persecution in Poland. Includes notes about the author's grandmother, on whom the story is based.



# BOOK DISCUSSION



# Discussion Questions

1) *Prairie Lotus* is a work of historical fiction. Do you think that plot, character and theme can make a historical novel interesting to readers who don't enjoy studying history?

2) The history of westward expansion is most often presented in a positive light, without the full truth of the injustices done to the Native nations of North America by the United States. Think about the language usually used to describe westward expansion. Does seeing Hanna's perspectives on Native Americans and her Chinese heritage help show another side to the story?

3) Because *Prairie Lotus* takes place in 1880, there may be terms in the story that you are unfamiliar with. Can you think of some examples? Did you have any problems following the story because of these terms?

4) Hanna is determined to "sew her way into the hearts of the women of LaForge" (127). Why does she believe that her talent will earn her respect? How do the townspeople of LaForge begin overcoming their prejudice of Hanna?

5) Talk about what some of the other themes of the book are (courage, respecting differences, family relationships). How does Park weave some of those themes into Hanna's story?

6) Talk about some of the book's scenes that show Hanna's courage—like when she walks into school alone on the first day. What are some of the things that motivate her to keep being brave?

7) On Hanna's second day of school, what does the teacher do that helps her feel included in the class?

8) Talk about some of the ways Hanna stays connected to Mama. Do you think Mama did a good job of preparing Hanna for some of the prejudice she has faced?

9) Do you agree with Hanna when she thinks, "The world was so often unfair, and she couldn't do a single thing about most of that unfairness" (81)? If you disagree, what things do you suggest can be done when you believe that something is unfair?

10) In addition to school, Hanna always seems to have work to do—sewing, housework, and cooking. How different is that from what is expected of you? How are expectations for kids today different than what they were in the past?

11) Papa says to Hanna about the Native Americans, "The land ought to go to people who work to improve it" (11). Do you think he really believes this, or is this just another excuse for racism? Why would Papa be racist when he has personally faced the injustice of prejudice about his family?

Questions provided by <https://lindasuepark.com/>