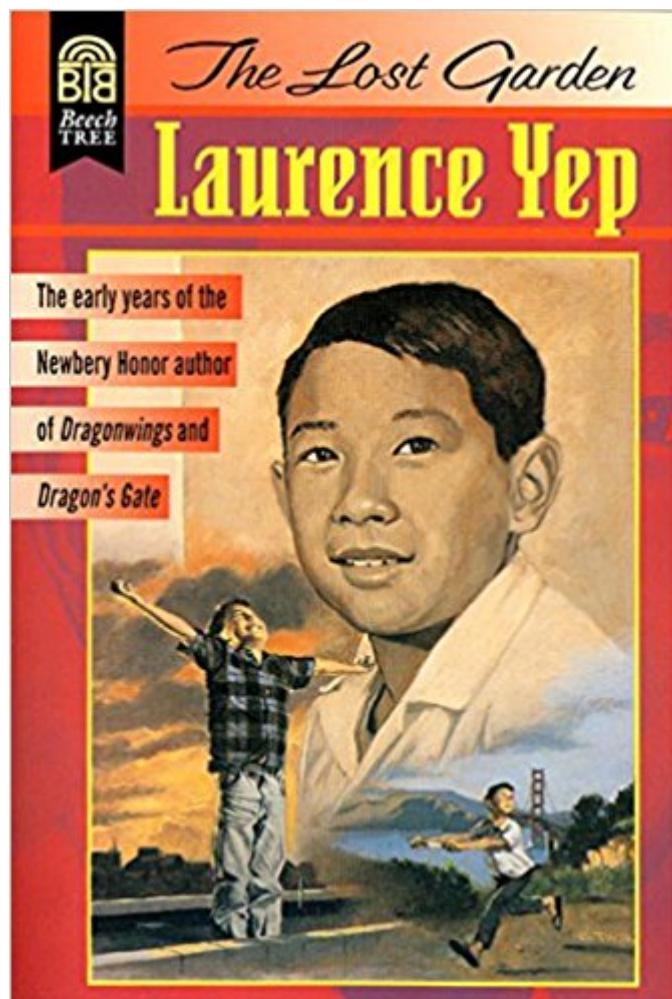


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# The Lost Garden



## **Synopsis**

Young Laurence didn't really where he fit in. He thought of himself as American, especially since he didn't speak Chinese and couldn't understand his grandmother, who lived in Chinatown. But others saw him as different in the conformist American of the 1950s. In this engaging memoir, the two-time Newbery Honor author tells how writing helped him start to solve the puzzle.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1110L (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (September 20, 1996)

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #459,922 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #145 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

In this somewhat desultory but affecting autobiography, Yep ( Dragonwings ) describes himself as a collection of disparate puzzle pieces: a Chinese-American raised in a black neighborhood, a child too American to fit into Chinatown and too Chinese to fit in anywhere else. Writing, he explains, has conferred on him the role of puzzle-solver, allowing him imaginatively to join and even reinvent the pieces. Among the most notable figures in Yep's unassuming narrative are his hardworking, indomitable parents, owners of a grocery that requires their unflagging attention, and his Chinatown grandmother, the model for several characters in his novels. Occasional flashes of humor or whimsy--an eccentric chemistry teacher's antics, the revelation that Yep wrote his Mark Twain books to the music of the B-52s--enliven the mix. Ages 11-13. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-12-- Although this memoir takes readers through Yep's college years, the focus is clearly

on his childhood. Born and raised in San Francisco, he gives a vivid account of life in that city in the '50s and '60s and his own quest for personal identity. Raised largely in the mainstream culture, yet influenced also by his Chinese heritage, Yep's piecing together of his own puzzle provides fascinating insights into the whole American mosaic. Readers of his novels will be intrigued by references to their gestation and what people and episodes from life were transformed into now classic fiction. Whether musing on his inventive parents; growing up Asian in a black, Hispanic, and white neighborhood; or enduring the drudgery in the family store, Yep always offers something of value for readers to enjoy and mull over. Family photographs add to the immediacy and illustrate the text to a greater degree than in most biographies. The writing is warm, wry, and humorous right--to the dryly droll colophon. The Last Garden will be welcomed as a literary autobiography for children and, more, a thoughtful probing into what it means to be an American.- John Philbrook, San Francisco Public LibraryCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's a nice little memoir. My son needed it for school, although they only used the 'My Brooklyn Grandmother' chapter. He found the chapter interesting enough to do the work, but not interesting enough to read the whole book.

Great book. It's all about a Chinese American boy growing up in New York and trying to adapt and live in American culture while trying to understand his grandmother's Chinese culture. A delightful story. Highly recommended.

Awesome...perfect for my lesson block!

I had to read this book for Language Arts. I didn't like it at all. It's good read, don't get me wrong, but unfortunately it just doesn't have that...um...spark that I'm looking for. It's a good book for a memoir, but I wouldn't suggest it. In short, you shouldn't read this book.

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