

# Children's books that bridge culture gaps

*New installments to successful East-meets-West series provide young readers enriching, cross-cultural learning experiences*

As our communities become more and more diverse, many parents are looking for tools to help their children develop a deeper understanding of their neighbors.

To introduce children to Chinese culture at an early age, China Institute in America released a four-book series called "We All Live in the Forbidden City." The books are part of China Institute's children's programming which aims to bridge the Asian culture gap through educational resources and regional workshops. Originally created in Hong Kong, the U.S. editions are co-published with Tuttle Publishing, the world's largest English-language publisher.

The first two titles, *In the Forbidden City* and *This Is The Greatest Place!*, garnered widespread reviews among trade and consumer media when they launched last fall. *School Library Journal* praised *In the Forbidden City* for taking a "potentially complicated and confusing subject accessible and fascinating without oversimplifying it." *Kirkus Reviews* called it "an impressive introduction to the Forbidden City."

This Fall, two more installments continue the tradition of "We All Live in the Forbidden City" books. *Bowls of Happiness* (ages 4+) and *What Was It Like, Mr. Emperor?* (ages 8+) celebrate the Forbidden City, which is now called the Palace Museum, and the study of architecture, imperial life, and Chinese cultural history in ways that are accessible, appealing, and relevant to children, parents, students and teachers.

Founded in 1926, China Institute in America is a non-profit educational and cultural institution that advances a deeper understanding of China through programs in education, culture, business, and art in the belief that cross-cultural understanding strengthens our global community. Learn more at [www.walfc.org](http://www.walfc.org).

## ***Bowls of Happiness***

Piggy's mom loves her so much that she has decided to make a special porcelain bowl just for her. As mom makes the bowl, Piggy enters the world being painted on its surface. There she meets and learns about the plants, animals, and other natural elements used on Chinese artworks and the messages of happiness and good-fortune that they convey.

Created by internationally renowned children's book artists Brian Tse and Alice Mak, this book teaches children about Chinese artwork and culture and their universal spirit of generosity, love, and respect for nature. The loveable illustrations are coupled with photographs of porcelain art found in the Palace Museum's collection. Readers (ages 4 and up) will learn about how bowls are made and be able to draw their own Bowl of Happiness after reading the story.

## BOWLS<sub>of</sub> HAPPINESS



### BOOK DETAILS

Published by China Institute in  
America & Tuttle Publishing

November 17, 2015

Ages 4 and up

Brian Tse, author

Alice Mak, illustrator

Ben Wang, translator

\$12.95 US, \$14.95 CAN

ISBN 978-0-9893776-4-5

Hardcover, 80 pages

[www.walfc.org](http://www.walfc.org)

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## What Was It Like, Mr. Emperor?

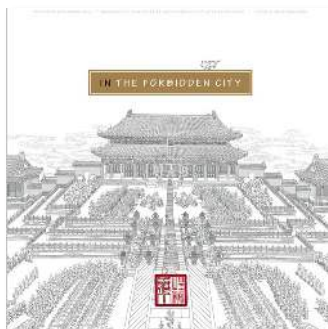
Readers (ages 8 and up) will get the chance to ask the Emperor of China questions about life in the Forbidden City. How was the emperor chosen? What was school like? How did he celebrate his birthday? Who were his friends? What were his favorite foods? How hard did he have to work? Could he be punished?

Through fun and engaging stories readers will journey through the average life of an emperor and learn about the real people who lived in the palace, including the prince who fought off a rebel invasion, the palace maids who lived in the Inner Court, the emperor who ruled twice, and the emperor who loved crickets.

Chiu Kwong-chiu is an artist, designer, and professor who explores Chinese traditional visual arts and adopts groundbreaking methods to interpret and promote Chinese art and culture. He founded the CnC Design and Cultural Studies Workshop in Hong Kong, where he provides guidance and leadership in the research, interpretation, and promotion of traditional and contemporary design and Chinese culture.

The original book and content have been developed in Hong Kong in consultation with the Forbidden City's Palace Museum in Beijing, ensuring authentic content and resources.

## Praise for “We All Live In the Forbidden City” books



### ***In the Forbidden City***

*Creative Child Magazine* 2015 Book of the Year Award Winner (Books on Foreign Culture)

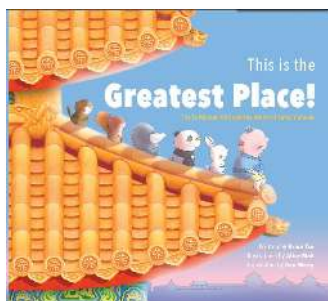
*Foreword Reviews*' 2014 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award Finalist (Young Adult Nonfiction)

“An impressive introduction to the Forbidden City.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Kwong-chiu has made a potentially complicated and confusing subject accessible and fascinating without oversimplifying it...An excellent, exquisitely designed volume.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“Readers receive a lavish tour of the Forbidden City...” —*Publishers Weekly*

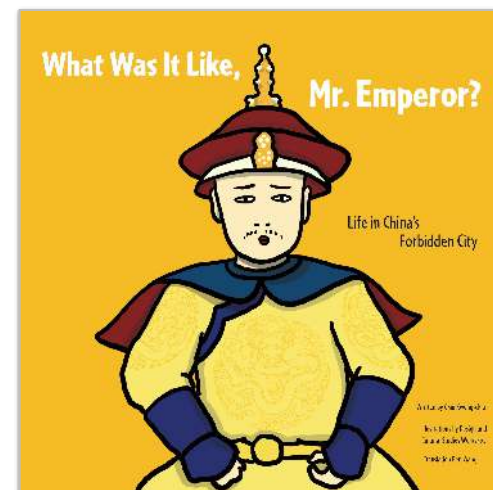


### ***This Is the Greatest Place!***

2015 Parents' Choice Award Winner

*Creative Child Magazine* 2015 Preferred Choice Award Winner (Books on Foreign Culture)

“The awe of a cute rabbit and his companions will be shared by children as they read, lift flaps, and gaze in wonder at the Forbidden City in Beijing, learning about Chinese history and culture.” —*Foreword Reviews*



## BOOK DETAILS

Published by China Institute in  
America & Tuttle Publishing

December 1, 2015

Ages 8 and up

Chiu Kwong-chiu, author

Design and Cultural Studies  
Workshop, illustrations

Ben Wang, translator

\$12.95 US, \$14.95 CAN

ISBN 978-0-9893776-6-9

Hardcover with gatefold



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