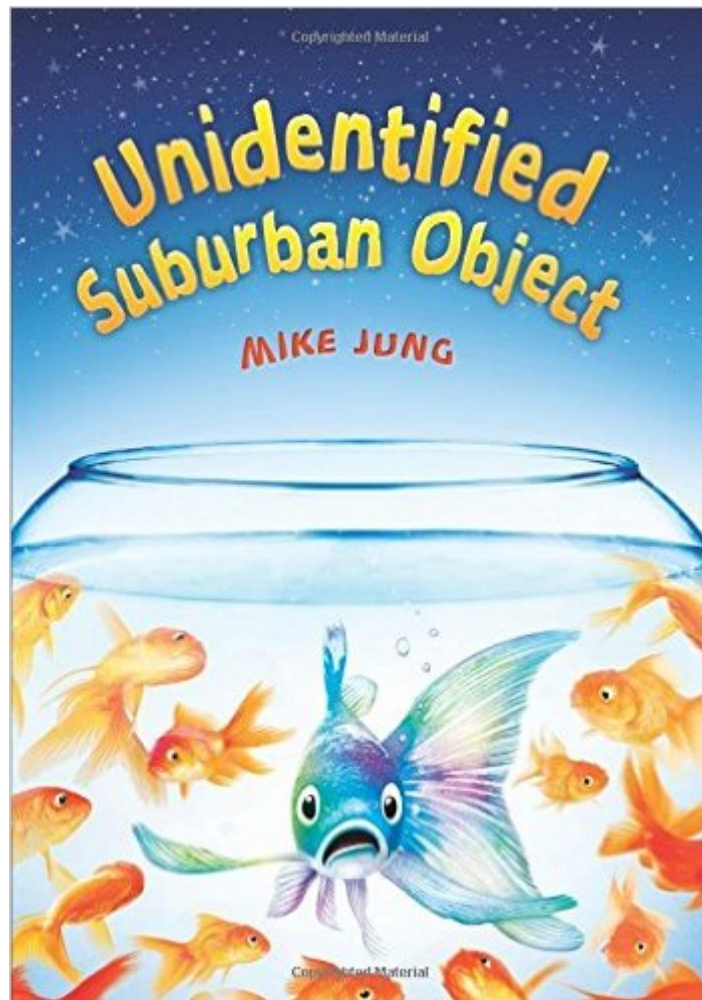


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# Unidentified Suburban Object



## Synopsis

The next person who compares Chloe Cho with famous violinist Abigail Yang is going to HEAR it. Chloe has just about had it with people not knowing the difference between someone who's Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. She's had it with people thinking that everything she does well -- getting good grades, winning first chair in the orchestra, et CETERA -- are because she's ASIAN. Of course, her own parents don't want to have anything to DO with their Korean background. Any time Chloe asks them a question they change the subject. They seem perfectly happy to be the only Asian family in town. It's only when Chloe's with her best friend, Shelly, that she doesn't feel like a total alien. Then a new teacher comes to town: Ms. Lee. She's Korean American, and for the first time Chloe has a person to talk to who seems to understand completely. For Ms. Lee's class, Chloe finally gets to explore her family history. But what she unearths is light-years away from what she expected.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books (April 26, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545782260

ISBN-13: 978-0545782265

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #276,528 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American](#) #259 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) #841 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Jung's book is a page-turner for any kid on the 'who am I' journey of self-discovery, or for kids who are working through relationships with friends. There are passages about racism that children of color will, either silently or with great enthusiasm, respond to as rare depictions of the racism they

experience and how it feels. Those passages work beautifully, too, for children who don't have those experiences but may have seen them (or said them) but didn't realize how racist or insensitive the remarks are. As many are noting in their reviews, there's an unexpected twist in the story that complicates the identity questions in the first part of the book. It is a tough one to pull off, but it worked for me because Jung has the chops to deliver it in a believable way. I've read it once and definitely plan to re-read it and encourage others to buy/read it, too.

This is, yes, a story of a fish out of water, so to speak. The non-spoiler version is that Chloe is feeling as though she is all alone in an otherwise all white town, in some non-description fly-over state. What she doesn't realize is how important friendship is. There is more to the story than that, of course, but the feeling of being alien is a common theme in middle-school and YA books, and this book took a different spin on it. In the end, I was ok with that spin, but I think it could have gone a different way. However, since I am not the author, it doesn't really matter how I would have handled it.

Chloe Cho is fed up with the people around her automatically comparing her to Abigail Yang, not knowing the difference between Korean, Chinese, and Japanese, and crediting her intellect to her being Asian. She's also angry at her parents who refuse to tell her anything about their Korean background, something she desperately wants to know more about. When an assignment from the new, Korean American teacher leads Chloe to push for more answers from her parents, she discovers something she never imagined. UNIDENTIFIED SUBURBAN OBJECT by Mike Jung features a lively main character, Chloe, who has a powerfully strong voice. She's a rage of emotion, action, and snappy dialogue, and readers will easily feel her come alive on every page. The story brings up several important issues on diversity, from examples of everyday racism to personal feelings on ancestry, making this a much needed addition to middle grade bookshelves. The friendship between Chloe and Shelley stands out beautifully. They have a very positive relationship, while also showing that fights are part of friendship. Their relationship is supportive, especially as Shelley attempts to recognize her own privilege and internal bias. The mid story plot twist feels a bit strange. However, the way it changes the direction of the plot offers chances for deep discussion; it just takes a few chapters to wrap your head around. Chloe is an unforgettable character: vocal, assertive, and completely hilarious. Readers who want a good laugh, an important discussion on diversity, and a surprise plot twist should grab UNIDENTIFIED SUBURBAN OBJECT immediately.

UNIDENTIFIED SUBURBAN OBJECT by Mike Jung combines satire with a serious examination of racial stereotypes, family connections, and friendship. Chloe Cho is frustrated by being the token minority in her all-white town. Her parents don't seem interested in their Asian ancestry. When a Korean American teacher moves to town, Chloe immediately connects with her. However when Chloe explores her family history as part of a class project, she finds unexpected results. Librarians will find that the combination of humor and serious social themes will appeal to middle grade youth. The authentic storyline and engaging twist will keep readers engaged. While the science fiction element adds an unusual element, the book will primarily be a draw for readers of contemporary, realistic fiction. To learn more about the author, go to [...] Published by Scholastic on April 26, 2016. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

Great read about middle schooler Chloe Cho who embraces her Korean heritage unlike her parents who refuse to talk with her about their past, family, or anything having to do with Korea. Chloe is growing up in a white town in suburbia and where there is no one like her. Mike writes the angst of a teen girl perfectly. She is full of vigor, moody, abrasive and so done with everyone who annoys her when they compare her to Abigail Yang because of their shared heritage. Everything changes when new teacher Ms. Lee comes to school. Finally someone Chloe wants to relate to. The plot twist comes out of nowhere. I had no idea what her parents deal was but found it exciting. Not to give anything away. This is a great read for the summer. A little young adult, a little science fiction, a little humor.

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