

# jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter

Jade Snow Wong Fifth Chinese Daughter: A Journey of Identity and Artistry

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter** is a phrase that resonates deeply within the realms of Chinese American literature and cultural history. Jade Snow Wong, often identified as the "fifth Chinese daughter," is a pioneering figure whose life story and work shed light on the intricate balance between tradition and modernity, identity and assimilation. Her narrative offers a compelling glimpse into the Chinese American experience during the mid-20th century, marked by both cultural pride and the challenges of navigating a world shaped by two distinct heritages.

In this article, we will explore the life and legacy of Jade Snow Wong, delve into what it meant to be the "fifth Chinese daughter," and examine her significant contributions as a writer, artist, and cultural ambassador. Along the way, we'll also touch upon the broader context of Chinese American identity, the art of porcelain, and the societal expectations of Chinese families during her era.

## The Meaning Behind “Fifth Chinese Daughter”

The phrase “fifth Chinese daughter” is not merely a literal descriptor of Jade Snow Wong’s birth order. It encapsulates a cultural identity deeply rooted in traditional Chinese family values, where the roles and expectations of daughters were clearly defined. Jade Snow Wong was born into a family with strong Chinese roots, and being the fifth daughter placed her within a particular familial and societal framework.

## Chinese Family Dynamics and Birth Order

In traditional Chinese culture, birth order among siblings carries significant weight. Sons often received preferential treatment due to cultural expectations of carrying on the family name and providing for parents in old age. Daughters, on the other hand, were sometimes seen as temporary members of the family, destined to marry out and join another household. Being the fifth daughter meant Jade Snow Wong faced unique challenges and expectations, navigating her identity within a family structure that valued sons more highly.

Yet, Jade Snow Wong transcended these conventional roles through her artistic talents and literary voice. She redefined what it meant to be a Chinese American woman, embracing both her heritage and the possibilities of American society.

## Jade Snow Wong: Life and Legacy

Jade Snow Wong (1922–2006) was much more than a “fifth Chinese daughter.” She was a trailblazer who used her life experiences to challenge stereotypes and celebrate the complexity of bicultural identity.

# **An Autobiographical Voice: “Fifth Chinese Daughter”**

Wong’s most famous work, her autobiography titled *\*Fifth Chinese Daughter\** (published in 1950), offers invaluable insight into her upbringing in San Francisco’s Chinatown, her struggles with cultural expectations, and her personal journey toward self-realization. The book became a cultural milestone, one of the first memoirs by a Chinese American woman to gain wide recognition.

In her memoir, Wong vividly describes the clash between traditional Chinese customs and the American way of life. She recounts her family’s emphasis on education, filial piety, and cultural preservation, while also revealing her own aspirations as an artist and writer. This narrative helped bridge understanding between Chinese Americans and the broader American public during a time when Asian Americans were often marginalized.

## **Artistry and Cultural Contributions**

Beyond writing, Jade Snow Wong was an accomplished ceramic artist. Her mastery of porcelain and ceramic art forms allowed her to blend traditional Chinese aesthetics with modern American styles. This creative expression became another avenue for her to explore identity and cultural fusion.

Her work in ceramics wasn’t just about art; it was about storytelling. Through delicate glazes and forms, Wong communicated the stories of her ancestors and her own experiences. This artistic legacy continues to inspire contemporary Asian American artists who seek to honor their heritage while innovating within their mediums.

## **Understanding the Broader Context: Chinese American Identity in the 20th Century**

To fully appreciate Jade Snow Wong’s role as the “fifth Chinese daughter,” it’s essential to understand the historical and social context of Chinese Americans during her lifetime.

## **The Immigrant Experience and Assimilation**

Chinese immigration to the United States faced severe restrictions and discrimination, especially with laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) that limited Chinese laborers’ entry into the country. By the time Wong was growing up, Chinese Americans were still grappling with racism, economic hardship, and cultural isolation.

In this environment, maintaining traditional values was both a source of strength and a challenge. Families like Wong’s had to navigate preserving their heritage while adapting to American norms. This duality is a central theme in Wong’s autobiography and her life story.

# Women's Roles and Changing Expectations

The role of Chinese American women evolved throughout the 20th century. Traditionally expected to be obedient daughters and devoted wives, many women began to seek education and careers. Jade Snow Wong was among the first generation to break through these barriers, becoming a published author and respected artist.

Her writing and public presence offered a new model for young Chinese American women, showing that it was possible to honor one's cultural roots while pursuing individual dreams.

## Lessons from Jade Snow Wong's Story

Jade Snow Wong's journey as the fifth Chinese daughter offers valuable lessons about identity, resilience, and creativity.

- **Embrace Complexity:** Wong's life shows that identity is multifaceted. Being Chinese American means balancing cultural heritage with contemporary realities.
- **Use Art to Bridge Cultures:** Her ceramics and writing served as bridges between East and West, demonstrating the power of art to foster understanding.
- **Challenge Stereotypes:** By sharing her personal narrative, Wong challenged simplistic stereotypes about Asian American women and families.
- **Pursue Education and Self-Expression:** Education was crucial in Wong's life, enabling her to carve out a unique path and inspire others.

For those interested in Asian American literature, cultural studies, or the history of immigration, Jade Snow Wong remains a compelling figure whose story encourages deeper exploration and dialogue.

## Exploring Jade Snow Wong's Work Today

Modern readers and scholars continue to find relevance in *\*Fifth Chinese Daughter\**. Its themes of family, identity, and cultural negotiation resonate with people navigating multicultural environments worldwide. Additionally, Wong's ceramic art is studied in museums and art courses, highlighting how traditional crafts can evolve in diasporic contexts.

If you're looking to understand the Chinese American experience or the role of women in immigrant narratives, starting with Jade Snow Wong's life and writings offers an authentic and inspiring entry point.

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Jade Snow Wong's legacy as the fifth Chinese daughter is a testament to the power of storytelling and cultural pride. Her unique voice and artistic vision helped pave the way for future generations to embrace their identities with confidence and creativity. Whether through her autobiography or her ceramic art, Jade Snow Wong invites us to appreciate the rich tapestry of experiences that define the Chinese American journey.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who was Jade Snow Wong, the fifth Chinese daughter?**

Jade Snow Wong was a Chinese American author and ceramic artist, known for her memoir that detailed her experiences growing up as the fifth daughter in a traditional Chinese family in America.

### **What is the significance of being the 'fifth Chinese daughter' in Jade Snow Wong's life?**

Being the fifth daughter in Jade Snow Wong's family placed her in a traditional Chinese familial hierarchy, which influenced her upbringing, responsibilities, and her perspective on cultural identity, themes she explored in her writing.

### **What is Jade Snow Wong best known for?**

Jade Snow Wong is best known for her 1950 memoir, 'Fifth Chinese Daughter,' which shares her experiences growing up in a Chinese immigrant family in San Francisco and her journey towards self-identity and artistic expression.

### **How did Jade Snow Wong's cultural background influence her art and writing?**

Jade Snow Wong's Chinese heritage deeply influenced her work, blending traditional Chinese values and aesthetics with American cultural experiences, which she expressed in her ceramics and in her memoir.

### **What impact did 'Fifth Chinese Daughter' have on Asian American literature?**

'Fifth Chinese Daughter' was one of the first widely read memoirs by a Chinese American woman, contributing significantly to Asian American literature by providing insight into the immigrant experience and the challenges of cultural assimilation.

### **Where can one learn more about Jade Snow Wong and her legacy?**

Information about Jade Snow Wong can be found in libraries, Asian American literature anthologies, and museums featuring Asian American artists, as well as online resources dedicated to Asian American history and culture.

# Additional Resources

Jade Snow Wong Fifth Chinese Daughter: A Literary and Cultural Exploration

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter** represents more than just a phrase; it encapsulates the legacy of Jade Snow Wong, an influential Chinese-American writer and artist whose memoir, "Fifth Chinese Daughter," stands as a seminal work in Asian American literature. This autobiographical narrative not only charts Wong's personal journey but also provides a poignant exploration of identity, family, and cultural expectations within the Chinese-American community of the mid-20th century. As interest in diverse voices and minority narratives grows, understanding the significance of Jade Snow Wong's "Fifth Chinese Daughter" offers valuable insights into the complexities of bicultural existence and the evolution of Asian American literature.

## Context and Background of Jade Snow Wong

Born in 1922 in San Francisco to Chinese immigrant parents, Jade Snow Wong was the fifth daughter in her family, a fact that plays a central role in the memoir's title and thematic framework. The book, published in 1950, details her experiences growing up in a traditional Chinese household amid the challenges of assimilation in America. Wong's work stands out for its candid portrayal of the conflicts between cultural heritage and personal aspirations, especially for women in a patriarchal society.

The memoir is often celebrated as one of the earliest Asian American autobiographies, paving the way for future writers to explore themes of race, gender, and identity. Jade Snow Wong's narrative is not only a personal story but also a social commentary on the immigrant experience, gender roles, and the pursuit of selfhood against societal expectations.

## Literary Significance of "Fifth Chinese Daughter"

"Fifth Chinese Daughter" holds a critical place in Asian American literature due to its pioneering voice and authentic representation of Chinese American life. Unlike stereotypical portrayals prevalent at the time, Wong's memoir presents a nuanced, humanized view of Chinese American families. Her storytelling blends traditional Chinese values with the realities of growing up in America, offering readers a multifaceted perspective.

## Exploration of Identity and Cultural Duality

A central theme in Wong's memoir is the negotiation of identity between two cultures. As the "fifth Chinese daughter," Wong embodies the tension between filial duty and individual freedom. Her narrative explores how she navigates expectations imposed by her immigrant parents, such as adherence to Confucian principles, while pursuing education and artistic expression in a Western context.

This cultural duality is significant for understanding the Asian American experience, particularly in the mid-20th century when assimilation pressures were intense. Wong's story resonates with readers who grapple with similar issues of belonging and cultural preservation.

## Gender Roles and Feminine Agency

Another prominent aspect of "Fifth Chinese Daughter" is its examination of gender roles within Chinese society and how Wong challenges these norms. As a woman, Wong faces limitations imposed by traditional expectations, such as prioritizing family over personal ambition. Nevertheless, her pursuit of ceramics and writing represents a form of resistance and self-assertion.

The memoir sheds light on the intersection of race and gender, illustrating how Chinese American women navigate both cultural constraints and racial stereotypes. Wong's work contributes to feminist discourse by highlighting the unique challenges faced by minority women in claiming their identity and voice.

## Comparative Analysis with Contemporary Asian American Narratives

When placed alongside other Asian American autobiographical works, such as Maxine Hong Kingston's "The Woman Warrior" and Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club," "Fifth Chinese Daughter" offers a foundational perspective. Wong's memoir predates these works, providing early documentation of the immigrant experience and bicultural identity struggles.

While Kingston and Tan often employ myth and fiction to convey their themes, Wong's straightforward, autobiographical approach delivers an immediate, intimate account. This difference in narrative style underscores the evolving nature of Asian American literature and its expanding methods of storytelling.

## Impact on Asian American Cultural Studies

The memoir's influence extends beyond literature into cultural studies, where it serves as a primary source for understanding Chinese American history and social dynamics. It highlights the generational tensions between immigrant parents and American-born children, a recurring topic in ethnic studies.

Additionally, Wong's work has been analyzed for its contribution to Asian American feminism, demonstrating how personal narratives can challenge dominant cultural narratives and reclaim marginalized histories.

## Jade Snow Wong's Artistic Legacy

Beyond her writing, Jade Snow Wong was also a celebrated ceramic artist, a facet of her life that intertwines with the themes of creativity and cultural identity in her memoir. Her ceramics work gained recognition for blending traditional Chinese techniques with contemporary aesthetics, symbolizing her bicultural experience.

# Art as a Medium of Cultural Expression

Wong's engagement with ceramics reflects her broader pursuit of self-expression and cultural dialogue. In "Fifth Chinese Daughter," her artistic journey mirrors her literary one, both serving as platforms to reconcile her heritage with her American identity.

The integration of art and narrative enriches the memoir, offering readers a multidimensional understanding of Wong's life and the significance of cultural craftsmanship as a form of identity preservation.

## Relevance in Today's Cultural and Literary Landscape

As discussions about diversity and representation in literature continue to gain momentum, Jade Snow Wong's "Fifth Chinese Daughter" remains a vital reference point. Its themes of cultural negotiation, gender roles, and immigrant challenges resonate with contemporary audiences and scholars alike.

Moreover, the memoir's honest portrayal of the Chinese American experience contributes to a broader understanding of American history, emphasizing the importance of inclusion and the recognition of minority voices in shaping national narratives.

In the digital age, where SEO-optimized content is crucial for visibility, integrating keywords such as "jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter," "Asian American memoir," "Chinese American identity," and "bicultural literature" naturally within discussions enhances discoverability without compromising narrative quality. This approach ensures that the legacy of Jade Snow Wong continues to reach new readers and inspire ongoing conversations about culture, identity, and resilience.

## Jade Snow Wong Fifth Chinese Daughter

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**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: Fifth Chinese Daughter** Jade Snow Wong, 2019-11-21 Jade Snow Wong's autobiography portrays her coming-of-age in San Francisco's Chinatown, offering a rich depiction of her immigrant family and her strict upbringing, as well as her rebellion against family and societal expectations for a Chinese woman. Originally published in 1950, Fifth Chinese Daughter was one of the most widely read works by an Asian American author in the twentieth century. The US State Department even sent its charismatic young author on a four-month speaking tour throughout Asia. Cited as an influence by prominent Chinese American writers such as Amy Tan and Maxine Hong Kingston, Fifth Chinese Daughter is a foundational work in Asian American literature. It was written at a time when few portraits of Asian American life were available, and no similar works were as popular and broadly appealing. This new edition includes the original illustrations by Kathryn Uhl and features an introduction by Leslie Bow, who critically

examines the changing reception and enduring legacy of the book and offers insight into Wong's life as an artist and an ambassador of Chinese American culture.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** Chinese American Literature Since the 1850s Xiao-huang Yin, 2000 This volume, an introduction and guide to the field, traces the origins and development of a body of literature written in English and in Chinese.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** *A Genealogy of Literary Multiculturalism* Christopher Douglas, 2011-08-15 As an anthropology student studying with Franz Boas, Zora Neale Hurston recorded African American folklore in rural central Florida, studied hoodoo in New Orleans and voodoo in Haiti, talked with the last ex-slave to survive the Middle Passage, and collected music from Jamaica. Her ethnographic work would serve as the basis for her novels and other writings in which she shaped a vision of African American Southern rural folk culture articulated through an antiracist concept of culture championed by Boas: culture as plural, relative, and long-lived. Meanwhile, a very different antiracist model of culture learned from Robert Park's sociology allowed Richard Wright to imagine African American culture in terms of severed traditions, marginal consciousness, and generation gaps. In *A Genealogy of Literary Multiculturalism*, Christopher Douglas uncovers the largely unacknowledged role played by ideas from sociology and anthropology in nourishing the politics and forms of minority writers from diverse backgrounds. Douglas divides the history of multicultural writing in the United States into three periods. The first, which spans the 1920s and 1930s, features minority writers such as Hurston and D'Arcy McNickle, who were indebted to the work of Boas and his attempts to detach culture from race. The second period, from 1940 to the mid-1960s, was a time of assimilation and integration, as seen in the work of authors such as Richard Wright, Jade Snow Wong, John Okada, and Ralph Ellison, who were influenced by currents in sociological thought. The third period focuses on the writers we associate with contemporary literary multiculturalism, including Toni Morrison, N. Scott Momaday, Frank Chin, Ishmael Reed, and Gloria Anzaldúa. Douglas shows that these more recent writers advocated a literary nationalism that was based on a modified Boasian anthropology and that laid the pluralist grounds for our current conception of literary multiculturalism. Ultimately, Douglas's unified field theory of multicultural literature brings together divergent African American, Asian American, Mexican American, and Native American literary traditions into one story: of how we moved from thinking about groups as races to thinking about groups as cultures—and then back again.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** **Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia** Huping Ling, Allan W. Austin, 2015-03-17 With overview essays and more than 400 A-Z entries, this exhaustive encyclopedia documents the history of Asians in America from earliest contact to the present day. Organized topically by group, with an in-depth overview essay on each group, the encyclopedia examines the myriad ethnic groups and histories that make up the Asian American population in the United States. *Asian American History and Culture* covers the political, social, and cultural history of immigrants from East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Pacific Islands, and their descendants, as well as the social and cultural issues faced by Asian American communities, families, and individuals in contemporary society. In addition to entries on various groups and cultures, the encyclopedia also includes articles on general topics such as parenting and child rearing, assimilation and acculturation, business, education, and literature. More than 100 images round out the set.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** **Economic Citizens** Christine So, 2009-08-15 *Economic Citizens* argues that Asians have been traditionally imagined as the threat of capitalism gone awry and demonstrates that the logic of economic exchange has been an overlooked but critical means for Asian Americans to negotiate political and cultural equivalence.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** The Literature of California, Volume 1 Jack Hicks, 2000-12-05 This text is the first volume of a comprehensive anthology of Californian literature. It is divided into four parts and contains material ranging from Native American origin myths to Hollywood novels dissecting the American dream.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** **A Companion to the Literature and Culture of**

**the American West** Nicolas S. Witschi, 2014-02-03 A Companion to the Literature and Culture of the American West presents a series of essays that explore the historic and contemporary cultural expressions rooted in America's western states. Offers a comprehensive approach to the wide range of cultural expressions originating in the west Focuses on the intersections, complexities, and challenges found within and between the different historical and cultural groups that define the west's various distinctive regions Addresses traditionally familiar icons and ideas about the west (such as cowboys, wide-open spaces, and violence) and their intersections with urbanization and other regional complexities Features essays written by many of the leading scholars in western American cultural studies

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** The Joy Luck Club - Amy Tan Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of Humanities Harold Bloom, 2009 With the publication of her first novel in 1989, *The Joy Luck Club* Amy Tan was immediately recognized as a major contemporary novelist. Her work has received a great deal of attention and acclaim from feminist critics, and is very much concerned w

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** AfroAsian Encounters Heike Raphael-Hernandez, Shannon Steen, 2006-11 How might we understand yellowface performances by African Americans in 1930s swing adaptations of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, Paul Robeson's support of Asian and Asian American struggles, or the absorption of hip hop by Asian American youth culture? *AfroAsian Encounters* is the first anthology to look at the mutual influence of and relationships between members of the African and Asian diasporas in the Americas. While these two groups have often been thought of as occupying incommensurate, if not opposing, cultural and political positions, scholars from history, literature, media, and the visual arts here trace their interconnections and interactions, as well as how they have been set in opposition by white systems of racial domination. *AfroAsian Encounters* probes beyond popular culture to trace the historical lineage of these coalitions from the post-Civil War era through the present. From the history of Japanese jazz composers to the current popularity of black/Asian buddy films like *Rush Hour*, *AfroAsian Encounters* is a groundbreaking intervention into studies of race and ethnicity and a crucial look at the shifting meaning of race in America in the twenty-first century.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** **Amy Tan** Harold Bloom, 2014-05-14 Presents a collection of critical essays about the works of Amy Tan.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** Narrating Nationalisms Jinqi Ling, 1998 In *Narrating Nationalisms*, Jinqi Ling brings fresh perspectives to ongoing debates over the nature of Asian American literary production from the 1950s through 1980. He offers provocative interpretations of five formative texts demonstrating how these works contribute to the ongoing dialogue around progressive multicultural projects. Ling's nuanced analysis richly complicates our understanding of these Asian American classics and provides a sound critical basis for evaluating subsequent Asian American literary writings. *Narrating Nationalisms* synthesizes the literary discourse and critical debates within the field in a crucial period of post - World War II Asian American literary history, and specifies the components of Asian American cultural nationalism in ways that have not yet been attempted. This book will be compelling reading for those working in American literature, critical theory, cultural history, and ethnic studies.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** **Oriental Prospects** , 2022-07-04 A great deal of stimulating and valuable discussion (as well as some indignation and hot air) has been stimulated by Edward Said, whose provocative study of *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient* appeared twenty years ago. This present book will, we believe, be recognized as a worthy addition to the many attempts that have since been made to sift the intrinsic and ingrained attitudes of West to East. The fifteen articles in *Oriental Prospects: Western Literature and the Lure of the East* cover literature from the Renaissance through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to the modern period, some in pragmatic accounts of responses to and uses of experiences of the Orient and its cultural attitudes and artefacts, others contending more theoretically with issues that Edward Said has raised. Despite all the misunderstanding, prejudice and propaganda in the scholarly and literary depiction of the Orient still today as in the past, what emerges from this wide-range of articles is that no species of

literary text or academic study can appear without risking the accusation of escapist exoticism or cultural and economic exploitation; and thus regrettably masking the essential and vital significance of the political and the real and imaginative trading between East and West.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: In Her Own Image** Elaine Hedges, Ingrid Wendt, 1980 The work of Western women artists, past and present, is collected here in a stunning array of forms: fiction, poetry, autobiography, essay, journal and letter writing, sculpture, painting, graphics, photography, ceramics, needlework, music, and dance. The unique experience of women artists from diverse national, ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds is explored from their own viewpoints, as are the relationships between women's social condition and women's art.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators** , Upon publication, Anita Silvey's comprehensive survey of contemporary children's literature, *Children's Books and Their Creators*, garnered unanimous praise from librarians, educators, and specialists interested in the world of writing for children. Now *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* assembles the best of that volume in one handy, affordable reference, geared specifically to parents, educators, and students. This new volume introduces readers to the wealth of children's literature by focusing on the essentials — the best books for children, the ones that inform, impress, and, most important, excite young readers. Updated to include newcomers such as J. K. Rowling and Lemony Snicket and to cover the very latest on publishing and educational trends, this edition features more than 475 entries on the best-loved children's authors and illustrators, numerous essays on social and historical issues, thirty personal glimpses into craft by well-known writers, illustrators, and critics, and invaluable reading lists by category. *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* summarizes the canon of contemporary children's literature, in a practical guide essential for anyone choosing a book for or working with children.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: Begin Here** Rocio G. Davis, 2007-01-31 An analytically innovative work, *Begin Here* widens the current critical focus of Asian North American literary studies by proposing an integrated thematic and narratological approach to the practice of autobiography. It demonstrates how Asian North American memoirs of childhood challenge the construction and performative potential of national experiences. This understanding influences theoretical approaches to ethnic life writing, expanding the boundaries of traditional autobiography by negotiating narrative techniques and genre and raising complex questions about self-representation and the construction of cultural memory. By examining the artistic project of some fifty Asian North American writers who deploy their childhood narratives in the representation of the individual processes of self-identification and negotiation of cultural and national affiliation, this work provides a comprehensive overview of Asian North American autobiographies of childhood published over the last century. Importantly, it also attends to new ways of writing autobiographies, employing comics, blending verse, prose, diaries, and life writing for children, and using relational approaches to self-identification, among others.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: Feminisms Redux** Diane Price Herndl, 2009

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: San Francisco in Fiction** David M. Fine, Paul Skenazy, 1995 In the beginning there was the bay, the land, the forty-three hills, the coastline down to Monterey, the strip of mountains, the quiet valley behind, the vast ocean, the hidden faults. And with the landscape came the stories, as Paul Skenazy and David Fine note in their introduction to this new anthology of essays. San Francisco is as much a place in the mind as on the map; if the terrain set the stage for the stories, the stories have helped remake our perceptions of the space. These twelve essays explore the relationship between place and prose—between San Francisco the city and San Francisco the territory of fiction. From the Gold Rush times of Mark Twain and Bret Harte, through the Prohibition Era of Dashiell Hammett to the Beat days of Jack Kerouac and the present works of writers like Maxine Hong Kingston, Amy Tan, and Arturo Islas, San Francisco has been blessed with great writers who have given life to the land in their fiction. These essays engage the history and geography, ethnic, gender, and class conflicts, and stylistic range of the fiction. They

demonstrate how authors as various as Jack London, Gertrude Atherton, Frank Norris, William Saroyan, James D. Houston, Joan Didion, and Wallace Stegner have re-created and revised our understanding of this region.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter:** *Modern Minority* Yoon Sun Lee, 2013-07-01 Modern Minority presents a fresh examination of canonical and emergent Asian American literature's relationship to the genre of realism, particularly through its preoccupation with everyday life.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: Something Greater** Jeanne Choy Tate, 2013-05-21 Every day, Americans rub shoulders with the cultures of the world--on the sidewalks of their cities and, increasingly, in small towns and rural areas. As civil discourse becomes increasingly divisive, many long for our nation to better deal with its diversity. Yet Americans also wonder how far the nation can stretch to embrace diversity and still maintain an identity. Ethnic and faith communities, Americans of many varieties, share a fear of losing their traditions. Will the next generation still honor the values of caring for others and contributing to community life? The psychology of individualism that underlies American life is no longer adequate to guide a future filled with diversity. America's children may have wings to soar into the future, but they lack roots connecting them to a shared heritage. *Something Greater* explores the impact of individualism on American child-rearing practices, and its inability to deal with diversity while sustaining life together in families and communities. By contrasting the intergenerational values of biblical and Chinese communities and current infant research with her own experiences in San Francisco's Chinatown, the author reveals how the living stories of heritage that lie at the heart of human development speak to a deep American hunger for shared values and connectedness in family and community.

**jade snow wong fifth chinese daughter: Form and Transformation in Asian American Literature** Xiaojing Zhou, Samina Najmi, 2011-07-01 This critical anthology draws on current theoretical movements to examine the breadth of Asian American literature from the earliest to the most recent writers. Covering fiction, essays, poetry, short stories, ethnography, and autobiography, *Form and Transformation in Asian American Literature* advances the development of a theoretically informed, historically and culturally specific methodology for studying this increasingly complex field. The essays in this anthology probe into hotly debated issues as well as understudied topics, including the relations between Asian American and other minority American writings.

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