

The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea

Written and illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Anne Sibley O'Brien is a children's book creator who has illustrated thirty-two picture books, including *Jamaica's Find* and six other Jamaica titles by Juanita Havill. She is the author of fourteen of those books, including the graphic novel retelling of *The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea*. One recent title she wrote and illustrated - *I'm New Here*, a picture book about three immigrant children - was named to Kirkus Review's "Best Books of 2015." Her timely first novel, *In the Shadow of the Sun*, published in June 2017, is a political escape thriller set in North Korea, and is the first fictional representation for young readers of the contemporary DPRK. -from her website, annesibleyobrien.com

Anne is one of the visionaries behind *I'm Your Neighbor*, a project "which promotes the use of children's literature featuring 'new arrival' cultures and groups to engage the entire community in a discussion of commonalities and differences." <http://www.imyournighborbooks.org>

Coloring Between the Lines (Anne's blog): reflections on race, culture and children's books: <http://www.coloringbetweenthelines.com>



Ask Annie!

What is one of your favorite children's books? Tatsinda by Elizabeth Enright.

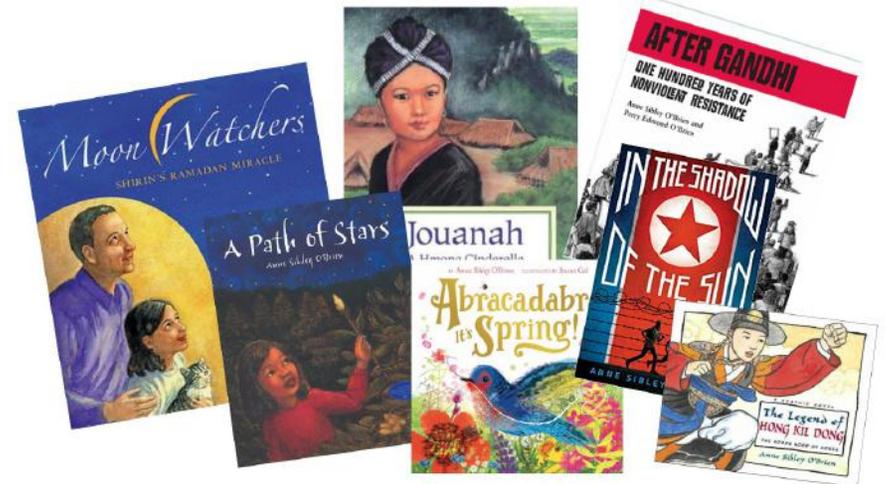
Name a place that is special to your heart.

Actually, two places are special: an island off the coast of South Korea, called Geojeo, where I lived when I was a teenager and young adult, and an island off the coast of Portland, called Peaks, where I live now.

Why do you love living in Maine?

Quiet (especially on Peaks!), beauty, the ocean, all of which help me focus on my work – and lots of people who are beloved to me.

A selection of books written and/or illustrated by Anne:



The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea

Let's Talk! [CCSS: SL.1]

1. How is Hong Kil Dong similar to Robin Hood? How is he different?
2. What did Hong Kil Dong learn from the group of bandits?
3. Would you join the Save-The-Poor Army? Why or why not?
4. How did Hong Kil Dong use his wits and cleverness to confound his enemies?
5. Hong Kil Dong went through a lot of strife and bad experiences while on his journey to speaking with the king. Why was it necessary for him to speak his truth to the highest authority in the land?



Let's Create!

1. Using Anne's guide to the book, practice drawing Korean alphabet letters. Choose a Korean word to write out, define, and illustrate, and combine with other students in your class to create a beginner's dictionary. <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0750/0101/files/legend-of-hong-kil-dong-activity-guide.pdf?8835958924325928117>
2. That same guide also shows how to make a story into a comic, and provides panels for creating your own comic. Explore visual techniques for storytelling through this medium, and access additional templates and layouts here: <http://comicbookpaper.com>
3. Design your own paper fan: <https://www.education.com/activity/article/korean-fans/>
4. Host a reader's theater and act out a scene from the book. How about giving the eight-Hong-Kil-Dongs scene a try! <http://www.aaronshp.com/rt/Tips.html>
5. Write your own folktale and create a picture book online using mystorybook.com [CCSS: W.3]



The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea

Let's Read More! [CCSS: RL.10]

Other books by Anne Sibley O'Brien: *I'm New Here*, *A Path of Stars*, *In the Shadow of the Sun*, and many more she's illustrated

The Story of Hong Gildong, translated by Minsoo Kang.

Korean Children's Favorite Stories, by Kim So-Un.

Seesaw Girl, by Linda Sue Park. Read about 12-year-old Jade Blossom, the daughter of a wealthy family in 17th-century Korea.

The Adventures of Robin Hood (Classic Starts), retold from the Howard Pyle original.

The I Ching or *Book of Changes*, various translations available.



Let's Learn More!

1. Korean Folk Tales: http://world.kbs.co.kr/english/program/program_koreastory.htm

2. Anne Sibley O'Brien in South Korea, interviewed about Hong Kil Dong: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKu8upvRXS4>

3. About the Book: Comparing Hong Kil Dong and Robin Hood, About the Characters, and the Making of "The Legend of Hong Kil Dong" <http://koreanrobinhood.com/index.php/krh/bookhome/>

4. About Korea: including maps, lots and lots of great links, and info about the Chosun Dynasty, and the I Ching: <http://koreanrobinhood.com/index.php/krh/koreahome/>

5. The I Ching: The ancient book of wisdom at the heart of every computer <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/mar/21/ancient-book-wisdom-i-ching-computer-binary-code>

- The I Ching for Beginners: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-minford/the-i-ching-for-beginners_b_6108232.html

6. Dancing with Kicks: Mastering the Korean Martial Art of Taekkyeon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYTkX8Va1FU>

7. The Temple in Nature: Temples of South Korea: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSIFEIbjyxA>

