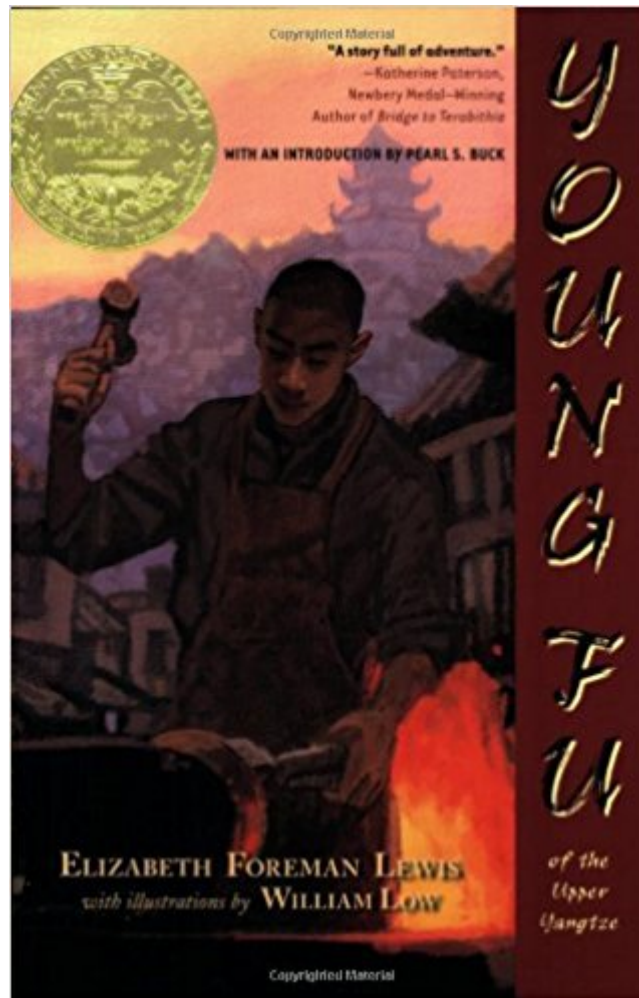




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# Young Fu Of The Upper Yangtze



## Synopsis

When Young Fu arrives with his mother in bustling 1920s Chungking, all he has seen of the world is the rural farming village where he has grown up. He knows nothing of city life. But the city, with its wonders and dangers, fascinates the 13-year-old boy, and he sets out to make the best of what it has to offer him. First published in 1932, *Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze* was one of the earliest Newbery Medal winners. Although China has changed since that time, Young Fu's experiences are universal: making friends, making mistakes, and making one's way in the world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (April 29, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312380070

ISBN-13: 978-0312380076

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.9 x 194.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 42 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #321,614 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

“It is a story full of adventure that I believe you will enjoy as much as I did. Young Fu won the Newbery Medal, not only because it was historically and culturally accurate, but because it was and is a really good read.”  
—Katherine Paterson, Newbery Award-winning author of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*

Introduction by Pearl S. Buck. This "accurate, vivid and well-written story" (The New York Times ) is about Young Fu, a country boy, who is apprenticed to a master coppersmith when he and his mother move to the city of Chungking during the exciting and often dangerous 1920s. A Newbery Medal Book. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have a goal of reading all the Newberry Award winning books. I was in the midst of reading this one when I lost the book. This was actually a better copy and I took up right where I left off. I still put

Because of Winn Dixie, Newberry Honor Winner, as my favorite and Maniac McGee as my second, Newberry Award, of the Newberry winning books. There are always lessons to learn and strong pre-teen/teen characters at the center of these books. This one takes place in China in the early 1900s. While bringing in a bit of history, we learn that hard work has its benefits.

I read this book some years ago in school. This may be considered a kids book, but the rich history and great detail it has, surely makes up for it.

An excellent glimpse of China in the early 20th Century, this coming of age story has adventure, bandits, and disaster mingled with the mundane life of a young apprentice.

in this era it paints a real life story I feel all young ones should read this book teaches humility

This book is the story of a thirteen year old boy from the farms of central China who, with his widowed mother, moves to the big city, Chungking (now spelled Chongqing). Because life on the farm is so uncertain, and, in fact, rather dangerous because of banditry, Fu will be apprenticed to Tang, a master coppersmith. The book portrays a turbulent time, after the fall of Imperial government, and before a new order could arise, a time of war and disunity. I often read this book with my sixth grade class. The author is Western (she left America for a career as a teacher and missionary in Shanghai, Chungking, and Nanking) and sometimes this bias shows through, as does her distaste for rabble-rousing young revolutionaries (early communists?), though perhaps her sentiments would be shared by many modern Chinese. Still, the book makes fascinating reading. It introduces the reader to a China that has passed into history (thank goodness - it was such a violent time), yet many authentic cultural ideas and customs that are presented in the book persist, such as payment of debts on New Years, crooked streets catching ghosts, etc. There are even a few Chinese expressions. Some are translated into English (like FangXin - let down your heart) and others are kept in Chinese, such as Tuchun (a military governor). The book is well-written, though quite episodic. This episodic nature can be an advantage, though, since it may be possible to shorten the book when presenting it to a class by skipping some chapters. Also, in the back of the book is an appendix, keyed to the chapters, that explains some differences between the China of today and the China of the 1920's. The characters are well drawn. Although there is little character development outside the main character, Young Fu does have to deal with a lot of the issues confronting a young man growing up. His adventurous spirit and willingness to embrace new ideas

are contrasted with the attitudes of others around him. This openness to change (and to Western ideas, such as Western medicine) usually lead to his successes. Some of the main issues dealt with in this book are: superstitions, the value of education, the roles of foreigners in the China of that time, the value of education, the effect of war and politics on a large, though backwater, town, as well as friendship and family. This book is probably appropriate for very high fifth grade through ninth grade. It makes excellent material for a sixth grade class, but they may some guidance or orientation, because the life depicted is so different from our own. The illustrations help when explaining ideas such as "Wedding Chair" or "Load-pole."

Delighted with my purchase. The book arrived as described by the Seller and it arrived ahead of schedule. Couldn't be happier.

One of my favorite books from when I was 13

My sister enjoyed the bio fictional story. Mrs. Lewis made the story very real life, and my sister will read it again and again I'm sure.

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