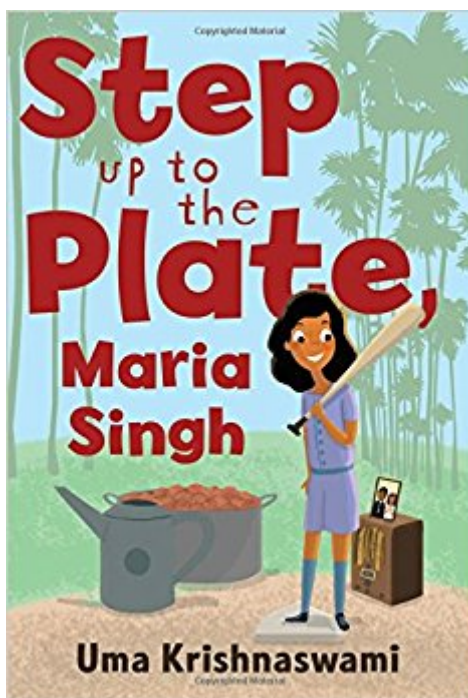


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# Step Up To The Plate, Maria Singh



## Synopsis

Nine-year-old Maria Singh longs to play softball in the first-ever girls' team forming in Yuba City, California. It's the spring of 1945, and World War II is dragging on. Miss Newman, Maria's teacher, is inspired by Babe Ruth and the All-American Girls' League to start a girls' softball team at their school. Meanwhile, Maria's parents--Papi from India and Mama from Mexico--can no longer protect their children from prejudice and from the discriminatory laws of the land. When the family is on the brink of losing their farm, Maria must decide if she has what it takes to step up and find her voice in an unfair world. In this fascinating middle grade novel, award-winning author Uma Krishnaswami sheds light on a little-known chapter of American history set in a community whose families made multicultural choices before the word had been invented.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Tu Books (May 2, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600602614

ISBN-13: 978-1600602610

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #144,697 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in [Books > Children's](#)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

UMA KRISHNASWAMI is the author of more than twenty books for young readers. She teaches in the low-residency MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults, Vermont College of Fine Arts. Born in New Delhi, India, Krishnaswami now lives and writes in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Great middle grade historical fiction. Well researched, well written.

Lots of potential for supporting deeper thinking in the classroom. Book talk this with 4th-6th grade students for independent reading, OR make this a core text for a literature circle, OR read this aloud to the class and provide opportunities for small groups to contemplate high level thinking questions like, "What does Maria observe (at home, in school, in the community) that influences/shapes her thinking?" or "How is Maria's identity shaped by having parents from two different countries?" If your students are studying the American Revolution, ask questions like "Almost two hundred years later, do the American laws (that restrict citizenship and land ownership) described in this story align with the beliefs of those who signed the Declaration of Independence?" Engage the students in asking questions about the real-life circumstances that are depicted in this book and then engaging in research to find answers. They might ask questions like, "When were people from India granted citizenship in the U.S.?" or "Are there still groups of people we do not grant citizenship to? Or voting rights?" Or focus on researching how women's rights continued to improve in the 1940's and beyond...so much you could do with this book. Or you could simply make it available for students to read and enjoy on their own:)

STEP UP TO THE PLATE, MARIA SINGH by Uma Krishnaswami. A story of girls' softball in WWII CA, in a context you might not know about. Maria's family and many of her friends are adha-adha, or "half and half," with fathers from India and mothers from Mexico. The men came to CA to farm or work on the railroads, but they weren't allowed to own land until after WWII ended. Nor were their wives, who assumed their husbands' legal status upon marriage. The man who owns the land Maria's family works plans to sell. Amidst this uncertainty, Maria learns that one of her classmates comes from a German family, and she remembers Japanese-American students who were sent to internment camps with their families. It's a story that covers a lot of social history in a format kids can grasp. And at the heart of it is Maria's desire to play softball and claim her place in a world that's often hard to understand. This would make a great read for kids who love the history of the American Girls or Dear America books, from a perspective that those series don't cover.

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