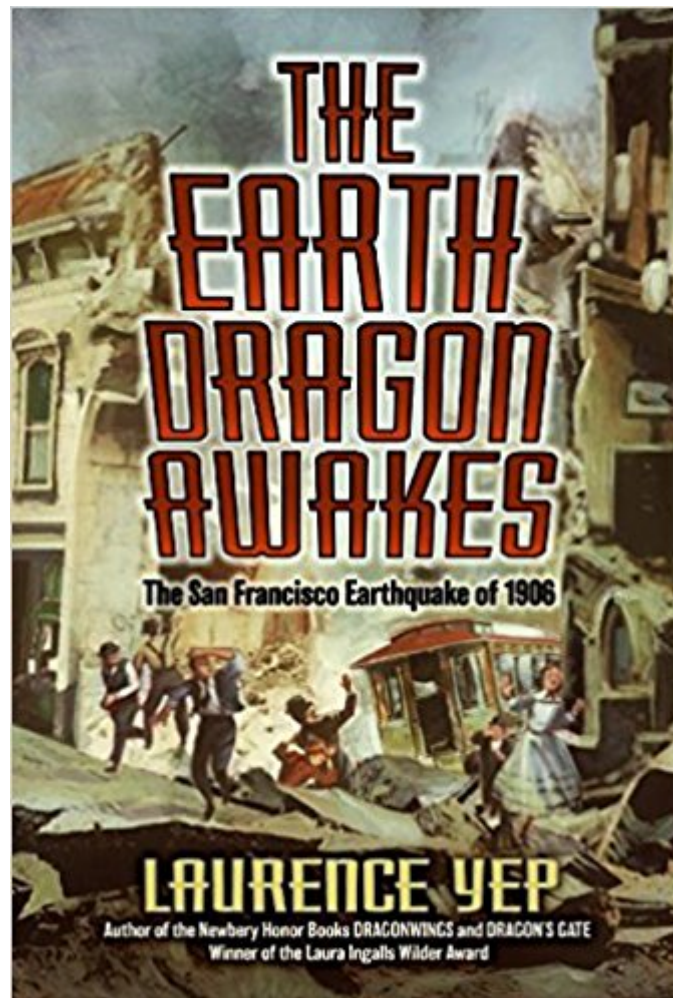




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# The Earth Dragon Awakes: The San Francisco Earthquake Of 1906



## Synopsis

Over the years the earth has moved many times under San Francisco. But it has been thirty-eight years since the last strong earthquake. People have forgotten how bad it can be. But soon they will remember. Based on actual events of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and told from the alternating perspectives of two young friends, the earth dragon awakes chronicles the thrilling story of the destruction of a city, and the heroes that emerge in its wake.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 510 (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #109,651 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American](#) #174 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#) #234 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 3-7 Yep looks at the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 from two points of view. Chin is a young Chinese immigrant whose father is a houseboy for a prominent banker and his family. He has become friendly with young Henry Travis, the banker's son, through their interest in low-brow but exciting penny dreadfuls. The stories depict heroic people doing heroic things and, while both boys appreciate their fathers, they certainly do not regard them as heroes. Not, that is, until the Earth Dragon roars into consciousness one spring morning, tearing the city asunder and making heroes out of otherwise ordinary men. Yep's research is exhaustive. He covers all the most significant repercussions of the event, its aftershocks, and days of devastating fires, and peppers the story with interesting true-to-life anecdotes. The format is a little tedious one chapter visits Henry's affluent

neighborhood, the next ventures to Chin's home in Chinatown, and back again and the ordinary heroes theme is presented a bit heavy-handedly. Throughout the text, the boys compare their fathers to Wyatt Earp. But the story as a whole should appeal to reluctant readers. Its natural disaster subject is both timely and topical, and Yep weaves snippets of information on plate tectonics and more very neatly around his prose. A solid supplemental choice. Catherine Threadgill, Charleston County Public Library, SC Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 3-5. On the evening of April 17, 1906, neither eight-year-old Henry nor his friend Ching is aware that the earth beneath their San Francisco homes is shifting. Devotees of "penny dreadfuls," both boys long for excitement, not their fathers' ordinary routine lives. When the earthquake shakes the city and a firestorm breaks out, Henry and his parents scramble in the chaos and battle the fire, but must ultimately evacuate their home. Ching and his father survive the collapse of their Chinatown tenement, and flee to the ferry through the debris and turmoil. In the midst of catastrophe, the boys realize that their fathers are real-life heroes. Henry and Ching's stories are told in alternating chapters with a few interruptions for the insertion of earthquake information. Told in the present tense, the narration provides a "you are there" sense of immediacy and will appeal to readers who enjoy action-packed survival stories. Linda Perkins Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I met with my top second grade reading group a few weeks ago, I introduced them to this book. Wow! They've been engrossed ever since. I give them a thought-provoking question to guide their reading and a quick writing assignment to go with it, such as "How do Henry and Chin feel about their fathers?" Their text-related answers are beginning to change as the characters react to the earthquake. My readers want to know everything they can about the famous San Francisco earthquake now. The author cleverly structured the story as a diary, with factual entries about the development of the quake inserted at crucial points. My readers are hooked on an exciting story with just enough facts about the earthquake to make them hungry for more.

I highly recommend, *The Earth Dragon Awakes!* It is a great book that I used with my 4th graders during our informative/expository text unit. The author uses historical fiction to describe the 1906 San Francisco earthquake in an engaging way with plenty of figurative language and historical facts

to make it more compelling. The book also highlights the political climate in Chinatown and how the Chinese were discriminated against during this crisis.

We used this as an anchor text for our science curriculum on earthquakes. It is an easily accessible novel that uses some great imagery, a good history of the San Francisco Earthquake, and two families living through all the horrible events of that time. It also includes some good character growth of two young boys. Lots of references to true stories of the day. Simple enough for struggling students but enough good literary elements to challenge higher readers. Good class read.

My son read this book to me without problem. It is well written and was enjoyable to read-- very descriptive writer! Packed full of true facts and historical points. The author even has an afterword where he points out the historical facts for the reader along with actual pictures from the 1906 earthquake. Kids even learn a little about the science of earthquakes and aftershocks. Chapters were often short in size which was perfect for a young reader.

The kids in my book club loved this.

The order was as it was stated in it's description. There was some distress to the book, but overall, well worth the purchase.

Great historical fiction book for low end readers to not only understand content, but also point of view.

The book is excerpted in our CA Treasures anthology, but of course, my students were curious about how the story ended. I ordered the book and in two days we finished it. The kids loved it.

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