

3. Something about the Artist: Ange Zhang

Ange Zhang is an esteemed artist, illustrator, author and an internationally known theatre designer (who designed for the National Opera Theatre in Beijing before coming to Canada). Since arriving in Canada in 1989, he has designed more than 25 theatre productions across the country. Ange Zhang worked at the Banff Centre for the Arts and then obtained a position as assistant set designer at the Stratford Festival. Currently, he works as an animation artist for Nelvana where, among other tasks, he creates animated backgrounds for the cartoon *Braceface*. Ange Zhang lives in Toronto with his wife and son.

Ange Zhang has illustrated many children's books including *Thor* by W.D. Valgardson, which won a Mr. Christie's Book Award in 1995, and *The Kid Line*, *The Stoneboat* and *The Fishing Summer* written by Teddy Jam. He wrote and illustrated his own book, *Red Land, Yellow River: A Story from the Cultural Revolution* which was nominated for the 2004 Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature and which won the prestigious Bologna Ragazzi Award 2005 in the non-fiction category.

Red Land, Yellow River tells the story of Ange Zhang's childhood in China and the rise of Mao Zedong's Communist government. In 1966, he was a teenager living with his family in Beijing when Chairman Mao Zedong unleashed the Cultural Revolution. His world changed completely as he and his family were later sent to labour camps in the countryside to be re-educated as farmers. Through adversity Ange discovered his life's path when a box of oil paints was given to him. In Ange's words, "I had found my own path at last, the path that would allow me to express myself as a human being." Even if he remained a farmer, he would also be an artist, following a road that would lead to a place full of colour, beauty, joy and kindness.

Publications

Red Land Yellow River: A Story from the Cultural Revolution
Groundwood Books (Douglas & McIntyre), 2004

The Kid Line
Written by Teddy Jam; illustrated by Ange Zhang
Groundwood Books (Douglas & McIntyre), 2001

Grandfather Counts
Written by Andrea Cheng; illustrated by Ange Zhang
Lee & Low Books, 2000

The Stoneboat
Written by Teddy Jam; illustrated by Ange Zhang
Groundwood Books (Douglas & McIntyre), 1999

The Fishing Summer

Written by Teddy Jam; illustrated by Ange Zhang
Groundwood Books (Douglas & McIntyre), 1997

To the Mountains by Morning

Written by Diana Wieler; illustrated by Ange Zhang
Groundwood Books, 1996

Thor

Written by W.D. Valgardson; illustrated by Ange Zhang
Groundwood Books, 1994