**Geography and History of the World**

**By:** Robyn L. Johnson, IUPUI Department of Geography and School of Education

**Title:**  A Single Shard

**Authors:** Linda Sue Park

**Author Information:** Linda Sue Park is an American author of children’s books and recipient of the Newberry Medal for her work A Single Shard.

**Publishing Information:** Published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY. ISBN 10: 0395978270

**Theme:** A young man’s journey to find his place in 12th-century Korea.

**Number of Pages:** 151.

**Target Audience:** Younger teens/Adolescents.

**Brief Description:** Tree-ear lives beneath a bridge in Korea with a crippled man until a chance encounter with famed potter Min. After paying back a debt to Min, Tree-ear offers his services in hopes of learning the art of pottery. While Tree-ear is on a mission to deliver a sample of Min’s work to an emissary, his surrogate father Crane-man passes away. Upon his return, Tree-ear is adopted into Min’s family, is renamed to match his deceased ‘brother’, and finally gets his opportunity to learn pottery and be a part of a real family.

**Major Points:** The book follows a young man’s journey through adolescence and his search for belonging in historic Korea.

**Your Opinion:** The book is appropriate for young readers and provides a glimpse into the naming practices and ancient art of celadon pottery in Korea. It is an easy read and relevant to young readers.

**Ideas for use in the Classroom:** This book is appropriate for entry-level readers and would serve as a great ethnography/example of life and art in twelfth-century Korea. Further, it would provide excellent opportunities for interactive activities or craft projects.