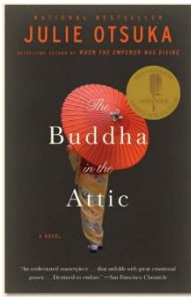




**Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons  
Teacher's Book Review**



***Buddha in the Attic*, Julie Otsuka  
Reviewed by Ms. Mouchbahani.**

*Buddha in the Attic*, written by Julia Otsuka, is a treasure of a book. A compelling piece of historical fiction set in 18th century America, it voices the experiences of Japanese picture brides. The stories keep you closely connected, not because you're waiting for the outcome in a long, convoluted plot, but because the simplicity and power that lie within each page emotionally take hold of you, pulling your chords of compassion and awe. The thing I loved most about reading *Buddha in the Attic* is that the vignettes are told in a collective voice - the diverse experiences of very different women all sharing very similar degrees of hardship and heartbreak. Written in a powerful and poetic style, there is a rawness to the way in which the women communicate their suffering - with direct and brutal honesty; however, there is still a graceful, crafted style threading through the entire novel. This is a special read for any mature audience, but perhaps even more so for a young woman, wife, or mother.