

Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story - Lee & Low Books, 2005 - 2005 - 32 pages - Paula Yoo - 9781584302476

This inspiring picture book biography shares the story of Sammy Lee, a second-generation Korean immigrant who overcame discrimination and tremendous societal barriers to learn how to dive. He became the first Asian American to win a gold medal at the Olympics. The illustrations are sepia-toned and somewhat dark, and there is a lot of text, so this is best for elementary-aged children and older. He became torn between his quest to become a champion diver and his father's wish for him to go to Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds, is the story of Korean American Sammy Lee. When Sammy was twelve years old he watched divers at his local swimming pool and immediately wanted to become a diver himself.

Authors: Dom Lee, Paula Yoo Series: Picture Book Biographies, 20th Century Tag: Episode 122 Publisher: Lee & Low Books Publication Year: 2005 ASIN: 158430247X ISBN: 9781584302476. **Description from Amazon: Profiles the childhood dreams and realities of the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal, achieved in the 10-meter platform diving event in 1948. About the Book. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising." For more information about my affiliate links, click here. Your Cart. Paula Yoo; illustrated by Dom Lee. Cover for Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story [hide caption](#). [toggle caption](#). [Return to Day to Day Review](#). Written with elementary school students in mind, this book tells the story of Sammy Lee, a Korean-American kid who discovered competitive diving when he was a kid. But he couldn't practice much: His Fresno, Calif., hometown was segregated, and "colored" people were restricted to one day a week at the public pool -- which was then drained, cleaned, refilled and off limits until the following week. And Sammy wasn't only fighting prejudice -- he was fighting his father's wishes, who was making huge sacrifices so his son could become scholar, not an athlete. Lee was 28 years old when he won his gold medal, which he defended four years later at the 1952 games in Helsinki, Finland. Lee's diving dream began when he was 12 and growing up in California. But his training was limited since, as a person of color, he could only use the local pools one day a week. Lee continued to face discrimination throughout his life, but refused to let it hinder him. It's such a great story and the book is beautifully illustrated by Dom Lee. I found it at our local library but I definitely think it's once I'll be adding to our collection. The author's web site lists this one as being for kids ages 6-9. The hardcover edition was published in 2005, but the paperback edition was just released last year. Rate this: [Share this](#)