

# U IS FOR... UNITED STATES V. WONG KIM ARK

Wong Kim Ark was born in America  
in the 1800s

When he grew up, he visited China—  
the land of his ancestors

He was of both worlds, both lands  
lived in his heart

But when he tried to return to his home  
in California  
He was forbidden

Lawmakers had decided people like Wong  
should be cast out  
So they passed the Chinese Exclusion Act  
Banning Chinese and Asian immigrants

But Wong Kim Ark knew who he was  
He knew he belonged in San Francisco  
With courage and determination  
He challenged the status quo  
He fought for his citizenship

Now because of his fortitude  
and persistence,  
anyone born on this land  
Has the right to become  
an American citizen

- Mila Konomos



## ARTWORK BY ANDREW BLOOMS

*"Had the decision gone the other way,  
instead of a nation of immigrants,  
America would have become "colonies  
of foreigners."*

-Lucy Salyer

