THU 9/03 agenda
- Take attendance, etc.
- Take AALR orders
- Go over close reading handout
- Finish discussing Eaton’s “Leaves”
- Discuss Eaton’s “Mrs. Spring Fragrance”

“Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of an Eurasian” (1909)
- Argument 1 – Eaton presents biraciality as a way to counter notions of race as “natural” and fixed.
  - Cases of misrecognition (221, 222)
  - Possibility of Chinese superiority (225)
  - Solidarity with other non-white peoples (228)
  - Notion of racial fluidity (233)

“Leaves” (1909)
- Argument 2 – Though Eaton tries to defend the Chinese, she actually reinforces white superiority.
  - Suggests whiteness is superior (222, 226)
  - She is often silent when there might be consequences (227–28)
  - She passes and enjoys white privilege (228)
  - She doesn’t talk about how she enters the US

“Mrs. Spring Fragrance” (1912)
- Why would someone write in code?
- Historical contexts – “heathen Chinee,” Chinese Exclusion Act, Angel Island
- Assimilated, “Americanized” characters (35)
- Strange suburban setting (36)
- Everyone gets the poem wrong (36–37)
I hold it true, whate’er befall;
I feel it, when I sorrow most;
‘Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.

— Lord Alfred Tennyson, “In Memoriam A. H. H.”

Cracking the Code

- Spring Fragrance = SF (38)
- Real story in the letter (39–40)
  - Style and diction
  - Use of irony
  - Economic injustices, like the Foreign Miners and laundry taxes
  - Angel Island
  - P.S. Women are equal too!

FOR TUESDAY

- Read Bulosan’s America Is in the Heart, Part I
  - Practice close reading
  - What literary techniques and motifs do you see in Part I?
- Don’t forget to tweet!