

PULLOUT

HANDOUT 1


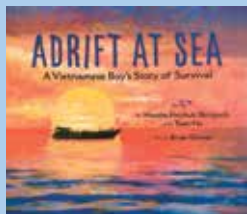

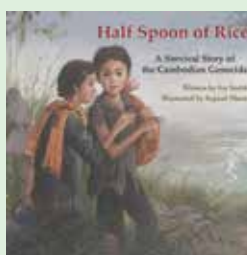
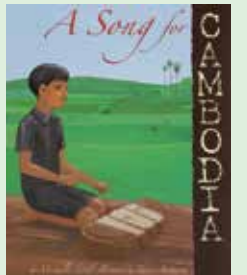
Graphic Organizer: Inside Out & Back Again

Direction: As you read the book, jot down your findings.

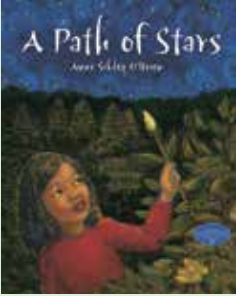
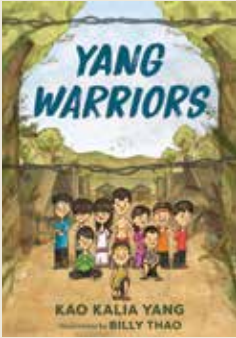
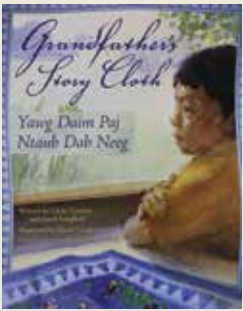
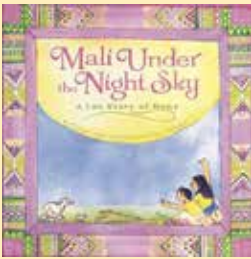

Guiding Questions	Your findings	Evidence from the book (Write down the page number too)
What was the cause of the Vietnam War?		
How did the war affect Vietnamese lives?		
How did Vietnamese view the US?		
How did Americans respond to Vietnamese refugees?		
How did Vietnamese refugees respond to US reception?		

Appendix: Suggested Southeast Asian Refugee Children’s Literature

Here are ten additional picture books that can be used to center Southeast Asian experience in teaching about the Vietnam War and that I have used with a teacher learning community of which Ms. Lee and Ms. Moon were a part. Like any books, these books have both strengths and weaknesses. Thus, I provide a brief storyline along with teaching suggestions. For more, I highly recommend Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodriguez’s list, accessible at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MOoYg9-k2sDZK_MZYILGYEDIFTWJW0Cck2OQpAcAZk.

Books on Vietnamese Refugees		Storyline & Teaching Suggestion
	<p>Ruth Vander Zee, <i>Always with You</i>, illus. Ron Himler (Eerdmans Publishing, 2008).</p>	<p>Kim, a four-year-old girl in Vietnam, witnesses her mom’s death when their village is bombed. Kim is rescued by US soldiers and taken to an orphanage run by a kind American couple in Vietnam. There, Kim is loved and cared for. Kim misses her mom terribly, yet she never forgets her mother’s dying words, “Don’t be afraid. I will always be with you!”</p> <p>This book does not shy away from a tragic result of the Vietnam War on Vietnamese people. Yet, the book is short on details about why the war happened and why the US got entangled. Doing so, the book may continue the master narrative of the US as benevolent rescuer. A teacher can use this book to help students see the tragic reality of the war and Vietnamese resilience while guiding students to unpack the void by bringing in sources debunking the US’s complex role in the war.</p>
	<p>Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch and Tuan Ho, <i>Adrift at Sea</i>, illus. Brian Deines (Pajama Press, 2016).</p>	<p>Tuan, a six-year-old boy in Vietnam, embarks on a perilous journey with his family to flee Vietnam. They become so-called boat people, enduring many days adrift at sea in a tiny broken boat. Eventually, Tuan and others in the boat are rescued by a US air carrier.</p> <p>This book sheds light on the struggles and resilience of Vietnamese refugees. The historical and biographical section adds more details on Vietnamese displacement. Both the storyline and the information pages do not mention the US’s implication in the Vietnamese struggles, instead featuring the US only as a benevolent rescuer of the stranded refugees at sea. A teacher would need to guide students to unpack the story by bringing in sources featuring the US’s complex role and its implications in the refugee crisis.</p>
	<p>Bao Phi, <i>A Different Pond</i>, illus. Thi Bui (Capstone Publishing, 2017).</p>	<p>Bao, a young Vietnamese American boy, wakes up early in the morning to accompany his father who goes to fish for family dinner. While fishing, the father talks about his life in Vietnam and shares sad memories of his lost brother during the war.</p> <p>This book describes a Vietnamese refugee family’s struggle with poverty. Albeit brief, it also tells how the Vietnam War caused death and displacement of Vietnamese people. The book is short on details about why the war happened and what role the US played. A teacher can use this book as an extension to a Vietnam War lesson to support students to see war legacies in terms of Vietnamese displacement and resettlement struggles in the US.</p>
Books on Cambodian Refugees		Storyline & Teaching Suggestion
	<p>Icy Smith, <i>Half Spoon of Rice</i>, illus. Sopaul Nhem (East West Discovery Press, 2010).</p>	<p>Nine-year-old Nat and his family are forced to leave their home when the Khmer Rouge takes over the country in 1975. They must walk for many days to labor camps in the countryside. Nat is separated from his family and endures forced labor with other children. Later, Nat escapes to Thailand where he is reunited with his family. After many months in the refugee camp, Nat’s family gets permission to resettle in the US.</p> <p>This book vividly describes the tragic results of the war on Cambodian civilians. The author’s note gives detailed information on the US’s secret war in Cambodia and how the US carpet bombings over Cambodia fueled Cambodian civilians’ support for the Khmer Rouge. A teacher can have students first read the story of Nat and then use the author’s note to go deeper into the larger historical contexts of the war.</p>
	<p>Michelle Lord, <i>A Song for Cambodia</i>, illus. Shino Arihara (Lee & Low Books, 2015).</p>	<p>As a little boy in Cambodia, Arn’s happy childhood was suddenly disrupted when his village was invaded by Khmer Rouge soldiers. Arn was taken to a children’s work camp where he and other children were forced to labor long hours. He took courage to escape and eventually arrived at a Thai refugee camp. There Arn meets an American volunteer who later adopted him and took him to America.</p> <p>This book vividly describes the tragic results of the Vietnam War on Cambodian civilians. Although the author’s note provides some details about the Khmer Rouge, it does not mention the US carpet bombings over Cambodia and how the bombings fueled Cambodian civilians’ support for the Khmer Rouge. Hence, a teacher would need to supplement the book with sources that feature the US’s secret war in Cambodia to build a more nuanced understanding of the war.</p>

Suggested Southeast Asian Refugee Children’s Literature (cont.)

Books on Cambodian Refugees		Storyline & Teaching Suggestion
 <p>Anne Sibley O'Brien, <i>A Path of Stars</i>, illus. Anne Sibley O'Brien (Charlesbridge, 2012).</p>	<p>A young Cambodian American girl, Dara, tells her grandmother’s story of war, including a peaceful life in Cambodia before war, death and displacement of her family during the war, her struggle in a Thai refugee camp, and building a new life in the US.</p> <p>This book tells a Cambodian refugee experience of the war. Written for young readers and told by a young girl, the storyline does not specify what war the grandmother had to survive or what role the US played in the war. With this limitation in mind, a teacher can use this book to bring to light Cambodian refugee experiences of the war while guiding students to unpack the silence in the book regarding the US’s implication in the Cambodian refugee crisis.</p>	
Books on Hmong Refugees		Storyline & Teaching Suggestion
 <p>Kao Kalia Yang, <i>Yang Warriors</i>, illus. Billy Thao (University of Minnesota Press, 2021).</p>	<p>In a Thai refugee camp, ten Hmong refugee children embark on a dangerous mission to find food for their elders and younger who did not have vegetables for days. If they were to be caught by the guards, they would be punished for leaving the camp’s boundaries.</p> <p>This book highlights Hmong refugee struggles and resilience in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, yet it is short on details about the war and the US implication in the refugee crisis. A teacher can use this book after students learn about the US’s secret war in Laos to see its implication through the voices of refugees.</p>	
 <p>L. Gerdner and S. Langford, <i>Grandfather's Story Cloth</i>, illus. Stuart Loughridge (Shen’s Books, 2009).</p>	<p>A Hmong American boy, Chersheng, lives with his grandfather who is losing his memory due to Alzheimer’s disease. He listens to his grandfather’s experience of the war through the grandfather’s story cloth.</p> <p>This book tells Hmong refugee experiences of the war. While the grandfather’s story sheds lights on the tragic results of the war, it does not include the cause of the war and the US’s role in the war. A teacher can use this book after students have built content knowledge of the US’s secret war in Laos and guide them to unpack the storyline.</p>	
Books on Lao Refugees		Storyline & Teaching Suggestion
 <p>Youme Landowne, <i>Mali Under the Night Sky</i>, illus. Youme Landowne (Cinco Puntos Press, 2010).</p>	<p>Mali enjoys her happy childhood in Laos until it is suddenly disrupted by the war. She and her family now must endure a perilous journey to cross the Mekong River and flee from the war.</p> <p>This book brings to light Lao experiences of the Vietnam War. Although the storyline does not provide historical contexts of the war, the end page includes information about the US’s secret war in Laos. A teacher can use this book after students learn about the US’s secret war in Laos and guide them to unpack the storyline.</p>	
 <p>Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay, <i>When Everything was Everything</i>, illus. Cory Nakamura Lin (Full Circle Publishing, 2018).</p>	<p>A little girl from Laos shares her family’s lives in Minnesota as a refugee family. She is raised on food stamps, continuously shuttled from one public housing address to the next, forced into ESL classes, and ridiculed by her peers. Yet she finds resilience and joy amid challenges.</p> <p>This book does not shy away from Lao refugee struggles with racism and poverty while also underscoring refugee resilience. It is however short on details of the war itself. A teacher can use this book after students learn about the US’s secret war in Laos to guide them to go deeper with the war legacies.</p>	

Journal Entry: Inside Out & Back Again

Direction: Write a journal entry about the Vietnam War from a Vietnamese refugee's perspective. Consider what would be important to someone like Hà and Hà's family members.

A large rectangular box with a black border, containing 20 horizontal lines for writing a journal entry.