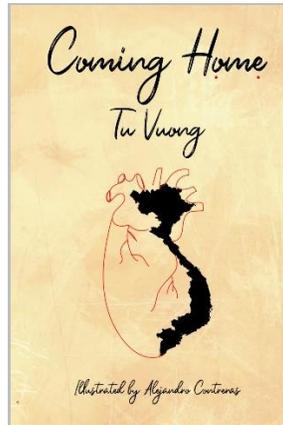


Classroom Conversations: A Starting Point

Social Sciences

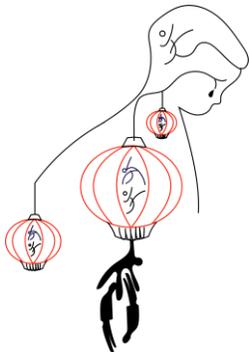


“These vignettes are intended to echo a piece of the immigrant experience as well as to affirm the importance of our identity. This book can be read in sequence or each poem can be a pause for reflection.”

Metacognition

Before you begin reading, reflect on your story as a student. How have your **identity** and **experiences** been **reflected** or **omitted** in your learning at school? Do you see yourself represented in the texts you read?

“Fragments of Tết lanterns burned...”



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Why do you think the author chose to write about Tết? Let's **brainstorm** together what we know about Tết. Reflect on a celebration that is most important to you. What makes it so important? How can we build community from cultural celebrations?

“Unbeknownst
to me
was that in
fourteen days
my mother
was planning to escape
our country...”

Describe the **imagery** in this poem. What are some **factors** that push families to escape or leave their home country? Do you think they have a choice? How might refugees maintain hope emotionally?

| My father’s dream, what saved us that night



(Coming Home | Illustrated by Alejandro Contreras | copyright EduMatch Publishing)

How does the illustration give us clues about what the “dream” is about? What words or images come to mind when you hear the word **genocide**? Can you give a specific example of a past and present genocide? Discuss or extrapolate common themes from the discussion based on students’ examples and responses of past and present genocide?

Examine/research international organizations (e.g. UNHCR). What is their role or mandate?

Examine/research local resettling organizations (e.g. OCISO). What is their role?

“Marion Dewar,
the beginning
of my journey story –“

In |*Part I*, the author references the *boat people*. What do we know about this term? (Google Jamboard/Pear Deck)

Who is Marion Dewar? Why do you think the author would open |*Part 2* with Marion Dewar? What role did Canada play in welcoming refugees? Let’s research.

Can you connect another person in history similar to Marion Dewar based on their actions? How can individuals and communities welcome and support newcomers? (specific and actionable)
Discuss/explain/research.



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Symbolism. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Caption this illustration.

How do cross-cultural identities play a role in family? Think about a song lyric or poem that speaks to your identity? Which aspects? Discuss/Create

Additional Resources:

Vietnamese-Canadian Family’s Refugee Story – Heritage Minute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFTeVEyLLMw>

Phan Thị Kim Phúc on Pain and Forgiveness

<https://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/brief-but-spectacular/phan-th%E1%BB%8B-kim-ph%C3%BAc-on-pain-and-forgiveness-1.5417755>