

HOME Story Time Discussion | February 2021

Lynden Sculpture Garden

HOME program: www.home-at-lynden.org

Recordings and downloads: www.lyndensculpturegarden.org/calendar/home-story-time

Book, English & Vietnamese: *Going Home, Coming Home* by Truong Tran and Illustrated by Ann Phong

HOME Story Time Reader: Don Mai

Art activity by Lynden art educator: Claudia Orjuela

Enduring Understandings

- Family relationships can be strong no matter how far apart family members might live from one another.
- Home is not a place rooted in a country or where we live, but a feeling rooted in the heart.
- It is possible to feel “at home” in more than one place.
- Visiting and celebrating the place(s) your family comes from can teach you about your heritage and culture.

Book description

For Ami Chi, her home has always been a ruby red house in America with a garden in the backyard. But when her family travels all the way to Vietnam one summer to visit her parents' homeland, she learns that she really has two homes—one in America and another halfway around the world in Vietnam. As she meets her Vietnamese relatives, makes friends, and gets used to life in Vietnam, she realizes that “home” is not only a place but also a feeling deep in one's heart.

Activity 1: Let's Share & Reflect! Questions for further discussion.

1. How does Ami Chi feel about being in Vietnam at the beginning of her trip? How do you know?
2. How does Ami Chi feel about Vietnam towards the end of her trip? How do you know?
3. What things help her change her mind about Vietnam? How do new relationships and new experiences help change her mind?
4. Who is Thao? How does meeting Thao help Ami Chi feel at home in Vietnam?
5. What do you think Ami Chi might have learned about herself while being in Vietnam?
6. At the end of the story, Ami Chi calls Vietnam her “home away from home” and says, “Home is two different places, on the left and right sides of my heart.” What do you think she means?
7. What are some reasons Ami Chi feels like Vietnam is also her home?