

NAME: _____

Student Worksheet



Activity One

Postcard from Saigon

Hà and her family love their country of Vietnam. They are loyal to their city, Saigon. When war comes to their part of the world, they must make a hard choice. Armies and fights have changed the landscape. Bombings destroy buildings. Soldiers trample the grounds. Miss Scott shows the class pictures of all of the destruction.

This version of Saigon is not one Hà remembers. She thinks of beautiful plants and flowers. Saigon reminds her of busy markets and all of her family. The city is envisioned as a beautiful place to be. After the Vietnam War ended, the divided city eventually came together. Saigon is now officially known as Hồ Chí Minh City. It was renamed after a Vietnamese leader. Many tourists visit the city and the rest of Vietnam each year.

Your task is to create a postcard from Saigon/Vietnam. Spend some time looking at pictures of the countryside as well as the city. Try to think of the sights described in Hà's diary. Choose one or two features to focus your art on. One side of the card should be an image. The other will hold a spot for your written message and an address to mail it to. See you in Saigon!



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Activity Two

Cuisine of Vietnam

One of the most exciting parts of traveling to another place is to experience the local cuisine. Every place has a special dish that they are known for. Different parts of the world have different styles of cooking. Spices, vegetables and meat all vary depending on where you travel.

Even if you can't travel, many restaurants serve international meals. What is in your town? Is there a world of dining outside your door? Is there a restaurant you love to eat at?

Hà's mother brings Vietnamese cooking with her to America. Despite living in a new place, she continues to serve the same meals that her family loves from their home country. Having traditional meals is very important to her. She even shouts at the butcher! What meals from Vietnam would you like to try?

Find a recipe for a Vietnamese dish. Please cook the dish only if you feel comfortable using your kitchen safely. If you can't cook the meal, find someone to help you, or find a local restaurant that has the meal you want to try. Some of the meals mentioned in Hà's journal are:

- Stewed eels
- Fried dough
- Bánh chu'ng
- Lotus seeds
- Egg rolls

Bon Appetit!



Lotus Seeds

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Activity Three

The Map of Your Heart

Our lives are full of important places. Each location can have a memory attached to them. It can be a country, a city, or even a street. Where do you remember having fun with your friends? Which destination does your family like to visit?

Hà and her family traveled worldwide to their new home. They didn't want to leave Vietnam. They have memories of the different parts of Vietnam, and of Saigon. They lived in the country and spent time in the city. Each place is special to Hà and becomes an entry in her diary.

What places are special to you? Think of places you have lived or visited. Have they covered the world? Or covered your neighborhood? Create a map (or use a blank copy) of places that have a place in your heart. You will:

- Mark at least 10 places that you love.
- Describe why they are special.
- Add a legend of important symbols. For example, mark each memory with a friend with a star symbol.

Remember, you can map a small area or the entire globe. You can even map your house! Wherever holds a memory is important to record. Safe travels!



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Activity Four

Identity Poem

Hà's journal is written in free verse poems. Instead of traditional paragraphs, she writes in thoughts and phrases. Her writing shows different sides of her personality. Through the poems, she lets the reader know her inner thoughts. Poetry is a great way to express yourself. It focuses on the essentials, and gets to the point.

A biography poem, or a "bio" poem, is a poem about a person. You will create a bio poem based on you! Who knows you better than yourself? There is a certain format to a bio poem. It is as follows:

- (Line 1)** First name.
- (Line 2)** Three or four adjectives that describe yourself.
- (Line 3)** Important relationship to you (daughter of ..., mother of ..., etc.).
- (Line 4)** Two or three things, people, or ideas that you love.
- (Line 5)** Three feelings you often experience.
- (Line 6)** Three fears you have.
- (Line 7)** Your accomplishments (who composed ..., who discovered ..., etc.).
- (Line 8)** Two or three things you want to see happen or want to experience.
- (Line 9)** Where you live.
- (Line 10)** Last name.

What will you say about yourself? You're a poet, even if you didn't know it!



Activity Five

Spread Love, Not War



The Vietnam War was an important event in both American and Vietnamese history. Vietnam was split into two parts, the North and the South. The North followed a Communist government. The South was Anti-Communist. The fall of Saigon signaled the end of the war.

Many Americans did not want the USA to join the war. There were protests against it. The American government was forcing eligible men to fight. Lots of people disagreed with the military being involved in another country. Protesters carried signs that caught the attention of the news. If you search online, you may notice that the posters included the following characteristics:

- Had limited words.
- Used simple graphics.
- Used bold color.
- Was easy to understand.
- Was catchy.

Create a poster to support a social justice issue. What change do you want to see in the world? What do you want? Change! When do you want it? Now!





Activity Six

Support Refugees in Communities



What is a refugee? A refugee is someone who is forced to leave their home. They have no choice. They are fleeing dangerous situations to save themselves. Refugees may never be able to return home. Often, they leave their country with very little and may not know where they will live.

How can a community support refugees? In Hà's story, American sponsors gave her family a place to live when they first arrived. Other people, like Miss Washington, volunteered to help them in other ways. Each person who helped made life in the U.S. a little bit easier.

Each year, refugees leave their homes for many different reasons. Some stay in refugee camps. Others are able to live in another country. How can you help? You will research non-profit organizations that aid refugees. It can be a group in your hometown, or an international cause. You should find out:

- Where they support refugees.
- What the donations are used for.
- How people can volunteer.
- What is most needed.

Maybe you will be inspired to help out this cause. Whether it's money, or your time, refugee families need our care and support. Help make the world a kinder place!



Horn of Africa famine refugee camp.