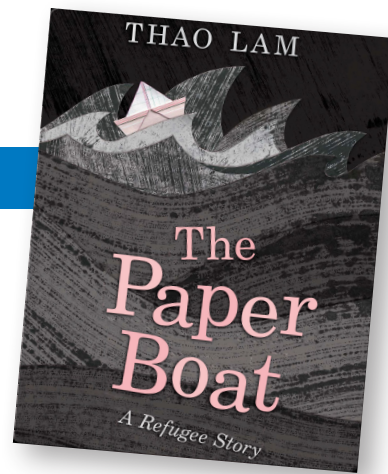


Paper Boat: A Refugee Story



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Compassion, Family, Resilience

Book Brief: Told through collage, this wordless picture book tells the story of a family's escape from Vietnam. From rescuing ants from a sugar water trap to following them through the jungle to a rescue boat, a young girl flees to safety.

Author & Illustrator:
Thao Lam

Content Connections:
Geography, Science,
Social Studies

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Read the title and subtitle. Ask students what they notice about the words on the cover – are they evenly placed? What do they think the arrangement of the words represents?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk through the book and ask students to

notice what is missing (i.e., words). Ask students to indicate whether they think not having words will make the story harder or easier to understand. Check back in after reading.

Purpose for Reading: Say to students, "As we read, think about why the author told the stories of the people and the ants at the same time."

WHILE WE READ



MONITORING FOR COMPREHENSION

- What is the family's solution to having ants on their table in the beginning of the story?
- What is the little girl doing with the trapped ants?
- Why does the family have to pack up and leave their home in a hurry?
- How do the little girl and her mother find the rescue boat in the night?
- What does the little girl leave behind when she goes to the rescue boat?
- Who or what uses the tiny paper boat made by the little girl?
- What kind of journey across the sea do the people – and the ants – have?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Do people and animals have similar experiences in the world? Ask students to name as many events as they can think of that would affect humans and animals in similar ways (e.g., floods, fires).

Extending Our Thinking: How do people change their view of animals depending on the circumstance? Did seeing the images of the ants'

struggles in the sea change the way the students thought about the ants? Why?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- Extension Activities for Educators are also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding sheet also available.