

# The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir

By Kao Kalia Yang

## Discuss

### Talk through your thoughts.

- Yang dedicated this book to her grandmother and she focuses on the role her grandmother played in the family's journey throughout the book. How does this knowledge influence how you read the story?
- Yang defines the concept of "self" within the structure of "family" and culture. How is this similar or different from how you define yourself? How do you define yourself?

## Create

### Make an experience of your own.

- Oral storytelling is extremely important in Hmong culture. Does your family have stories they tell over the years to remember? Think of an experience that would make a good story and tell it to someone. Do you learn anything or embellish the story the more you tell it?
- The Hmong came to the United States as refugees after the Vietnam War. Research the Hmong diaspora and another refugee migration. What is similar and what is different about the two situations?

## Imagine

### Use your imagination to explore.

- Yang's family has to leave behind important family photos. Imagine you are in a similar situation. What would be hard to leave behind? What would you keep or bring with you and why?
- In the prologue, Yang concisely lays out a brief history of the Hmong people and how they came to be refugees in the United States. She states that the Hmong have never really had a home. What does it mean to you that she titled her book *The Late Homecomer*? Imagine you had never had a home in the traditional sense. What would the word mean to you? How would this affect your identity?

## Explore

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- Monster by Walter Dean Myers
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