

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Catfish and Mandala, Week 1



Courage Requires Fortitude. Courage is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the Heroic Journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.

Overview of the Vietnam War:

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules/vietnam/index.cfm>

Map of Vietnam: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/maps/index.html>

Explain Nationalists

Explain the role of the French in the Vietnam War

Explain Viet Cong:

-- <http://www.vietnampix.com/>

Wordwall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

reparation-8	absolution-9	saga-11	condemned-15	propagandists-17
nationalist-19	garrison-19	eloped-21	dysfunctional-26	freelancing-28
self-indulgent-29	euphoria-30	incline-30	isolation-33	masochist-33
pragmatically-42	self-pity-43	megalopolis-46	meander-48	desperation-50
malady-55	ancestors-55	beseached-56	vengeful-56	clamored-56

READ

Read Read the selection.

pp. Prologue- 17, 17-29, 29-41, 42-50, 51-61

RESPOND

Timeline Agree on the facts in today's reading, and list the 3-5 most important on the Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the next week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

- Maintain a list of all the people Andrew meets on his travels. Keep track of their significance to his journey.
- Maintain a KWL chart on the country of Vietnam
- Maintain A Venn diagram comparing and contrasting Vietnamese and American Culture.
- Use a world map, a North American Map, and a map of Vietnam to track Andrew's travels
- Maintain a list of clues as to what happened to Chi.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

One possible activity:

Choose a scene from today's reading- Grandmother's room, the Mexican desert, Min Luong Prison. Illustrate the scene including as many details from the text as you can.

One possible activity:

Three different stories in three different settings were told during today's reading. Create a single frame cartoon for each story. In each, include as much of the essential details as you can. Below each, include a quotation from the text that you feel embodies the message, feel, or tone of the story.

One possible activity:

Create a postcard with an image from today's reading on the front. Address the card to Andrew's mother. Write her a short note about your travels. Don't scare her!

One possible activity:

Create a visual of Andrew sitting with his dead sister, Chi on the bench in the rain outside of the Narita airport. Use speech bubbles to allow each to say to the other the things you imagine they would want to say.

One possible activity:

Create a visual of one of Andrew's pleasant memories of Phan Thiet- perhaps the inside of his grandmother's market, or up in the star fruit tree, or at the beach cooking fish on an open fire. You decide. Review the description in today's reading. Then recreate the scene using as many details as possible. Some details may come from your own imagination as well.

Discussion

Key Questions

Pages Prologue-17

1. Who is the narrator of this book? What kind of book is this?
2. This book interweaves several narratives- Living through the war in Vietnam, Life as a refugee, Andrew's travels on his bicycle, and his family's current life as Vietnamese Americans in San Jose, California. What strategies will you use to track these narratives?
3. Who did Andrew meet on his travels through Mexico? What did they talk about?
4. What happened to Andrew's family after the fall of Saigon? What happened to Andrew's father? What were the prisoners' worst fears in the prison camp?
5. Based on today's reading, write down all you know about the history of Andrew's family.

Key Questions

Pages 17-29

1. How are the prisoners treated in the prison camp? Describe the conditions under which they live.
2. What do you imagine happened between the time Thong's name was called and the time that he was dropped at the crossroads by an army truck?
3. What differences have you noted so far between Vietnamese and American cultures? What similarities can you find?
4. Would you be proud of your son or daughter if they decided to quit their job and travel? What concerns would you have?

Key Questions

Pages 29-41

1. Why do you think Andrew Pham calls the short flashback chapters about life in Vietnam before the family fled, "Fallen-Leaves?" Why do you think these chapters are written in *italics*?

2. Where does Andrew's journey take him? What troubles does he encounter between California and Washington?
3. Who does Andrew stay with along the way? How did he meet them?
4. Would you ever consider doing for someone what these strangers did for Andrew?
5. Would you ever be interested in an adventure such as Andrew's? Is there somewhere from your past you would like to return to? Is there somewhere you have always wanted to travel to?

Key Questions

Pages 42-50

1. Why does Andrew end up camping in an empty lot on the outskirts of the airport? Why don't the construction equipment operators say anything to Andrew?
2. Why do you think the old man on the bicycle didn't want to help Andrew?
3. What do you think Andrew find it here in Japan where I least expect it: the black-hollow desperation of a runaway?"means when he says, "I
4. What do you think Andrew means when he says that at last he is ready for Vietnam?

Key Questions

Pages 51-61

1. Why do you think Andrew had been staying in Saigon with his mother while all the other siblings were in Phan Thiet with Grandma?
2. Explain how Andrew betrayed Chi. Do you think he should still feel guilty about this? Do you think the beating Chi got had anything to do with her future suicide?
3. What do you think Andrew will realize as he revisits the places of his past in Vietnam?

Analyze Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph – 17

"The VC hated propagandists more than they hated American GIs. They hated propagandists more than they hated the Nationalist Air Force. And Thong was the director."

Key Paragraph – 21

"Thong and Anh lived in a one-room shack, nailed together in a back alley of the fishing town. They were young, in love, and strong, but their hands were like old people's, seasonally water-crinkled from mopping the concrete floor and tending the leaky roof. A baby girl, their first child, slept peacefully in her crib- a cardboard box on their bed. The were cheerful about their meager lot, joking that the heavens were so generous to their rainwater cisterns, they hadn't had to visit the village well in a month."

Key Paragraph – 40

“ ‘You know,’ Bryan says, ‘when it’s all over, you’ll realize that the answer is already within you.’”

Key Paragraph – 43

“I sit on a bench, dumbstruck and lonely. Maybe this is how my sister felt on the streets of San Francisco, poor, hungry, cold. Grasping the tails of an incomprehensible language. Wishing for a place to sleep. Looking at pedestrians, wondering why no one stopped to offer a helping hand.”

Key Paragraph – 54-55

“Early every morning, Chi took Huy, Tien, and me down to the bay to teach us to swim. Grandma sent us off with steamed rice cakes filled with peppered pork and sweet beans. We walked down to the beach, our breakfasts warm in our pockets. These were to be saved for after our swim, but we ate them on the road, knowing there was a meal waiting on the beach. In the water, Chi held each of us up by our stomachs and we learned to dog paddle. We swam, waded, and built sand castles. Entire clans of fisher folk, from grandfathers to toddlers, gathered on the shore to bring in the morning catch. When they hauled in their nets, we pitched in, digging out feet into the sand, heaving the lines to their rhythm in a tug-of-war with the sea. The net made a great big U in the water taking a bite of the ocean as we brought it in. Silvery fish came out of the water like coins pouring, bouncing, and hopping out of a slot machine. The fisher folk went mad with laughter, dashing about, scooping up the jackpot into hand-woven baskets, screeching to each other to grab this one or that one before it flopped back into the water. We worked with them, laughing, competing to see who bagged the most. In return, they gave us a couple of fish and lent us a pan and oil. Chi built a driftwood fire on the beach and fried the fish. We pinched the meat from the bones and ate it off banana leaves with salt and lime, sitting on the sand, watching the sun come up out of the water. It felt as though Chi had never gone to live with Grandma. I never thought we could be so happy again, Chi and me playing as though it had never happened. Like I’d never betrayed her and Leper-boy, three years before.”

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Based on today’s reading, summarize the history of Andrew’s father’s life from the time he moved from the north to the time he was imprisoned in Minh Luong Prison.

The Pham’s life has changed much between 1960 and 1990. Compare the paragraph above with what you learned about the Phams’ of the 1990’s. Describe, in your own words how life has changed for them in America.

In a paragraph, state what you think Andrew is seeking on this trip from California to Vietnam. Back up your statement with examples from the text and/or provide an experience of your own that illuminates his need to return.

So far we know this about Andrew's dead sister Chi: She committed suicide in the recent past. She had been a runaway at the age of sixteen and had been living on the streets of San Francisco. She was older than Andrew. Andrew misses her and is troubled by the loss. Write a short story in which you attempt to fill in the details. Why did Chi run away? What happened that was so horrific that she would want to commit suicide?

Andrew describes in great detail a happy memory from his youth. Recall a time or an event during which you recall being very happy. Describe the scene with as much detail as possible. Include sights, sounds and smells. Explain the event and describe how you recall feeling.

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Catfish and Mandala, Week 2



Courage Requires Fortitude. Courage is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the Heroic Journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.

Research **self-immolation** and its connection to the Vietnam War.

Ho Chi Minh (Uncle Ho):

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=615

Wordwall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

diminutive-73	jostle-73	urbanscape-74	imminent-75	corralled-76
mollified-83	incredulous-83	engulfed-90	misfortune-92	hailed-93
benefactor-102	reeeming-102	bile-102	reconciliation-102	uncompromising-102
pursuit – 111	auspicious-113	celestial-113	adrift-113	refuge-115
recuperate - 123	cacophony - 125	shanties - 125	requisite – 131	indebted - 135

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read

pp. 62-77, 78-93, 94-106, 106-121, 122-135

RESPOND

Timeline Agree on the facts in today's reading, and list the 3-5 most important on the Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the next week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

One possible activity:

Create a postcard of Saigon at its busiest time. Make it crowded and fill it with street vendors and cafes. On the other side write a short note from Andrew to his mother. Assure her that Andrew is safe.

One possible activity:

Create a wanted poster that encourages people to turn in neighbors suspected of trying to escape Vietnam. Include a visual and a caption that plays on nationalist emotions.

One possible activity:

Review the description of Turtle Fountain, it's grime, it's poverty, it's deformed forgotten people. Recreate the scene the way you envision it.

One possible activity:

Review this sentence: "The resemblance resonated a hundred what-ifs and I heard them as if I were trapped in a time portal." --106

Create an Open Mind Portrait of Andrew as he stands with his grandaunt looking at this little orphan girl who resembles his ex-girlfriend. Use thought bubbles to depict each of the what-ifs Andrew might be thinking.

One possible activity:

Create a map of Vungtau. Include all the landmarks you read about today: The beach, the guesthouse, the cliffs, the taxi stand, the gym, and the hotel.

Discussion

Key Questions

Pages 62-77

1. Describe Andrew's descent into Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

2. Have you ever been on an airplane? How did your flight compare with Andrew's? Are there any cultural similarities or differences you can glean from Andrew's flight?
3. How does Andrew greet his distant relatives? What social/cultural similarities or differences are apparent in the way he greets his family? In the way he negotiates his sleeping situation?
4. Describe the city of Saigon as Andrew experiences it. What sights, sounds and smells are there? Does Vietnam interest you as an intriguing place to travel? Why or why not?
5. Do you think Andrew has what it takes to complete this bicycle journey? What would you say to Binh who believes a lengthy bicycle trip is only suitable for Europeans?

Key Questions

Pages 78-93

1. In the Fallen-Leaves section of today's reading, who do you think An's "big brothers" are?
2. What do you think Andrew means when he says of Hung and Son, "They seek generously to share their world with me, never realizing that their diverting marvels are my wounding horrors?"
3. Why do Andrew's Uncles give him a hard time about avoiding vegetables and ice? What message do they say he sends by not eating and drinking as they do?
4. What will happen to everyone on the fishing boat if they are caught by Vietnamese patrolmen?

Key Questions

Pages 94-106

1. What do you think Andrew was hoping to find on his trip to Saigon? How does what he hoped to find differ from his reality?
2. How does Andrew feel about Saigon and Vietnamese people after Fourth Sister shows him around his old neighborhood?
3. What advice would you give to him?

Key Questions

Pages 106-121

1. Why do you think Andrew feels so bad after giving his money away to the orphaned girl? Who or what does she symbolize to him?
2. In the Fallen-Leaves chapter, what did Andrew witness on the street in Saigon? Why do you think he chose to include this memory at this point in the story?
3. Saigon has really taken its toll on Andrew emotionally, and this is only the first leg of his journey through Vietnam. Do you think he has what it takes to make it to Hanoi and back? Explain your answer.
4. What do you think will happen to the Phams now that they have been picked up by the Indonesian freighter?

Key Questions

Pages 122-135

1. How did Andrew, Kuong, Hung, and Nghia get to Vung Tau?
2. Andrew says that it is the Vietnamese way to lie to your elders and only apologize if you are caught. How is this different from American culture?
3. Describe the town of Vung Tau.
4. Kim believes that her life would be different in America. Explain how things might change for her if Andrew were to bring her back with him.
5. What would you say to Andrew if he asked you why fate had favored him over Kim and others in Vietnam?

Analyze Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph – 73

“In the morning, Viet, Hung, Khuong, and I go out for breakfast. We walk down the street past scores of diminutive eateries. The neighborhood food scene is the Vietnamese version of the Paris Café-bistro life, discounted by a factor of twenty. The streets are dirtier, and much more crowded and loud. Old women sell food out of baskets. Knuckling their eyes, schoolchildren in white-and-blue uniforms jostle each other, crowding around the women to buy sweet rice, banana rice cakes, fried bread, baked goods, and rice porridge. We take one of the rusted tables lining an alley. A young boy immediately delivers three steaming bowls of beef noodle soup, each starring a six-inch section of ox tail. A rag of a mutt roots around under the tables for bones.”

Key Paragraph – 88

“The stars gleamed around an emptied moon. A cool breeze rolled off the ocean over the surf, across a road that paralleled the beach, and into the coconut field, combing up the foothills where we hid among the surrounding crickets. We hunkered down in the brush, twenty yards of coconut palms separating us and the road. Tien huddled with Huy on my right, whimpering so softly I could not make out his words. Bundled in a blanket at my feet, Hien, the four-year-old, wheezed through his snot, eased from crying into slumber by Mom’s sleeping pills. She crouched nearby, keeping one eye on us, the other on the road, where Auntie Dung and Chi waited to flag down Dad. We had been hiding since dusk, nearly six hours in one spot. I was crumbling with fear that my friend Hoa had told someone who might have gone to the police. Mom thought I had eaten something bad. She kept urging me to go up the hill and empty my bowels. I wanted to confess. I was sure Dad had been caught. It was 11 p.m. He was two hours late.”

Key Paragraph – 102

“I try to explain something to her about life in America. And that I don’t know her. I try not to let my disappointment show. I come searching for truths, hoping for redeeming grace, a touch of gentility. But, no. The abrasiveness of Saigon has stripped away my protective layers. I am raw and bare and I ask myself, Who are these strangers? These Vietnamese, these wanting-wanting-wanting people. The bitter bile of finding a world I don’t remember colors my disconsolate reconciliation between my Saigon of Old and

their muddy-grubby Saigon of Now. Saigon gnaws at me...its noise...its uncompromising want...its constant...Mememememememememememememe..."

Key Paragraph – 109

"Then there was nothing. The wildfire swept past me. Ashen, I pulled over. Without a word, Viet, his nephew and I went home. At the house, I parked my bike just inside the gate. The tears came without warning and I had to turn away from my uncles and aunts and nephews and nieces. I cried into the wall, the sobs racking my shoulders. There was nowhere to go, nowhere to hide in this little house, in this crowded neighborhood. I wept uncontrollably, as I did when I heard my sister Chi had committed suicide-my father cutting her free from a yellow nylon rope. I had known then, as I knew now, that I was weeping for her and I was weeping for myself because I was not there in the months before her death. Although we had lived in the same city, I had avoided her, too engrossed in my own life, my own problems."

Key Paragraph – 135

"Kim has never looked so beautiful. It's too late, but I wish I could tell her of the warmth and respect I harbor for her—for her tenacity, for her unblinking honesty, her selfless devotion to her family. She is very Vietnamese and very un-Vietnamese all at once. Fate is an obligation I don't understand—the reasons that random beast passed over her deserving soul in favor of mine."

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write an entry in your travel journal detailing the day's activities at breakfast, the bike shop, on the motorcycle, and in the café. Complete your journal entry with some thoughts about what you learned about Vietnam and Vietnamese culture today.

Pretend you are a communist government propagandist. Write a formal letter urging loyal families to turn in others who might be plotting to betray their country by escaping. Convince the loyal families that those who flee are traitors, who wish to do harm to the new government of the people. Appeal to their patriotism. Tell them what they will gain by doing so.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write a letter to your brother Tien who has always been your closest confidant. Tell him what you have seen over the past weeks in Saigon. Tell him of the people you have met. Tell him what you had hoped to gain from this experience. Express your feelings and your disappointment with what you have found instead.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write a letter to Tien explaining what happened with the little orphan girl you met today. Tell him how you wept. Explain to him what you think it is that you were really mourning for. Chi? Fate? The effects the war had on the people of

Vietnam? The effects the war had on your own family? Then tell him how you are currently feeling about your journey to Vietnam. Was the journey a big mistake?

Pretend you are Tien and that you have just received a letter from Andrew that told of his experiences with Kim. He has asked you two questions: Should he bring Kim back with him? And why does fate seem to have favored him over her? Write him back giving sound advice. Use examples from Andrew's life as well as Kim's to make your points.

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Catfish and Mandala, Week 3



Courage Requires Fortitude. Courage is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the Heroic Journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.

Investigate the Cu Chi Tunnel System:

http://www.mishalov.com/Vietnam_Cu-Chi.html

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/720577.stm>

An hour-long documentary on the Use of the Cu Chi Tunnels during the Vietnam war (a Vietnamese perspective)

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1919775245219225387>

Wordwall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

culprit-136	quarrels-137	homage-143	mulling-143	incredulously-145
venue – 156	gazebo – 156	atrocities – 156	capitalism-156	testimonies -156
baptizing – 148	expatriates – 148	refuge – 164	hospitality – 166	etiquette – 167
quell – 178	motley -179	commerce – 180	hovel -181	calamitous – 184
audacity – 195	exemplary – 195	predatory - 195	spectacle – 196	stench - 198

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read

pp. 136-148, 148-161, 162-177, 178-188, 189-199

RESPOND

Timeline Agree on the facts in today's reading, and list the 3-5 most important on the Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the next week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

One possible activity:

Create an Open Mind Portrait of Wong and another of Andrew who was his friend. Use thought bubbles to show all the things each might be thinking while Wong is on the roof about to jump.

One possible activity:

Create a poster advertising tours of the Cu Chi Tunnels. Include a diagram of a tunnel system. Include a single sentence that communicates why tourists should not miss this destination. Include a bulleted list of all they will get to see and experience while there. These articles may prove helpful:

http://www.mishalov.com/Vietnam_Cu-Chi.html

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/720577.stm>

One possible activity:

Create a front-page layout for a Shreveport Newspaper. Include a headline about the Pham family's arrival. Begin the article by writing the first sentence or two. Include a visual to go along with the story.

One possible activity:

Create an Open Mind Portrait of both Hai, the innkeeper, and of Andrew. Use speech bubbles to show the polite things they are saying to each other. Use thought bubbles to show what each is really thinking.

One possible activity:

Create an Open Mind Portrait of the family in the car on the way to the beach. Use speech bubbles to show what those who are speaking are saying. Use thought bubbles to show what those who are not speaking might be thinking.

Discussion

Key Questions

Pages 136-148

1. Where did the family end up once they were rescued by the Indonesian freighter? What were the conditions like?
2. Where is Andrew headed when he leaves Vung Tau? What does he think he needs to do there?
3. Describe everything you can about the bus trip so far.

Key Questions

Pages 148-161

1. Why does the bus stop for so long at the diner? Who makes money off this unscheduled stop? How?
2. What does Andrew mean when he says that the Vietnamese are “lemonade-stand children gouging five bucks for a paper cup of Kool-aid?”
3. Explain why the police don’t search the rest of the bus once they confirm that contra-band is on-board.
4. What does Andrew realize when he returns to Minh Luong Prison?
5. Why does Andrew’s guide get so angry when he takes out his camera?

Key Questions

Pages 162-177

1. Why do you think Grandpa and Grandma Pham decided to remain in Vietnam while the rest of the family made their escape?
2. Describe the differences between life in Vietnam and life in Shreveport, Louisiana for the Phams.
3. What advice would you give to someone moving to this country?
4. Imagine you were in Andrew’s shoes at the diner filled with angry locals. What would you have done?

Key Questions

Pages 178-188

1. Why did Andrew have to leave Ham Tan Village so quickly? What do you think would have happened had he stayed?
2. What does the old man on the bicycle carrying a transmission casing say is the big problem in Vietnam today?
3. What does Andrew find when he arrives in Phan Thiet? Is this different from anywhere else he has revisited in Vietnam?

4. When Andrew looks into the eyes of the man who owns the house he used to live in, there is a moment where he realizes he could just as easily have been this man, had fate dealt each a different hand. How do you think Andrew's life might be different if his family had stayed in Vietnam?

Key Questions

Pages 189-199

1. Why did Andrew's family move from Shreveport? What did they hope would be different in California?
2. What was life like for the Pham's on Locke Street?
3. What do you think happened to Chi after the detention center?
4. What do you suggest Andrew do in his situation at the train station?

Analyze Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph – 143

"5 a.m. The night couldn't have passed quickly enough. I want to be away from here. Away from Kim. I want to go north. I want to go to Hanoi and forget, but I need to pay homage to one more place in south Vietnam. I need to find Minh Luong Prison. Perhaps even more than touring the rest of the country. Somehow, I have long thought of it as the end of my journey—as if by finding Minh Luong and returning to the exact spot where I watched my father working the minefield, I will have come full circle. I spent the night mulling over my choices and nursing beers on the balcony. An hour before daybreak, I strap on my backpack and strike out for a brisk four-mile hike to the market, where a fleet of mini-vans shuttles people into Saigon hourly, sunrise to sunset. Hanoi must wait."

Key Paragraph – 156

"Now it is a major tourist attraction and a venue for government propaganda. Tourists, two-thirds foreigners, one-third Vietnamese come by the busloads. The staff are soldiers and civilians, some dressed in black pajamas and hand woven scarves, uniforms of the Viet Cong Guerrillas. We were grouped with other Vietnamese visitors, seated in a large gazebo to watch a war video about American atrocities spiced with a hefty dose of commentary on the evil of Western capitalism. A young soldier led us into a maze of trails twisting back and forth through the jungle. Great bomb-gouged pits, now weeded with vegetation, gaped like giant satellite dishes, testimonies of the unsuccessful U.S. attempts to destroy the tunnels. He showed us invisible trapdoors, tiger pits for men, and grenade-rigged manholes."

Key Paragraph – 164

"The first Baptist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana, was our bridge to America. They loaned us the airfares. They rented us one of the church properties, found Dad work, and generally took care of the family, making sure our transition to America was comfortable. We went to church three times a week: all morning Sunday, Wednesday night for Bible study and bowling, and Saturday night for church youth-group activities."

Except for two trips to the movies, we never went anywhere in our nine Shreveport months except to church. It was the most magnificent place we had ever seen. It had huge white Roman columns, lofty marble halls, great diamond chandeliers, walls of stained glass, miles upon miles of cardinal carpets, and velvet drapes that went almost to heaven.”

Key Paragraph – 181

“We are chatting amiably about the virtues of the house when our eyes meet—a strange moment—and we know we are holding a common thought: the transparency of our situation. Fate could have switched out destinies and no one would have been the wiser. I clear my throat and take demi-steps toward the door. I thank him for showing me his home. The tides of traffic and horns disorient me as I step into the road short of breath. Feeling guilty, I am very thankful we had the money to escape Vietnam.”

Key Paragraph – 194-195

“The first thing Chi did when we moved to California was throw away all her dresses and skirts. From her first day at high school, she wore men’s clothing. Her teachers, misled by her confident male body language, instinctively classified her as a boy. One thing rear-ended another and suddenly it avalanched beyond her control. Whether she wanted it or not, Chi had a new identity. At school, she was a *he*. And she used the boys’ locker room and competed in boys’ sports. She didn’t speak much English then, but what friends she had were all boys. She was one of them.

Things had gone quietly for a year and a half on Lock Drive until she had a row with Dad. He knew about the chest-bandaging and he tried to teach her how to be a normal girl. Chi, mirroring her father’s stubbornness, had sassed him. So Dad schooled his child, measuring out his love, in the way his father had taught him. He caned her.”

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write a letter to Tien explaining where you are going. Describe in detail what you hope to see and what you hope to accomplish through doing so. (Think about how seeing this place again might bring you “full-circle.”)

Pretend you are an American journalist visiting Vietnam in the 1990’s. Write a piece on the Cu Chi Tunnels. Explain the history of the tunnels and what tourists will get to see and do when they are there. Be descriptive. Include sights, sounds, smells, etc.

Pretend you are a reporter for a Shreveport newspaper. Write an article about the arrival of the Phams. Be sure to include how they arrived in Shreveport, who brought them there, what they have been up to. Encourage the residents to look out for them.

Imagine Andrew's family had not escaped. Pretend you are Andrew and tell the story of your life in Vietnam after the failed escape. What has become of the members of your family? Where in Vietnam do you live? What do you do? What do you wish for?

Pretend you are a reporter for a local San Jose Paper. Write the story of Trong Pham's arrest for beating his daughter. Include as many details about Trong and Chi as you can. You may wish to include a quote from Trong or Chi or both. Be sure to include: Where the family came from, how the school had managed to mistake Chi for a boy all this time.

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Catfish and Mandala, Week 4



Courage Requires Fortitude. Courage is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the Heroic Journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.

Wordwall Here are five vocabulary words to teach and add to the Word Wall.

predicament-205	compatriots-205	reciprocate-205	compensation-205	amends-208
cumbersome – 215	jovial -217	absurdly – 217	adamant – 218	indignant – 218
apprentice – 228	patriotic – 229	colonialism – 229	independence – 229	zealousness- 229
immune – 242	reincarnated – 243	bellhop – 244	concierge – 244	splendor – 245
impudent – 248	smoldered – 249	unabated – 251	magnanimous – 252	indignation - 253

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read

pp. 199-212, 213-224, 224-236, 236-246, 247-258

RESPOND

Timeline Agree on the facts in today's reading, and list the 3-5 most important on the Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the next week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

One possible activity:

Create a “photo snapshot” of Andrew sitting with his new friends drinking and eating in the train compartment. On the reverse side, note the date of the photo, the place, and label the people, using the nicknames Andrew gave to each.

One possible activity:

Pretend you are Andrew. Create a missing person poster for Chi that you can hang up around the Bay Area. Include a picture of Chi, a message to her, and a phone number that anyone can call with information.

One possible activity:

Create an Open Mind Portrait of both No-name and Andrew as he is explaining that Jen, the girl No-name was inquiring about, has gone for good. Use thought bubbles to show what each is thinking.

One possible activity:

Create a postcard of what Andrew sees while in the sampan boat. On the other side write a short note to your mother reassuring her that you are safe. Tell her that Vietnam is still beautiful. Tell her one thing you have learned about the purpose of life since you have been on this journey.

One possible activity:

Review page 250. Make a blue print of Grandma Pham’s house showing who is living in which room. How many people are living in this house?

And/Or

Based on what you have read so far, create a poster to be hung inside Grandma Pham’s house listing the five most important traditions to be observed in a Vietnamese Family.

Discussion

Key Questions

Pages 199-212

1. Why doesn’t the constable let Andrew pay the civilian rate?

2. Why do you think Huong and the Tung decided to stick their necks out for Andrew?
3. What details in today's reading highlight the poverty of Vietnam?
4. Have you ever helped someone out just because they needed help?
5. What do you think is going to happen now that Andrew and his friends have been spotted by the Hanoi Station Police?

Key Questions

Pages 213-224

1. How did things turn out after Dad got arrested and Chi ran away?
2. What advice would you give to Chi who wants to run away to San Francisco?
3. Why do you think the older police officer let Andrew go so easily? What does this say about the older and younger generations of Vietnamese Men?
4. Why do you think the hotel clerk at the new hotel is knocking on Andrew's door?
5. This is certainly no leisure trip Andrew is on. His travels have been hard work. Do you think all his effort is worth the experiences he is having?

Key Questions

Pages 224-236

1. Why do you think Andrew went looking for the backpackers' area? Why do you think he wanted to be around other tourists?
2. Review pages 227-229. Recall everything you can remember about Ho Chi Minh.
3. What advice regarding No-name would you give to Andrew if you could?

Key Questions

Pages 236-246

1. Why do you think Andrew includes these vignettes of when he was in school?
2. What made Andrew realize that he shouldn't be beating his brothers? Have you ever had an experience like that where one incident made you change the way you lived your life? Explain.
3. What memory did the dog getting run over spark for Andrew? What did his uncle tell him was going to happen now that he had eaten dog meat?
4. Andrew is searching for meaning on this trip. Some people believe that the way that you behave in this life, will affect your position and experiences in the next life. Others believe that how you behave now will affect your happiness in the after-life. What do you believe?
5. What do you think Andrew is thinking about as he floats down the river in this sampan? How do you think he is feeling? What details from page 246 give you this sense?

Key Questions

Pages 247-258

1. How long has Grandma Le been living in San Jose? What was she doing when he arrived?
2. Where is Andrew taking Grandma Le?
3. Describe how Andrew is supposed to act around his elders? How is this different or similar to your own family?

4. The celebration erupted into at least three different arguments. Can you explain what each was about?
5. What do you think Andrew's mother did in Vietnam that was shameful?

Analyze Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph – 203

"The grandfather is on his way to see his grandchildren. He makes twenty dollars a month as a laborer, so hopping a freight train is the only way he can travel five hundred kilometers once every year to visit them. The beggar boy is waiting for a cargo train to take him into Phan Thiet, where he panhandles every morning in the fish market. He travels widely because beggars ride trains and busses for free. It is considered bad luck to turn them away."

Key Paragraph – 214

"She equated being around to putting Dad in jail. He was sitting in jail about to be tried for child abuse. Her testimony would put him away, and that would be the end of us all."

'Where are you going to sleep?' I asked her, reeling in the void that suddenly separated her world and mine.

'I don't know. Maybe I'll find some place in San Francisco.' She had been there perhaps three times. I doubted she knew the way. Besides, her English was worse than ours. Two and a half years wasn't enough time to learn a new language.

'They'll find me here,' she said. 'There are more Asians in Chinatown.'

Key Paragraph – 227

"I think whatever Vietnamese—Northerners, Southerners, or Viet-Kieu—feel about this man and his ideologies, they respect him as all the underdog countries of the world do. For here was a man of inconsequential beginnings who crept through the land of the white man as a menial laborer and returned to wrestle his homeland from empires. Founder of the Vietnamese Communist Party and President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam from 1946 until his death in 1969, Ho Chi Minh was born Nguyen Sinh Cuong to a fiercely nationalistic scholar-official of humble means. He studied in Hue at the Quoc Hoc Secondary School, then migrated south to work as a teacher in Phan Thiet, my hometown, the very villages where my father, eking out a living as a teacher, met my mother. At the age of twenty-one, Ho signed on to a French ship as a cook's apprentice, the first step to what would become a thirty-year journey that would take him to North America, Africa, and Europe. He settled in London, the Paris, earning a living as a gardener, snow sweeper, waiter, photo finisher, and mastered several languages, including English, French, German, and Mandarin. It was his tenure in the racially prejudiced Western world that led Ho to examine his roots and nurture his sense of patriotism."

Key Paragraph – 243

“I feel nauseous. I can almost smell roasting ginger and dog fat—the smoky arid edge of barbecued ribs dripping on hot coals. I remember my first taste of dog meat. My uncle had forced it down my throat when I was a kid in Saigon. The beerhouse smelled terrible, rancid if it weren’t for the cigarette smoke and the grill. Red-faced men talk-shouted, tearing into dog ribs with their teeth and tossing bones on the muddy floor. The owner, a mean-faced old woman, took my money and handed me a small plate of roasted dog meat, the pieces cut thin like nickels. One day, Uncle Hung was drunk and he ordered me to eat it. With him preparing to smack obedience into me, I put a slice into my mouth. It tasted gamey, almost like rabbit. The ginger killed most of the strange meat flavor. ‘Ha! Ha! Ha! You ate it! You know what this means? In your next life, you’ll be reincarnated as a dog!’ I tried to vomit without success and I bawled with fears only an adult could instill. Whenever she visited me, Chi would take pity and go in my place to fetch Uncle Hung’s dog meat.”

Key Paragraph – 251

“I didn’t have much in common with most of my uncles. I hated having to bow, grovel, and show them respect the whole nine yards like a ten-year-old schoolboy just because they were my elders. Uncle Hong was a natural entrepreneur, at the moment a real estate speculator. Uncle Hun was a lifelong technician, a classic worker ant. Slumlord Uncle Hoang was the only Pham nearing millionaire status. He used to have me paint his illegal apartments until I decided to charge him minimum hourly wages. His wife, a beauty queen who didn’t get along with the rest of the family too well, didn’t show up for the ceremony, causing fierce whispering among the wives-in-law.”

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

In and around the train station, Andrew is struck yet again by the poverty of Vietnam, especially when compared to the relative riches of the United States. It is evidenced in the people he meets, in the dilapidated state of buildings, in the food that he eats, etc. Pretend you are Andrew, the writer. Write a short piece for an American newspaper describing the poverty of Vietnam. Focus on either the people you have met, or the run-down state of your surroundings. Use details and description to paint a verbal picture for your readers. Evaluate your journal entry using the checklist you created today. Then revise.

Pretend you are a runaway hotline worker and that you have just received a call from Chi who is cold, hungry and scared. Imagine that she has explained her story and her dilemma thoroughly. Provide her with the best, detailed, step-by-step advice that you can. What should she do? What should she NOT do? Where should she go? How can her situation best be resolved? What might happen if she deviates from your plan?

Review the short biography of Ho Chi Minh’s life on pages 227-229. Pretend the year is 1969 and that you have been assigned the task of writing his obituary. The tone of an

obituary should be one of sorrow and praise. Be careful not to say anything that would slight his character. Tell the story of his life and explain his significance to Vietnam and its people. (This may take more than one paragraph.)

It is generally accepted that life has purpose. Some people believe that the purpose of this life is to ensure a happy after-life or next life. Many others believe in a secular purpose. State what you believe to be your purpose in life. Then provide examples of how you are fulfilling that purpose.

Choose a Vietnamese tradition you have read about today. Perhaps it is the requirement to respect your elders. Perhaps it is the duty to take care of your family. Or perhaps it is the tradition of honoring the dead. Explain the tradition. Provide examples from the text. You may wish to compare the tradition to one from your own family, exposing the similarities or the differences.

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Catfish and Mandala, Week 5



Courage Requires Fortitude. Courage is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the Heroic Journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.

Research the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Wordwall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

quintessential-262	crestfallen-262	talisman-266	benediction-266	folklore-266
mesmerized – 278	materialize – 279	jilted – 282	entourage – 283	literati – 283
trepidation – 288	anticlimactic – 288	gawk – 289	revelry – 292	vexed- 292
demeanor – 296	retrospect – 299	cordial – 301	scythe – 304	eviscerated – 305
revelatory – 312	humiliating – 312	avert – 312	treasonous – 313	placating - 313

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read Read the selection, usually in a Shared Reading *Read React Predict Cycle* of 2-3 pages.

pp. 259-271, 272-284, 284-294, 295-307, 308-322

RESPOND

Timeline Agree on the facts in today's reading, and list the 3-5 most important on the Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the next week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

One possible activity:

Create a postcard showing Andrew and the old man sharing Clay Pot Catfish. On the back write a short note to Tyle about this man. Tell him what he says about American soldiers and his invitation to tea.

One possible activity:

Create an Open Mind Portrait of the Colonel and Trieu. Use speech bubbles and thought bubbles to show what each is saying and to show what each might be thinking about the other.

One possible activity:

Create an advertisement for “Gaping Fish.” Provide a visual, a short description of its uniqueness and a price.

One possible activity:

Create a single or double frame cartoon that depicts the differences in accommodations at the traditional Vietnamese family home and the Hotel No. 1. Include a caption.

One possible activity:

Create eight small boxes on a piece of paper. Above each, write the names: Mom, Dad, Chi, Andrew, Tien, Huy, Hien, and Kay. Draw a symbol inside the box that represents each family member. Below the box, write a word or short phrase that says something positive about the way this person turned out.

Discussion

Key Questions

1. What did Andrew learn from his “old schoolmate, who had turned professional Vietnamese-American gangster?” How did Andrew use this to disarm the three men on the motorcycle?
2. Compare the Vietnamese philosophy or life and work to that of Americans.
3. How does the old man feel about America and American veterans now?

Key Questions

1. How do the Van's make their money to survive in America? Do you think they take good care of Mr. Becket? What clues from the reading make you think this?
2. How do you imagine Trieu is feeling about her father after today's reading? How do you imagine Colonel Van views his once-abandoned daughter?
3. What would you do if you were Andrew and Trieu shared the information about her father's inappropriate behavior with you?
4. In Hue, how is Andrew feeling about the Vietnamese? Are there people there who are not like that?

Key Questions

1. Why did Andrew seek out western tourists after his time with Tin and Khai? What might he miss out on by doing so?
2. Why did the German man get feel so sickened when the cook described the process for preparing gaping fish?
3. Name all the ways that the Cham ruins turned out to be a tourist trap and a rip-off.
4. What is it about Carolyn that makes Andrew enjoy Vietnam more when he is with her?

Key Questions

1. What happened to Chi in the fourteen years that she was away from the family?
2. Why do you think Chi-Minh killed himself? Do you think there is anything Andrew could have done to prevent this?
3. How would you describe Andrew's travels through Vietnam? A vacation? A tour? A journey? A Job? What makes it more one or the other?
4. Would you ever be interested to travel in such a way? Why or why not?

Key Questions

1. How did Andrew's mother make the money to get her family to America?
2. Why do the three soldiers want to fight Andrew? What does Andrew represent to them?
3. What does Andrew's reaction to his brother's coming out say about how Andrew feels about family?
4. If you were Andrew, what would you say to your father who is expressing his regret for the way he raised you?
5. What do you think Andrew means when he says, "A survivor does not have the luxury of counting his blessings?"

Analyze Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph – 267

"No, I do not hate American soldiers. Who are they? They were boys, as I was. They were themselves, but also part of a greater culture—the government. As was I. I can no more blame them than a fish I eat can be blamed for what I do."

'You see, their pond is America. Here, in these hills, in this jungle, they are food.'

'Me, I am in my land. I am in my water. These hills where I've killed Vietnamese and Americans. I see these hills every day. I can make my peace with them. For Americans, it was an alien place then as it is an alien place to them now. These hills were the land of their nightmares then as they are now. The land took their spirit. I eat what grows of this land and someday I will return all that I have taken from it. Here is my home, my birthland and my grave.'

'Tell your friend Tyle. There is nothing to forgive. There is no hate in this land. No hate in my heart. I am a poor man, my home is a hut with a dirt floor, but he is welcome here. Come and I shall drink tea with him, welcome him like a brother.'

Key Paragraph – 276

" 'Do you know what I like about you, An?'
I did. But I said, 'No, What do you like about me?'

'You're good. You're different. One in a million.'

It was her favorite cliché, one she wished to believe. It seemed so easy to along with her, but the words sat in my throat. Someday, I would have to tell her the truth. She made me strive to be something better, but at the heart of it, I was no better than the next guy. I tried to be decent because she needed it."

Key Paragraph – 290-291

" 'Please, you must come back and enjoy my specialty—*Gaping Fish*,' he bubbles with barely enough patience for me to translate to my companion, the German epicure. 'It is a dish I learned from a great Chinese chef when I went to Canton to study. O can make it with any sauce you want, garlic-lemon-butter, French tomato and mushrooms, or Chinese sweet-and-sour. Anything.'"

Key Paragraph – 299

"After receiving some money as Christmas presents, Minh took a taxi to San Jose Airport and flew to Orange County to find his ex-wife. He lingered until his money ran out. It was his last attempt and it failed. Broke and brokenhearted, he returned on New Year's Eve to Grandma's, where his uncle and aunt put him up temporarily in the spare room. Three days later, Minh took his life with a yellow nylon rope tied to the bedroom rafters. At thirty-two, he died the most Vietnamese of deaths, a brokenhearted suicide. His father cut him down from the ceiling while his mother and grandmother wept. And his family, who could not love him while he lived, grieved his passing. His ashes were scattered on the sea he never finished crossing."

Key Paragraph – 320

“He turned from me and I caught his awful sadness in profile. ‘I should have been a better father to you boys. I should have been more like an American father. They know how to cherish their children. I should have taken you camping...or something.’”

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Review the paragraphs above. Explain in plain English what you think the old man is trying to say about the war between America and Vietnam and its participants. Use examples to make your argument clear.

Pretend you are Andrew, trying to be the better person Trieu believes you to be. Give her sound advice as to what she ought to do about her father. Provide detailed step-by-step instructions. Include anything you are able to help her with.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write an email to your mother. In it, tell her about the Chef you met today and about his favorite dish, “Gaping Fish. Provide her with the step-by-step instructions for preparing this dish. Be clear in your instructions, being careful to anticipate places where she might misunderstand.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write an email to your mother. In it, tell her about the Chef you met today and about his favorite dish, “Gaping Fish. Provide her with the step-by-step instructions for preparing this dish. Be clear in your instructions, being careful to anticipate places where she might misunderstand.

Pretend you are Andrew. There are so many things you wished you could have said to Chi-Minh that you were not able to say when he was alive. Write him a letter in the style of a memo. Use a bulleted list to say communicate the main points you wish you could have gotten across to him before he died.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write a letter in the style of a proposal to your father. In it, briefly describe how you hope to change your future relationship with him. Tell him the things you intend to do differently. Suggest things that he might try doing differently. Close by telling him you hope he will accept your offer for a fresh start.

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Catfish and Mandala, Week 6



Courage Requires Fortitude. Courage is risk for a reason, not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the Heroic Journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.

Wordwall Here are five vocabulary words to teach and add to the Word Wall.

acclimatize-324	microorganisms-324	vindicated-326	lull-329	acquaintance-331
secondary – 337	symbolic – 337	unobtrusive – 337	exuberant – 338	intention - 339

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read Read the selection, usually in a Shared Reading *Read React Predict Cycle* of 2-3 pages.

pp. 323-334, 335-342

RESPOND

Timeline Agree on the facts in today's reading, and list the 3-5 most important on the Timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline.

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the next week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

One possible activity:

Create a cartoon that depicts Andrew as a Vietnamese lost brother.

Discussion

Key Questions

Pages 323-334

1. How does Andrew describe Nha Trang?
2. Explain the difference between Vietnamese culture and American culture when it comes to dining out.
3. Explain what Calvin means when he says that Viet-kieu are the lost brothers. Do you think Andrew feels like this in Vietnam? In America? What clues in the book make you think this?

Key Questions

Pages 335-342

1. What happens to Andrew when he reaches Ca Na?
2. What do the children and the old lady help Andrew to realize?
3. What do you think Andrew learned on this journey?
4. What do you think Andrew means when he says he is going to be a “better American?” How do you think he will change his life from this point forward?

Analyze Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph – 329-330

“The silence tells me we are moving too far into no-man’s-land. One more cigarette. More beer. Tusking the smoke out of his nostrils, he seems to brace himself, gathering force like a wave, building before cresting white. As his beliefs come barreling out, I know the crushing impact of his words will stay with me, for in them I catch a glimpse of myself and the true Cuong, the Cuong that came before and is deeper than the suave Calvin facing me. *‘Vietnamese aren’t ashamed of our own poverty. We’re not ashamed of squatting in mud huts and sleeping on rags. There is no shame in being poor. We were born into it just as Westerners are born white. The Westerners are white as we are yellow. There is already a difference between us. Our poverty is minor in the chasm that already exists. A small detail. The real damning this is the fact that there are Viet-kieu, our own brothers, skin of our skin, blood of our blood, who look better than us, more civilized, more educated, more wealthy, more genteel. Viet-kieu look kingly next to the average Vietnamese. Look at you, look at me. You’re wearing old jeans and I’m wearing a suit, but it’s obvious who...who is superior. Can’t you see? We look like monkeys because you make us look like monkeys just by your existence.’*”

Key Paragraph – 338

“No guilt. I realize suddenly, looking into her joy-gushing face. We stand on separate islands, nothing between us except our designs. And the perfection of our intention is enough. We: friends sharing a sea bath. Our Skein of history casts no shade on this moment. I wish at once Tyle were here in my shoes under this sky. Maybe he would understand that his past wrongs can be mended with the totality of his regrets, a pure desire that things might have been different, a wish of wellness for the survivors. Forgiveness is a hollow gift when there is no mountain to move as compensation for the wrongs. For our truths change with time. There is nothing else. No mitigating circumstances and no power to undo sins. No was. Only is. Between us, there is but a thin line of intention.”

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Pretend you are Andrew. Write a letter to your brother Tien explaining your feelings about being Vietnamese, Vietnamese-American, and Viet-kieu. Tell him about Calvin and your conversation last night. Ask him for advice regarding not being accepted as wholly American or wholly Vietnamese?

Final Essay:

Pretend you are Andrew Pham. You have just written your travelogue, titled *Catfish and Mandala*. Write a letter to the readers of your memoir to be placed on the inside front cover. In it, introduce yourself and then explain the context of the tale you have written. Discuss the most important thing you learned on your adventure, and suggest what you hope readers will get out of your memoir. Close how you see fit. Be sure to revise after your first draft and edit your final copy.