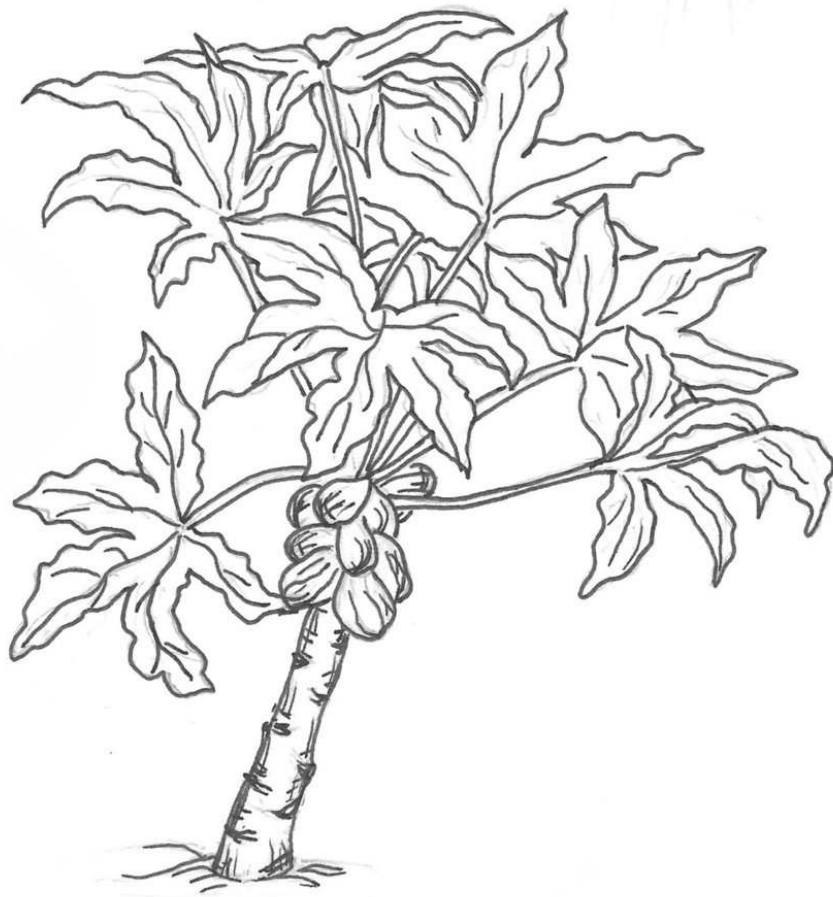


Inside Out & Back Again

by Thanhha Lai



Novel Study Completed By: _____

Lesson I-Read Pg. 1-25

What are some traditions of the first day of the lunar calendar?

What do you learn in the poem "Inside Out"?

What do you learn about the main character in the poem "Kim Ha"?

Why does Ha's best friend move away?

Lesson 1

Which brother do you think Ha is closest to? Why?

Ha talks about her papaya tree and the fruit it bears. What do you think the papayas symbolize?

Some of the poems have a specific date at the end, but others say "every day". Why do you think that is?

Give an example of figurative language on page two. _____

Give an example of figurative language on page five. _____

Why is the setting of this text important? _____

Lesson 2-Read Pg. 26-51

Before reading the chapter, visit <http://bit.ly/insideoutandbackagainresearch> to learn more about Ho Chi Minh. Write down three important things you learned.

Why did Ha's parents move to South Vietnam? Why didn't her mom's family come with them?

Ha's mom calls a family meeting to discuss whether or not they should try to leave South Vietnam. They each have a different opinion. Who do you agree with? Why?

Why does the family decide to leave? _____

Lesson 3-Read Pg. 52-69

The children are allowed to each choose one special thing to take with them. What would you choose in that situation?

Why do you think Ha loves her doll "more for her scars"?

What news does the pilot give the passengers of the boat?

Why do you think the author broke the book into different parts?

Put yourself in Ha's shoes. How would you feel and react in her situation?

Lesson 4-Read Pg. 73-III

Why do you think it is so important for Ha to begin learning English?

What did Khoi try to keep? Why?

Why does Ha throw her doll overboard? What does this tell you about her character and relationship with her brother?

Why does Ha pluck the sailor's arm hair?

Lesson 5-Read Pg. 115-141

How does Ha feel about learning English? Why causes her to have trouble?

How does Ha's family react to trying fried chicken for the first time? Why?

Ha cannot read an easy children's book. Does that mean she is not intelligent? Why?

Why does the teacher laugh at Ha?

Lesson 6-Read Pg. 142-168

Why doesn't Ha eat lunch on her first day of school?

What is Ha's greatest wish? Why do you think that's so important to her?

How does the community and neighbors welcome Ha's family to the neighborhood?

What is your reaction to Miss Washington?

Lesson 7-Read Pg. 169-195

On page 182 Ha says, "I don't believe her, but it feels good that someone knows. Describe a time you told someone something where just being heard made you feel better.

How did Ha experience a "most relieved day"?

What made Ha feel smart again?

Why do you think Ha would chose wartime in Saigon over peacetime in Alabama?

Lesson 8-Read Pg. 196-216

Compare Ha's life in Vietnam and Alabama. How are things alike and different?

What connection to Miss Washington and Ha have?

Why does Ha feel like she is responsible for all of her suffering?

Lesson 9-Read Pg. 217-234

How did Ha plan to get away from the sixth grader who wanted to beat her up?

What are your feelings about the cowboy? What about his wife?

What does Ha's mother mean when she tells Ha to "learn to compromise" Is she talking about the papaya or something else?

How do you think the family felt about their gifts?

Lesson 10-Read Pg. 237-Finish

The family hopes their father is arrive, but what do they believe has happened to him?

Compare the first and last poems in the text. How are they similar and different?

What is your reaction to the book? Did you enjoy it? Why or why not?
