### Book Information

*Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

### Pre-Club Activities

Prior to the club, pass out copies of the book and flyers with talking points to families; ask families to read the book and to begin discussing the subjects of the Vietnam War, Communism, and what it means to be a refugee in another country.

### Club Activities

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<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Talk about the Vietnam War and what happened that caused Vietnamese people to leave their homeland. Talk about the different places Vietnamese people went and what happened to them when they arrived in these new places.</td>
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| **Discussion Questions** | 1. Hà and her brothers are only allowed to take one item in their backpack other than clothes and food. Hà picks her doll that she once loaned to a friend which was then bitten by a mouse. What would you select to take with you? Why?  
  2. Hà and her brother Khôi experience name-calling and teasing when they go to school in Alabama. Do you see others being called names and teased in your own school? What do you do about it? How would you feel if you were being called names and teased? How would you welcome a new student in your school?  
  3. When Hà and her family introduce themselves to their neighbors, many of them are unkind and slam the door in their faces. Why do their neighbors do this? How does it make Hà feel? How would it make you feel?  
  4. Compare Hà’s life in Vietnam and Alabama. How are things different? How are they the same?  
  5. Hà and her family make many difficult decisions before they leave Vietnam, during their transition, and once they reach Alabama. What are some of the difficult decisions they made? What are some difficult decisions your family has made and how did you decide what to do as a family? |
| **Family Activity** | In the Author’s Note, Thanhha Lai writes that she “hope(s) after you finish this book that you sit close to someone you love and implore that person to tell and tell and tell their story”. Parents, Caregivers, and Elders, share a meaningful story from your childhood and talk about what it was like growing up in a different place, time, etc. from the child(ren) you are participating in the book group with. |

Visit [http://dia.ala.org](http://dia.ala.org) for more resources, activity sheets, and information.
## Activity Description/Information

**Small Group Activity**
In small groups, with groups cycling through craft stations:

1. Try some of the foods that Hà describes as her favorite such as papaya, mungbean, and rice. Everyone is thrilled when Fish Sauce becomes available to cook with. Try a taste (probably best on rice or another item) and see what you think.

2. Hà gets one birthday wish, but makes a few more that she keeps to herself. Make a list of your own birthday wishes and share with the group. Do any of you have similar wishes or are they all different? Draw a picture of your birthday traditions and share with the group.

**Full Group Activity**
Write a group free-verse poem. One at a time, you will write a line of a poem and then pass it on to the next person. The first person will write one line at the top of the page, and then pass it on to the second person. The second person will read the first person’s line, and then write their own. Before they pass it onto the third person, the second person will fold the paper over the first person’s line so that only the new line of poetry is showing and then pass it onto the third person. The third person will read the second person’s line of poetry, and then add their own, and fold the paper over the second person’s line of poetry before passing it onto the fourth person. Continue this process until everyone has written a line and then read the poem out loud.

## Post Club Activities

1. Learn about what Vietnam is like today by reading books in the library or looking online.