

## A Different Pond

Written by Bao Phi  
Illustrated by Thi Bui  
2018 Caldecott Honor Book

Bao Phi is a poet and author. This story is partly based on his life growing up in Minnesota.

Thi Bui was also born in Vietnam. She lives in California. Thi Bui wrote a graphic novel (the art is similar to comic book art) about her family.

**Introduce yourself. The author said that he hopes readers of the book will see themselves in the story. Tell your group where you see yourself in the story.**

Often the books we read use similes (a comparison of two unlikely things using the words *like* or *as*) to help the reader form a mental picture. As you read, look for similes and talk about how they help you visualize something about the story.

The setting of a story includes the place, time, and mood. What can you tell about the setting from the first illustration?

Explain how a thick, dirty river evokes different feelings than a gentle rain.

How would you describe the relationship between the boy and his father?

Did you find anything in the story surprising?

What does the title of the book mean?

What might a child learn from this book? What are the main themes?

What feeling does the story leave you with?

What is your favorite illustration? What is your opinion of the style of illustration?

How do the illustrations help to tell the story?

Read the author note at the end of the book. Does knowing these details about Bao's life affect your understanding of the story?

Read the note from the artist. Find the items she mentions throughout the pages.

If you were going to illustrate a book that included items from your childhood, what would you include?

The boy has never seen the country where his parents grew up. He likes his father to tell him stories about life there. What would you want to share with the children in your life about the country where you were born and grew up?

