



# The Booklist Project



Focus: Culture-Specific Booklist

Vietnamese

Developed by: Libby Renner

Fall, 2011

**Vietnamese Book List**

**Grades K-3**



**Compiled By: Libby Renner**

**READ 507**

**Fall 2011**

**Garland, Sherry. (1993). *The Lotus Seed*. San Diego, California: Harcourt Brace and Company. [ISBN: 0-15-249465-0]**

*The Lotus Seed* is a story about a woman who is forced to leave Vietnam at a young age and brings a lotus seed with her. The lotus seed represents the woman's determination to remember her past while adjusting to life in her new world. Years later, her grandson steals the seed and the woman is inconsolable. She feels better once the lotus blossoms again and then gives each of her grandchildren a seed to remember her by. There is an Author's Note in the back of the book that provides more history of Vietnam. This can relate to ELLs because most can relate to having to start over in a strange, new place.

WIDA Level: Developing

Available in: Hardcover, paperback, audio/cassette

Teacher Resources:

<http://www.sherrygarland.com/>

[http://sherrygarland.swiftsite.com/lotus\\_seed.htm](http://sherrygarland.swiftsite.com/lotus_seed.htm)

**Keller, Holly. (1994). *Grandfather's Dream*. New York, New York: Greenwillow Books. [ISBN: 0-688-12339-2]**

The Vietnam War is over and Grandfather is hopeful the new dikes will restore the wetlands, bringing home the beautiful cranes. The younger generation tends to think the wetlands will be of more practical use for growing rice. The multigenerational feel of the story will allow ELLs to compare the story to the dynamic of their own families.

WIDA Level: Developing/Expanding

Available in: Hardcover, paperback

Teacher Resources:

<http://www.readingtokids.org/Books/BookView.php?pag=4&bookID=00000404>

**Tran, Truong. (2003). *Going Home, Coming Home*. San Francisco, California: Children's Book Press. [ISBN: 0-89239-179-0]**

A young Vietnamese-American returns to Vietnam for a visit with her family. In the beginning, she resents having to go and does not appreciate the experience. By the end, she realizes Vietnam is a huge part of her family history and comes to accept Vietnam as her second home. She sees herself as both

Vietnamese and American. ELLs can relate to this because they too have to go through the process of accepting both cultures and discovering themselves.

WIDA Level: Developing/Expanding

Available in: Hardcover, Audible Audio Edition, Bilingual Version

Teacher Resources:

<http://teachersbookshelf.wordpress.com/2009/01/01/going-home-coming-home-by-truong-tran/>

**Garland, Sherry. (2001). *Children of the Dragon*. San Diego, California: Harcourt, Inc. [ISBN: 0-15-224200-7]**

This book is a compilation of different folktales of Vietnam. These folktales were used as a means of instruction and entertainment. They illustrate the origins of plants, animals, and other natural phenomena. ELLs can relate to this book because it may serve as a backdrop of their cultural backgrounds. They may learn more about the history and origins of their people by reading/hearing some of these stories.

WIDA Level: Bridging

Available in: Hardcover

Teacher Resources:

<http://www.sherrygarland.com/>

**Giraud, Herve. (2002). *Basha, A Hmong Child*. Detroit, Michigan: Blackbirch Press. [ISBN: 1-4103-0547-3]**

This is a nonfiction book about what it is like to live as a member of the Hmong tribe. Many topics are covered, from facts about Vietnam to markets and sugarcane. There are many descriptive photographs in each section, as well. It shows the little girl's home and depicts the daily life of a Hmong child. ELLs can relate to this book because they can learn more about the culture in Vietnam and tie it to their own family values or traditions.

WIDA Level: Expanding

Available in: Hardcover

Teacher Resources:

<http://www.socialstudies.esmartweb.com/HTMLcourse/HmongLP.htm>

**Surat, Michele Maria. (1983). *Angel Child, Dragon Child*. New York, New York: Scholastic, Inc. [ISBN: 0-590-42271-5]**

A little girl, Ut, has just come from Vietnam and is adjusting to life in America. She does not like her new American school and misses her mother terribly. Every day she comes home from school hoping to see her mother. At the end of the story, her mother arrives in America. ELLs can relate to this story because they have probably experienced the same feelings as Ut in this story at one point or another. They may also relate to missing a relative who is far away.

WIDA Level: Expanding

Available in: Paperback, Hardcover

Teacher Resources:

[http://www.homeschoolshare.com/angel\\_child\\_dragon\\_child.php](http://www.homeschoolshare.com/angel_child_dragon_child.php)

**MacMillan, Dianne M. (1994). *Tet, Vietnamese New Year*. Hillside, New Jersey: Enslow Publishers. [ISBN: 0-89490-501-5]**

This is a nonfiction book that informs the reader of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. The author informs the reader of the history of Tet, as well as its effect in schools and with the family. It also talks about the different Tet celebrations. It talks about the preparations for Tet and how important it is for each generation to take part in the celebrations. ELLs can relate to this story because this may be a holiday they celebrate. They may inform their fellow classmates of the traditions in their own families.

WIDA Level: Developing/Expanding

Available in: Hardcover

Teacher Resources:

<http://www.familyculture.com/holidays/tet.htm>

**Sheen, Barbara. (2006). *Foods of Vietnam*. Detroit, Michigan: Kidhaven Press. [ISBN: 0-7377-3452-3]**

This is a nonfiction book that explores the different foods of Vietnam. There are also multiple recipes inside the book. Readers may find out where/how the crops grow. A variety of foods are researched, including the official Vietnamese dish as well as some Vietnamese snacks. ELLs can relate to this book because they may eat some of the foods found in this book.

WIDA Level: Expanding

Available in: Hardcover

Teacher Resources:

[http://www.mylinhrestaurant.com/food\\_vietnamese.html](http://www.mylinhrestaurant.com/food_vietnamese.html)

**Crouch, Adele M. (2010). *Where Hummingbirds Come From*. Herndon, Virginia: Mascot Books. [ISBN: 1-936319-04-7]**

This story tells of a young girl's time with her grandmother as the grandmother passes down the legend of where hummingbirds come from. The grandmother explains the magic waters and beauty of the hummingbird. ELLs will enjoy this story because their culture is full of many folktales and this book is fairly easy to read and understand.

WIDA Level: Beginning

Available in: Nook and Kindle format, Paperback, Bilingual Version

Teacher Resources:

<http://www.creationsbycrouch.com/humming.html>

**Crouch, Adele M. (2010). *How the Fox Got His Color*. Herndon, Virginia: Mascot Books. [ISBN: 193487888X]**

This story tells of a young girl's time with her grandmother as the grandmother passes down the legend of how the fox got his color. The grandmother explains how the fox went on many adventures, and those adventures helped to become the red fox we all know of today. ELLs will enjoy this story because their culture is full of many folktales and this book is fairly easy to read and understand.

WIDA Level: Beginning

Available in: Nook and Kindle format, Paperback, Bilingual Version

Teacher Resources:

<http://www.creationsbycrouch.com/fox.html>

**Below are some helpful websites with more information about the Vietnamese culture:**

<http://www.vietnam-culture.com/>

<http://www.vietspring.org/>

<http://hmongstudies.com/VietnamforESOLteachersVS2002.pdf>

<http://www.adoptvietnam.org/books/books-children-nonfiction.htm>

<http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Sr-Z/Vietnamese-Americans.html>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



# The Booklist Project

A Project of the  
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



Feinstein School of Education and Human Development  
Rhode Island College

For Further Information, Contact:

Nancy Cloud, Ed.D., Director

[ncloud@ric.edu](mailto:ncloud@ric.edu)

Rhode Island College

600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Providence, RI 02908