



A Campaign of the
Oakland Literacy Coalition

Read Aloud Guide

Title: *Going Home, Coming Home* by Truong Tran, illustrated by Ann Phong

Best for: 3rd-5th grade

Summary: This book is about Ami Chi, who lives with her family in America. But one summer she travels with her family to Vietnam to visit her parents' homeland. She's very unsure and unhappy at first - everything is very different from America and she doesn't really know any of the relatives or friends she meets. But over time she gets to know her extended family and even makes some friends. She starts to realize that "home" is not just in one place, but a feeling of belonging.

Why we chose this book: We love that this book shows a very common experience that many students have: they are born here in the US but their parents are from other countries, often having left those countries during times of turmoil or war. This book carefully and clearly shows the mixed feelings of a young girl who feels caught between two places - where she is growing up and where her parents came from. It also shows a common experience of a child being afraid/unsure of a new or unfamiliar experience, and that it often takes time to get used to new places and people.

Notes: There are many Vietnamese names throughout the book. Here is a pronunciation guide to help out!

- **Ami Chi** (Vietnamese) *AYMEE CHAY*: Vietnamese name (p. 5)
- **Binh** (Vietnamese) *BUHN*: Vietnamese name (p. 6)
- **Ho Chi Minh** (*HOH CHEE MIHN*) City: largest city in Vietnam, formerly known as Saigon (p. 8)
- **Ba ngoai** (Vietnamese) *BAH NGUY*: grandmother (p. 11)
- **Cho Long** (Vietnamese) *CHUHR LUHRN*: the big market (p. 14)
- **Thao** (Vietnamese) *TOOH*: Vietnamese name (p. 17)
- **Tuan** (Vietnamese) *TWAHN*: Vietnamese name (p. 17)

Central themes: Vietnamese-American family life, extended family relationships, home and identity, dual-nationality families

Introducing the book: You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:

"This book is about a young girl named Ami Chi who lives with her parents here in the United States. One summer the family travels to Vietnam where her parents are from. They visit relatives, but it's really hard for Ami Chi at first because she doesn't speak Vietnamese, and she is not happy at first."

"Does anyone here have parents that were born in another country? Have you ever gone to visit with them?"

After Reading: Debrief with students

"How does Ami Chi feel about being in Vietnam at the beginning of the trip? How do you know?" (She is unsure, she doesn't like it; she says she wants to go home.)

"How does she feel about Vietnam towards the end of her trip?" (She likes it more; she calls it "home," she meets some friends and has fun playing.)

"Why does Ami Chi feel like Vietnam is also her home?" (She has relatives and friends there, she belongs there as well as at her home in the US.)

"Does anyone here feel like they have more than one type of home?"