

# A Long Way from Home

## EMPHASIZED STRUCTURES

### Verb Particles in Passive Construction

Examples of verb particles used in passive constructions in the story include the following:

- The names in the story were made up, but the story is based on true events.
- Gai Vang's husband and two eldest sons fought beside the American soldiers in Vietnam, while their tiny farm in Laos was taken care of by Gai and her four other children.
- Gai's husband was killed in the war, and her two sons were taken away to an enemy prison camp.

### Relative Clauses in Medial Position

Relative clauses in the middle of a sentence were introduced in Mosaic and are reinforced in this story. Examples used in the story include the following:

- The communist government thought that the Hmong people who had helped the American soldiers were enemies of the new government.
- Her daughter Sue, who was only eight years old, carried the small bag that contained the family's possessions.
- Thousands of Hmong people who had escaped from the mountains of Laos lived there, waiting for a chance to relocate.
- An American family who lived in St. Paul, Minnesota, had promised to help the Vang family until the Vangs could become financially independent.

### Genitive Construct

The genitive construct was introduced in the previous story, "Lilly and Her Sisters," and is reinforced in this story. Examples of the genitive construct used in the story include the following:

- Gai Vang's husband and two eldest sons fought beside the American soldiers in Vietnam.
- Both of Gai's sons were hit by bullets and fell into the river.
- Only the Hmong woman's courageous spirit kept her pulling the tiny, crude boat across the wide river to the other side.
- The doctors at the hospital said that the young girl's illness was called meningitis and that she might die.
- On Sue's twelfth birthday, Gai received a letter from the United States government.

### Prefixes Re- and Un-

- relocate and rebuild their homes
- resettled in the mountains
- rejoin the two parts of Vietnam
- unroll a mat
- became unconscious
- they were unprepared
- they were unfamiliar

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND IDIOMS

Examples of figurative language used in the story include the following:

- The Mekong River was the dividing line between a life under communist rule and a free life.
  - When they arrived in Minnesota, Gai and her daughters found that they had traveled almost three hundred years into the future.
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