

The Refugees

By Viet Thanh Nguyen

Black-Eyed Women

1. Who was Victor DeVoto and what does the writer do for him?
2. Whose ghost does the writer's mother say is coming to visit?
3. What is a ghost-writer?
4. What happens when there is a knock on the door on the top of the stairs?
5. What happened on the fishing boat full of refugees [from Viet Nam]?
6. What happens to the writer as she talks with the ghost of her brother?
7. What does the writer begin to write after completing Victor's memoir?
8. Which ghosts is the mother afraid of?
9. Who are the black-eyed women?

The Other Man

10. Who is Parrish Coyne?
11. Who is Marcus Chan?
12. What jobs did Liem do in Saigon? In San Francisco?
13. To what good use(s) did Parrish put his money?
14. Why did Parrish fly to Washington, D.C.?
15. Where did Marcus take Liem while Parrish is away?
16. Compare Liem's family to Marcus's family?
17. Why did Liem not want to read the letter from his father?
18. How was Liem changed by the end of the story?

War Years

19. Why is Mrs. Hoa collecting funds?
20. What is extortion?
21. Who is the president of the USA at the time of the story?
22. What kind of store does the family in the story have? Where?
23. Is the boy in the story American or Vietnamese? Why?
24. Describe the robbery that takes place in the story.
25. How do the boy and his mother find out where Mrs. Hoa lives?
26. What has happened to Mrs. Hoa's family in Viet Nam?
27. Compare the family who own the store with Mrs. Hoa's family.

28. How was the boy's mother changed at the end of the story? Why?