

The Refugees (part 2) by Viet Thanh Nguyen

For each story, who were the refugees? How did being immigrants affect their lives?

The Transplant

1. What did Arthur have in his garage? Why did it make him uncomfortable?
2. What reasons did Louis give to defend the sale of replicas?
3. What health problem does Arthur have? What other problems does he have?
4. Arthur didn't want to know who his liver donor was. Would you want to know? How did he find out?
5. What did Arthur and Norma fight about? How did his brother learn about their fight?
6. What was the difference between Arthur and Louis, as described on page 88?
7. What was the phone call that Arthur received about?
8. Why couldn't Arthur end his business relationship with Louis?
9. At the end of this story, what did Norma see in Arthur?

I'd Love You to Want Me

10. Describe the professor and his wife.
11. What did Mr. Khanh do at the wedding that upset his wife?
12. What did Mrs. Khong's children want her to do? Why? How did she respond?
13. What did Mr. Khanh bring to his wife? How did she react?
14. How does Mr. Khanh use his blue notebook? What does Mrs. Khanh write in it?

15. How did Mrs. Khanh feel when they visited Vietnam? Why?
16. When Mrs. Khanh confronted her husband about using the wrong name, what did he do?
17. What did Mrs. Khanh find when she got home from her final day at work? What did she do?
18. What gift did Mrs. Khanh get from her co-workers? What did she do with them?

The Americans

19. Describe the Carver family.
20. Who is Legaspi? What was he developing?
21. What was the racial make-up of the Carter family? What difficulties did each person's race present him/her?
22. What was Claire's job? Why did her parents disapprove of it?
23. Where did the family go the next day? What did they see there?
24. Explain the process of demining.
25. Claire wants to do some good to make up for what her father had done. What had he done?
26. What happened when Mr. Carver walked away from his family?
27. Why was Mr. Carver crying at the end of the story?
28. Why do you think Mr. Carver acted so angry and bitter?