



The Latehomecomer

MTC STUDY GUIDE

About the Performance

The Latehomecomer is a stage adaptation of Kao Kalia Yang's memoir, which chronicles her family's journey as Hmong refugees fleeing Laos after the Vietnam War and resettling in the United States. This performance was directed by Elise Thoron, adapted by Elise Thoron and Aurea Tomeski, and performed by Jasmine Vang. Through storytelling, memory, and reflection, this performance explores themes of identity, resilience, belonging, intergenerational relationships, and the power of remembering one's history.



About Literature to Life

Literature to Life is a nationally recognized theater program that brings classic and contemporary literary works to the stage through professional solo and ensemble performances. Their mission is to make literature accessible, engaging, and relevant for students by combining live theater with educational experiences that deepen comprehension, empathy, and critical thinking. Literature to Life performances are frequently used in schools as curriculum-connected tools that support literacy and social-emotional learning.

About the Author: Kao Kalia Yang

Kao Kalia Yang is an award-winning Hmong-American author, speaker, and advocate. Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, she came to the United States as a child with her family after fleeing Laos. *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* is her debut memoir and has been widely taught in schools and universities. Yang's writing centers on memory, displacement, cultural identity, and the responsibility of storytelling, especially for communities whose histories have often been overlooked.



ACTIVITY:

What We Remember, What We Become

Prompt: In *The Latehomecomer*, memory plays a powerful role in shaping identity. Choose one moment from the performance that stayed with you. In a well-organized paragraph, explain why this moment was significant and how it connects to the idea that remembering one's past can help define who we are.

Extension (optional): Connect the moment you chose to a personal experience, a family story, or another text you have read that deals with identity or belonging.

Reflection & Discussion Questions

- How does the performance show the impact of war and displacement on families across generations?
- Why do you think Kao Kalia Yang feels a responsibility to tell her family's story? What might be lost if stories like these are not shared?
- How does the experience of being an immigrant or refugee affect one's sense of belonging?
- What role does language, culture, or tradition play in preserving identity in the performance?
- How did seeing this story performed live affect your understanding compared to reading a text alone?



Teacher Survey

Please take a moment to complete this brief teacher survey - your feedback helps us secure grants that cover tickets and transportation.

Themes to Consider

Identity and belonging

Memory and storytelling

Immigration and refugee experiences

Family, sacrifice, and resilience

Cultural preservation

Curriculum Connections: Florida Sunshine State Standards

- **ELA.10.R.1.2 – Analysis of Theme and Central Idea**
Students analyze central ideas and themes in a literary work and explain how they develop over the course of the text.
- **ELA.10.R.2.1 – Purpose and Perspective**
Students examine how an author's background, purpose, and perspective shape a text's meaning.
- **ELA.10.C.1.1 – Writing to Express and Support Ideas**
Students write clearly organized responses that use evidence from the text to support their ideas.
- **ELA.10.SL.1.1 – Collaborative Discussion**
Students participate in structured discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and respectfully.
- **ELA.10.SL.1.2 – Reflection and Presentation of Ideas**
Students reflect on and present their understanding of a text using appropriate language and examples.

High school students looking for a paid summer internship working with kids in the arts, email info@mtcmiami.org for more information.

