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Date _____



Includes
Author
Interview!

A Year Without Home by V.T. Bidania

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

For eleven-year-old Gao Sheng, home is the lush, humid jungles and highlands of Laos. Home is where she can roll down the grassy hill with her younger siblings after her chores, walk to school, and pick ripe peaches from her family's trees. But home becomes impossible to hold onto when the communist government takes over after U.S. troops pull out of the Vietnam War. The communists will be searching for any American allies, like Gao Sheng's father, a Hmong captain in the Lao Army who fought alongside the Americans against the Vietnamese. If he's caught, he'll be killed. As the adults frantically make plans – contacting family, preparing a route, and bundling up their silver and gold, Gao Sheng wonders if she will ever return to her beloved Laos and what's to become of her family now. Gao Sheng only knows that a good daughter doesn't ask questions or complain. A good daughter doesn't let her family down. Even though sometimes, she wishes she could be just a kid rolling down a grassy hill again.

Who Wrote It?

V.T. Bidania was born in Laos and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, after her family came to the United States as Hmong refugees. She fell in love with stories as a kid, especially magical Hmong folktales and her family's stories about Laos. At age five, she even wrote and illustrated her first story—about a frog jumping over a pond! Before becoming an author, V.T. worked in children's publishing and schools, including a school library. She also once appeared in a martial arts movie for about one second, fighting for her life! Today, she writes books featuring Hmong kids, including the Astrid and Apollo series and A Year Without Home. When she isn't writing, V.T. enjoys playing the ukulele and guitar and learning to paint. You can learn more at her website: www.vtbidania.com/



AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.