

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Lai, Thanhha

Illustrator

Reviewer

Stasney, Lea Ann

Pages

244p

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-0-06-304700-6

Publisher & Date

Harper, 2023

Classification

Fiction

Grade Level



Book Review: WHEN CLOUDS TOUCH US

This book is the sequel to Thanhha's Inside Out and Back Again. Both are autobiographical in nature. The story of one family's migration from war-torn Vietnam, first to Alabama and then to Texas, is told in these books. Ha and her family tell their story through Vietnamese verse.

The publishers recommend this book for readers in grades 3-7. As an adult reader with strong recollections of both Vietnam and the immigration of the Vietnamese people to Texas, this reviewer finds that grade range inappropriate. This does not seem to be a book students of those ages would pick up and stay with through the course of the story. Were this book assigned as part of an elementary or middle school curriculum, many resources would be required to help students of any age work through the verse form of the story as well as the significance of historical events.

This book seems more appropriate for high school and college students taking English or history courses.

