

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: May

Theme: Immigration and Migration

Book Title: A Different Pond
By Bao Phi

Grade Level: 2nd / 3rd

Book Summary:

A 2018 Caldecott Honor Book that Kirkus Reviews calls "a must-read for our times," A Different Pond is an unforgettable story about a simple event - a long-ago fishing trip. Graphic novelist Thi Bui and acclaimed poet Bao Phi deliver a powerful, honest glimpse into a relationship between father and son - and between cultures, old and new. As a young boy, Bao and his father awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. A successful catch meant a fed family. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam. Thi Bui's striking, evocative art paired with Phi's expertly crafted prose has earned this powerful picture books six starred reviews and numerous awards.

Discussion Questions:

- Did the cover of the book give you any hints about the story?
- What do you think the author is saying about family?
- What does the title of the book mean? What does the father have in common with his son?
- Why do you think "dad" has to wake up early in the morning to fish?
- Is there an instance where you helped your parents? What did you do?
- What is the author saying about cultural differences?
- Have you ever visited a new place with your family? Where did you go? What did you do while you were there? Did you notice any cultural traditions that were new to you?
- Read the Note from Bao Phi. How does knowing these details about Bao's life affect your understanding of this story?
- Why do you think Bao felt like he needed to write about this experience now?
- Think about Bao Phi's childhood experience. How was he fortunate? How did he struggle? Do you think Bao Phi had a happy childhood?
- Read the note from Thi Bui. If you were going to illustrate a book that included items from your life now, what would you include?
- What do you think was the lesson of the story? What feeling did this story leave you with?

Full Reader's Guide https://www.capstonepub.com/assets/123/7/A_Different_Pond_Readers_Guide.pdf