

**Name** Candice Preston

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## Trade Book Sheet

**Title of book:** Journey Home

**Author's name:** Lawrence McKay, Jr.

**Publisher:** Lee & Low Books, Inc.

**Copyright year:** 1998

**Reading level:** 710L Grade 4

**Genre:** Multicultural

**Synopsis of story:** This story is about a woman from Vietnam who was adopted in the United States when she was an infant. She and her daughter travel back to Vietnam to look for her birth parents. The only possession she has from her life in Vietnam is a kite. She learns in Vietnam that both of her parents were killed in the war but she is happy she has found out her real name and now knows what happened to her family.

**Standard:** 5.2.3 Recognize main ideas presented in texts, (identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas).

**Activity:** Make a kite.

Materials

- A simple kite kit for each student. (Make sure the kite is made out of a material that the students can write on without tearing.)
- Kite string for each student
- Markers

Procedures

After reading the story give each student a kite kit. They are to write the main ideas of the story on their kite and assemble their kites. After they have shown and discussed their kites and their ideas take them outside to fly!

**Standard:** 5.5.6 Write for different purposes and to a specific audience or person, adjusting tone and style as appropriate.

**Activity:** Pen Pals Adapted from a lesson by Kelly Radel @

<http://www.lessonsplanpage.com/SSLAOCICountriesandCulturesIdeas18.htm>

## Materials

- Stationary
- Pencils and pens
- Stamps
- Envelopes

## Procedure

After the teacher has registered the class for pen pals from Vietnam at [www.surfnetkids.com/penpals.htm](http://www.surfnetkids.com/penpals.htm) assign each student their pen pal. Have the students write their pen pal a letter to introduce themselves. A mini-lesson on addressing envelopes may be given. Mail the letters and wait for the replies. The students should continue to write to their pen pals throughout the year.