

Tuesday, March 31

[8:00 – 9:15 / 9:30 – 10:45]

today

homework due Thursday, April 2

- **proposal for Essay 3 due – submit on Canvas**
- Analyze “An Illustrated Guide to Escaping the Vietnam War and Making It in America” by Maddie Oatman
- Analyze *The Best We Could Do* (211-262)

- Read & analyze *The Best We Could Do* (263-292)
- Read & analyze “Life as a Refugee Is Explored in the Stunning Comics Memoir *The Best We Could Do*” by Abraham Riesman
- start working on Reading Notes for Essay 3 (due Tues., April 7)

advice hours: *to be determined- email me for now*

*** Please check your Panther email and Canvas daily. ***

** Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on Canvas. **

I. Analyze “An Illustrated Guide to Escaping the Vietnam War and Making It in America”
by Maddie Oatman

<https://www.motherjones.com/media/2017/09/thi-bui-vietnam-refugee-immigrant-the-best-we-could-do/>

A. Review / re-read the article.

B. How might this article help you with Essay 3?

Think about what Thi Bui says about artistic choices and writing process.

C. Here are a few important quotes from the article.

Think about how they relate to the topics for Essay 3.

“Growing up as a refugee in San Diego, California, Bui sensed that the Vietnam War had left a deep psychological scar on her parents, but she rarely heard them talk about it. She was studying studio art in grad school in 2002 when she returned to Vietnam to meet some of her relatives. After the trip prompted her to take a detour from her training, she ‘got lost in oral history’” (Oatman).

I. Analyze “An Illustrated Guide to Escaping the Vietnam War and Making It in America” cont.

“In the process of illustrating her own family’s turbulent story, Bui reveals a personal Vietnam War absent from most history books and soldier narratives” (Oatman).

“It was a country that changed over the course of my parents’ lives, and they became incompatible with that country. So really it wasn’t my country at all by the time I was born there. But for me that means that I have to choose where my home is, and I have to make it my home” (Bui qtd. in Oatman).

“I was thinking about the color of dust that comes off of bricks. There’s a love that I have of old photographs. In my childhood memories of me and my siblings in San Diego, there was a warm afternoon light. I was going for something nostalgic and sentimental and warm” (Bui qtd. in Oatman).

II. Analyze *The Best We Could Do* (211-262)

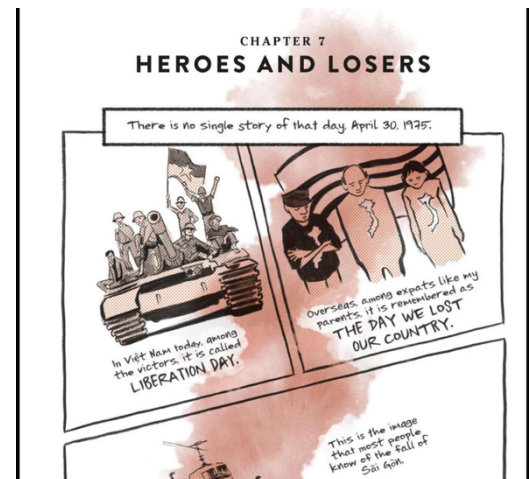
You can write your responses to these questions in your notebook or discuss them with a friend in the class.

A. end of the war (211-216)

1. What does the title of the chapter mean? (211)
2. What are the two views of the end of the war? (211-216)

B. aftermath of the war (217-227)

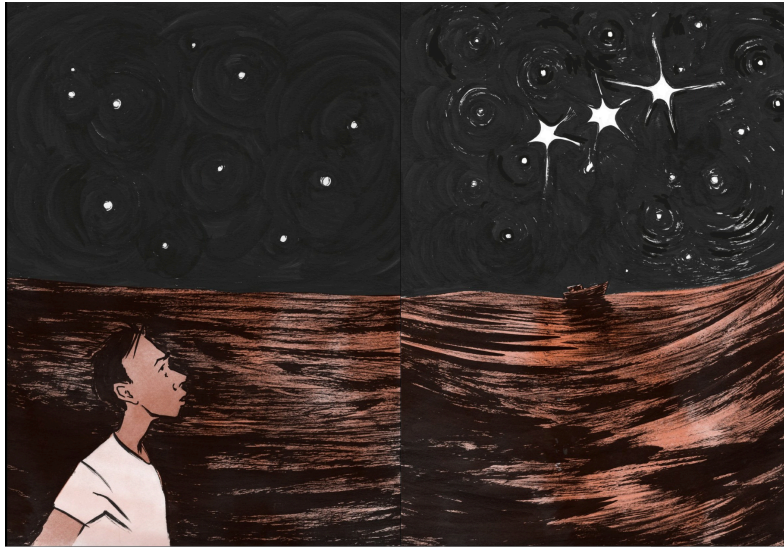
1. How does their life change after the war ends? (220-221)
2. How would you respond to this situation?



II. Analyze *The Best We Could Do* (211-262) cont.

C. escaping Vietnam (228-262)

1. How do they escape?
2. How would you respond to this situation?
3. Compare Bô in this chapter with previous ones. Is he a “loser” or a “hero”?
4. What is the significance of the two-page picture? (248-249)



4. Compare Thi's picture with *Starry Night* by Vincent VanGogh:

<https://www.vangoghgallery.com/painting/starry-night.html>



Thursday, April 2

[8:00 – 9:15 / 9:30 – 10:45]

today

homework due Tuesday, April 7

- Analyze *The Best We Could Do* (263-292)
- Analyze “Life as a Refugee Is Explored in the Stunning Comics Memoir *The Best We Could Do*” by Abraham Riesman
- reading & evaluating research articles

- **reading notes for Essay 3 due**
2+ pages, typed, 2 pts. = 2%
submit on Canvas
- Read & analyze *The Best We Could Do* (293-330)
- Read & analyze “Review: *The Best We Could Do*” by Robert Kirby

advice hours: *to be determined* - email me for now

*** Please check your Panther email and Canvas daily. ***

** Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on Canvas. **

I. Analyze “Life as a Refugee Is Explored in the Stunning Comics Memoir *The Best We Could Do*”
by Abraham Riesman

<https://www.vulture.com/2017/03/thi-bui-best-we-could-do-refugee-comic.html>

A. Review / re-read the article.

B. How might this article help you with Essay 3?

Think about what Thi Bui says about artistic choices and writing process.

C. Here are a few important quotes from the article.

Think about how they relate to the topics for Essay 3.

“When Bui began work on *The Best We Could Do* in 2005, she couldn’t have predicted the significance it would hold when it was released in 2017, but now that it’s here, it feels like one of the first great works of socially relevant comics art of the Trump era” (Riesman).

I. Analyze “Life as a Refugee Is Explored in the Stunning Comics Memoir *The Best We Could Do*” cont.

“Family starts in one place, has a hard journey to get to another, struggles to settle, and eventually finds some kind of emotional synthesis. However, Bui presents that saga in a way that is narratively intricate, intellectually fastidious, and visually stunning” (Riesman).

“In doing so, she uncovers significant events stretching from the turn of the last century through Vietnam’s bloody attempts at liberation from France, Japan, and the United States. They are presented more or less in the order she came across them, not the order of how they originally happened — a clever choice, reminding us that all historical memory is as situated in our individual personal chronology as it is in any objective one” (Riesman).

II. Analyze *The Best We Could Do* (263-292)

A. Camp (263-275)

1. Why does Bui include real photos? (267)
2. What obstacles do the family members face in the camp?
3. Can you imagine yourself in their situation?

B. Flight (276-283)

1. What obstacles do the family members face in flying to the United States?
2. Can you connect any of your experiences (or your family’s) to their flight?

C. USA (284-292)

1. Analyze the imagery and content on 284-285.
2. Analyze the imagery and content on 292.
3. Analyze the amazing transition on 292-293:



III. Essay 3 – Research

A. After you finish reading the book, write the reading notes for Essay 3, which also include research that you will use in the essay.

- Reading Notes for Essay 3 are due Tuesday, April 7

B. Research requirement for Essay 3

You must include and analyze supporting examples from the book and **two research articles**. Use the library's databases to find articles (i.e., *Academic Search Complete*, *SocINDEX*, *JSTOR*, etc.). You may also use credible internet websites (including the articles on my website).

C. Start by reading all the articles on my WordPress website:

<https://professorwatkins.wordpress.com/english-1a-3/english-1a-essay-3/>

1. articles about the author
2. articles about the topics

D. Next, you can do a Google search – try searching for

1. topics from the assignment sheet
2. author / title of the book
3. general websites are ok – but consider credibility of the sites

E. You can use the Library databases, but you are not required to

<http://libguides.chaffey.edu/library>

- Academic Search Complete is a good starting place

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
12	April 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reading notes for Essay 3 due • <i>The Best We Could Do</i> (293-330) • “Review: <i>The Best We Could Do</i>” by Robert Kirby • outlining Essay 3 	April 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline for Essay 3 due • rough works cited for Essay 3 due • “Avoiding Plagiarism” by Angela Edward-Mangione • paragraphs, drafting, quoting, citing
13	April 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rough draft of Essay 3 due • peer review 	April 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay 3 workshop
14	April 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay 3 due • language, identity, code-switching • Essay 4 introduced 	April 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • library research • “Understanding Library Sources” by Amy Coughenour • finding & evaluating sources
15	April 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposal for Essay 4 due • “The Power of Slang” by Tom Dalzell • “The Case for Cursing” by Kristin Wong • “I Don’t ‘Code-Switch’ to Hide My Identity. I ‘Code-Switch’ to Celebrate It” by Vaidehi Mujumdar 	April 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research notes for Essay 4 due • works cited page • dividing, classifying, comparing • outlining Essay 4
16	May 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline for Essay 4 due • rough works cited for Essay 4 due • integrating research 	May 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rough draft of Essay 4 due • peer review
17	May 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaffey Event Review due • Essay 4 workshop • Final Exam introduced 	May 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay 4 due • review for Final Exam
18	May 19	May 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam due 1:00 p.m. • Wednesday, May 20