

# NEWS BREAK

**Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Tuesday, December 15** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

**Student poets tell their stories of coming to the United States** (NW Tuesday, page B1).

## Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions.

2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. anthology
- B. civil strife
- C. collaboration
- D. dialect
- E. diverse
- F. embark
- G. eloquent
- H. facility
- I. launch
- J. passport
- K. proceeds
- L. refugee
- M. tense
- N. theme
- O. transcend
- P. verse

- 1. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular area and that uses some of its own words, grammar, and pronunciations
- 2. skill and ease in doing something
- 3. the main subject that is being discussed or described in a piece of writing, a movie, etc.
- 4. someone who has been forced to leave a country because of war or for religious or political reasons
- 5. to begin (something that will take a long time or happen for a long time)
- 6. a published collection of writings (such as poems or short stories) by different authors
- 7. the total amount of money or profit that is made
- 8. having or showing the ability to use language clearly and effectively
- 9. a form of a verb that is used to show when an action happened
- 10. to work with another person or group in order to achieve or do something
- 11. writing in which words are arranged in a rhythmic pattern; poetry
- 12. made up of people or things that are different from each other

13. to offer or sell (something) for the first time
14. to rise above or go beyond the normal limits of (something)
15. very angry or violent disagreement between two or more people or groups in a country
16. something that allows a person to achieve something

### Comprehension

1. The poetry of student Kang Pu and his classmates in Carrie Stradley's English language class has been collected in an\_\_\_\_\_ called "Our Table of Memories: Food and Poetry of Spirit, Homeland and Tradition." **(Fill in the blank)**
2. How many years have Carrie Stradley's students published their work in a book? **(Multiple Choice)**
  - a) Three years
  - b) Five years
  - c) Six years
3. The poems focus on food and its connection to home, culture, family and memory. Name one of the three themes mentioned that the poems touch on.
4. Although the students in the class are still learning English, many of them spoke two or three languages in their homeland, where the\_\_\_\_\_ are many and varied. **(Fill in the blank)**
5. The book launch will be held at Tukwila Community Center, where the students will read their work and food from where will be served?
6. What will proceeds from the book support?
7. This year's project is a collaboration with Project Feast, which supports immigrant and refugee women seeking to embark on what?
8. The project is also supported by the Jack Straw Cultural Center. What does the Jack Straw Cultural Center do with the student's poems each year?
9. Student Kang Pu arrived in Tukwila just over a year ago and although he is 16, he is starting Foster High School in the ninth grade. What reason is given in the article for this?
10. Kang started writing poetry in Malaysia and he filled a notebook with verse in his native language. One night, he burned it page by page on the restaurant stove where he worked. What did Kang say was in the pages of his notebook?

### Additional Activities

1. Write a poem using your five senses. First imagine yourself in one of your favorite places or a place you would like to be or visit. Next, write the first two lines of your poem describing what you see in the place you are imagining ("I see"). Continue your poem by writing two lines for each of your senses describing what you hear, smell, taste and feel in your favorite place. Think about the words you want to use making your poem as descriptive as possible so that the reader can imagine being there too.
2. As a class or in small groups sample poetry from a variety of poets. First brainstorm a list of poets you are familiar or pick some poets from the list below. Pick out a poem or two from each of the poets on your list and read

them aloud in class. As a class or in your groups discuss each poem and what you liked or disliked about it. Which poets style of verse was your favorite and why?

- 1) A.A. Milne
- 2) Abbie Farwell Brown
- 3) Carl Sandburg
- 4) Dr. Seuss
- 5) Elizabeth Barret Browning
- 6) Emily Dickinson
- 7) Jack Prelutsky
- 8) Langston Hughes
- 9) Maya Angelou
- 10) Ralph Waldo Emerson
- 11) Robert Frost
- 12) Shel Silverstein
- 13) Walt Whitman
- 14) William Blake
- 15) William Shakespeare

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### Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 6
- B. 15
- C. 10
- D. 1
- E. 12
- F. 5
- G. 8
- H. 2
- I. 13
- J. 16
- K. 7
- L. 4
- M. 9
- N. 3
- O. 14
- P. 11

### Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. anthology
2. c) Six years
3. The poems touch on the themes of hunger, poverty and war. **(Answers may vary - only one example necessary)**
4. dialects
5. Food will be served from some of their home countries.
6. Proceeds from the book will support a scholarship fund for the student poets.
7. It supports immigrant and refugee women seeking to embark on careers in the food industry.
8. The Jack Straw Cultural Center records the students reading their poems each year.
9. He has a lot of catching up to do in school because he missed three years (when he left school in his home country in search of work).
10. He said there was so much sadness in them.