



# 2023-24 Educator Resource Guide



Literature to Life stage presentation of  
**The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir**  
Jan. 30-31, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.



With a myriad of offerings allowing your students to explore their identity and the identity of others, this season's Amcor Education Series has a show for everyone.

Thank you for allowing your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to partner with you to provide your students with engaging educational arts experiences.

For any questions, contact the education sales team at (920)730-3786 or [educationsales@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:educationsales@foxcitiespac.com).

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# Thank you to our partners for making this performance possible!

Education Series Title Partner



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Community Partners



Marise Evadne  
Gustafson Fund



## A note from our Series Title Partner – Amcor

At Amcor, we make the packaging you use every day on your food and beverages, healthcare products, personal care items and more! As a global leader in packaging design and material science, Amcor is proud to sponsor programs in STEM education and the arts in the communities where we have operations. We are thrilled to support the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and their efforts to provide enriching educational programming for young people in our area. Enjoy the show!

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# Welcome to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center!



When entering the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, remember to **show respect for others and your environment** so everyone can fully enjoy and participate in the experience.

- During the performance, the performers can see and hear you, so give them your full attention. Unlike a video, we can not rewind and replay a scene if we miss it.
- **Applause** is the best way to express how much you enjoyed the performance! For other Theater Expectations tips, visit our website [here](#).
- **Important things to remember:**
  - Student backpacks, gum, drinks and food are not allowed in the theater.
  - Cell phones should be turned off and stowed.
  - Note that recording or taking photos in the theater is strictly prohibited; however, photos may be taken in the lobby.
  - It's a long way down – please do not drop items off balconies.

## Be prepared to arrive early

- You should plan on arriving to the Center 20 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time, parking and trips to the restroom.

Questions about your show reservation? Contact our education sales team at (920) 730-3786 or [educationsales@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:educationsales@foxcitiespac.com).

## Health and Safety

- The Center has created a touchless experience with the Evolv Express Security System. Upon entry, all bags entering the building are subject to search and prohibited items will not be allowed.
- Teachers and chaperones are discouraged from bringing bags, however, necessary backpacks or bags may be searched and tagged before being allowed in the theater.
- We ask that students leave their backpacks at school for Amcor Education Series performances. However, if students do bring them, they are subject to search and will need to be checked at the registration table in the lobby upon entry.

## Accessibility Services

- To best serve the needs of you and your students, please indicate if you have individuals who require special services or seating needs upon making your reservation.

Please see our complete list of policies at [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com).

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## About the show

Literature to Life stage presentation of  
*The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*

By: Kao Kalia Yang

Performed by Gaosong Heu

Adapted by Aurea Tomeski & Elise Thoron

Directed by Elise Thoron

Based on the novel *The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kao Kalia Yang, ©2008, published by Coffee House Press

In this presentation of *The Latecomer*, the run-time is 90 minutes including a pre- and post-performance discussion. Captivating the students with musical talent and knowledge of Hmong culture, accomplished Hmong actress and traditional Flower Singer, Gaosong Heu brings to life the story of Kao Kalia and her experience in coming to the United States as a child. From racial discrimination to self-empowerment, it is a universal story of immigration, through the specific lens of this ancient culture inextricably bound to the history of the war in Vietnam.

## Wisconsin Academic Standards

### READING 6-12

- Overarching Statement: Read and comprehend a variety of complex literary and informational texts for many purposes (including enjoyment), including texts that reflect one's experiences and experiences of others. This includes independently and proficiently understanding grade-level text.
- Anchor Standard R1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly/implicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from a text.
- Anchor Standard R7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Standard SS.BH2: Wisconsin students will investigate and interpret interactions between individuals and groups (Sociology).
- Standard SS.BH3: Wisconsin students will assess the role that human behavior and cultures play in the development of social endeavors.

### THEATER

- Standard 3 – RESPOND: Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work.
- Standard 4 – CONNECT: Students will relate prior knowledge and personal experience with theater to cultural and historical contexts.

# Lesson One

**Objective:** Utilizing a family member or trusted adult, interview them about their life and learn what life experiences they may have had to further your understanding of the past.

**Materials:**

- Phone to record interview or pen and paper to write down interview responses.
- Computer to type interview.
- Possible interview questions (p. 6-7) taken from:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Xcocc2gxMsZaeIFYrmvuHfdMB3tzphCf8m2qHtCXMk/edit>

**Activity:**

- Have your students choose a trusted adult from their life (parent, guardian, grandparent, teacher, etc.) to interview.
- Using the provided questions as a guideline, have the students interview their trusted adult and take notes either through recording (with the adult's permission) or handwriting the notes.
- Taking the notes from the interview, turn the interview into a narrative of the adult's life.
  - Type up the narrative within the set parameters of length as determined by the teacher. Either focus on a broad spectrum of their life or key life events.
- Share with the person!

**Closing Discussion:**

- What was something you learned about that your adult lived through? How did they make it through that hardship? How can you apply these characteristics to your own life when you go through difficult times? What is something you learned from your adult that made you happy?

## Did You Know?

Kao Kalia Yang is a Hmong American immigrant who captured her life in her memoir, "The Latehomecomer." She was born in Ban Vinai Refugee Camp, where her family was placed as they fled genocide in Laos. Yang and her family came to the United States when she was six years old and settled in Minnesota. She discovered a talent for writing with her debut book "The Latehomecomer" and additional memoirs and children's books.

Source: <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-latehomecomer#context>

## **Handout: Possible Interview Questions for Oral History Interviews**

Note: These questions do not cover every topic you might want to discuss in a family history interview. Use these to get you started, and then use what you know about the person and their family to create your own!

### **Simple starter questions:**

1. When and where were you born?
2. Did/Do you have siblings? What were/are their names and birth dates?
3. What were/are your parents' names?
4. Where did you live as a child?

### **Childhood:**

1. What are your strongest memories of childhood?
2. How did you spend most of your free time when you were a child? What were your favorite hobbies or pastimes?
3. What do you remember about elementary school? Who was your favorite teacher and why?
4. What stories do you have about high school? What activities were you involved in?
5. Were you a good student? What subject did you enjoy or excel in (or struggle with) the most and why?
6. Did you attend school anywhere after high school graduation? If so, what do you remember about that?
7. What other jobs did you have early in life? Which was your favorite or least favorite?
8. Describe your childhood home(s). What was your room like? Describe smells, sounds, textures.
9. What was your neighborhood like when you were growing up?
9. Did you have pets? Tell me about your favorites. How important were they in your family?
10. Were you in sports or other extracurriculars? Which were your favorites, and what did you learn from them?
11. As a teenager, how did you learn independence and responsibility? Did you have to do chores?
12. What was the hardest part about growing up, or the hardest thing you had to go through while growing up?

### **Parents/Grandparents**

1. Do you know the story of how your parents/grandparents met and fell in love? What can you share about it?
2. What was a typical date like for them?
3. If you know the story, can you talk about how they got engaged?
4. What do you know about your mother's/father's childhood? Did they ever tell you stories?
5. What did you enjoy doing with your father/grandfather/mother/grandmother when you were young?
6. Did your family take trips or go on vacations? Describe one of the best trips you ever took.
7. How did your family celebrate holidays? What are your memories of those occasions?

### **Language/Names:**

1. What language did your parents or grandparents speak? If they had to learn a new language, how did they do it?
2. How did you get your name? Were you named after parents, grandparents or other relatives?

### **Immigration (if it applies to the interviewee's family):**

1. Did the family members ever talk about why they left their home country?
2. Did they discuss what it was like to make the journey to their new home? How did they travel?
3. Have you been to the hometowns of your ancestors in [country]? What do you know of these areas?

### **Work:**

1. How did they settle on their occupations? What did they say about their work?
2. What did they like or dislike about their work? Did they change jobs a few times over the years?
3. Did they work to the end of their lives or did they retire? How did life change when they retired?

**Historical Events:**

1. Did your grandparents ever talk about how the Great Depression affected them? Was there ever a time when they worried about having enough money? What stories can you share about that?
2. Did anyone serve in a war or in the military in general? Describe their service and how it affected the family.
3. Were there any catastrophes—health crisis, natural disaster, etc.?
4. Describe any other events, positive or negative, that made an impact on your family.

**Community:**

1. Were they involved in their community? What groups or activities were important to them?

**General:**

1. In what ways are you like your parents? Grandparents?
2. What do you wish you knew about your parents that they never told you or that you never thought to ask?
3. What was the most important turning point in your life? Describe what happened, what it meant and how you felt about it.
4. Who has influenced you the most? Why? How have you changed as a result of your interaction with this person?
5. How has the world changed since you were young? What is better and why? What is worse and why?
6. Think of a time when you did something you shouldn't have. Describe the incident and the feelings it created.
7. What is the best piece of wisdom you learned from your family?
8. What would you like to be remembered for?
9. What are the best decisions you've made in your life? What are the worst?
10. What were the greatest lessons your dad/mom/grandmother/grandfather taught you?

**Final Question:**

1. Is there anything you'd like to add?

Questions taken from: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Xcocc2gxMsZaelFYrmvuHfdMB3tzphCf8m2qHtCXMk/edit>

# Lesson Two

**Objective:** Students will listen to a podcast highlighting Victoria Rivera's experience of being a Hmong child growing up in America and the struggles of keeping tradition and culture of high value while navigating American customs. Students will then compare Rivera's experience to that of their own.

**Materials:**

- American Born Hmong Podcast, "You Define 'Hmong American'" Season 1, Episode 2: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/American-born-hmong/id1464993820>
- Writing utensils and paper or computers.

**Activity:**

- Listen to episode 2 of American Born Hmong's Podcast "You Define 'Hmong American.'"
  - While listening, take notes on Victoria Rivera's experience growing up with Hmong and American cultural pressures.
- After listening to the podcast, compare Rivera's experience with that of your own as you are growing up.
- Make a Venn Diagram with Rivera's experience, your experience and things you have in common. If you don't have anything in common, that's ok! Everyone's journey is different.

**Closing Discussion:** Rivera ends the podcast explaining how she identifies herself as a Hmong person and an American. How do you define being an American? Does your culture play a part in your daily life and choices like Rivera?

## In The Spotlight

The History Museum at the Castle seeks to inspire people to discover and appreciate the rich history of the Fox Valley through exhibition, education and collections. The Museum's regularly rotating exhibits offer something for everyone, including the newest addition, "You Are Here", opening in spring 2024. Through a diverse offering of programs ranging from city walking tours to hands-on field trips to behind-the-scenes tours of the Museum's collections of over 20,000 artifacts, visitors of all ages can learn about the vast history of the Fox Cities and east central Wisconsin. Visit at [www.myhistorymuseum.org](http://www.myhistorymuseum.org).

# What's Next?

Don't let this experience end with the drop of the curtain. Keep the conversation going with your students and reflect on the performance that you just attended.



## Here are a few questions to get the conversation started!

What was your favorite part of the performance?

What is one interesting thing you learned about Kao Kalia Yang's life?

Yang describes the strong bond she feels with her siblings, her parents, her grandmother and the rest of her extended family. How do these bonds define, support and/or challenge her? How do the familial bonds in your life define, support and/or challenge you?

Is the idea of the American Dream unique to Americans, or is it a "human" dream?

If you were going to tell a friend about the performance, how would you describe it in one sentence?

What inspired you about the performance? On the following page, write or draw something that inspired you or made you curious.

# My Reflections

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**Kimberly-Clark**



**Miller**

**SCHNEIDER**



# Student Showcase



What was a light bulb moment for your students?  
What was something new they learned?  
Was it anyone's first time to the Center?  
Share with us!

After your class attends the show we would appreciate photos, letters, posters and cards to share what your students are learning with our partners.

The Center's education programs are not possible without the support of our Annual Partners and grant funders. They enjoy learning about the schools and students that participate in the education programs so we would appreciate your help in telling the story.

Items may be sent via email to [sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com) or mailed/dropped off at:

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center  
Attn: Sammi Stelzl  
400 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911

Thank you for your help in sharing the great work you are doing in the classroom with our partners!



Please note items will not be returned and will be shared with our partners and/or used in Center marketing materials.

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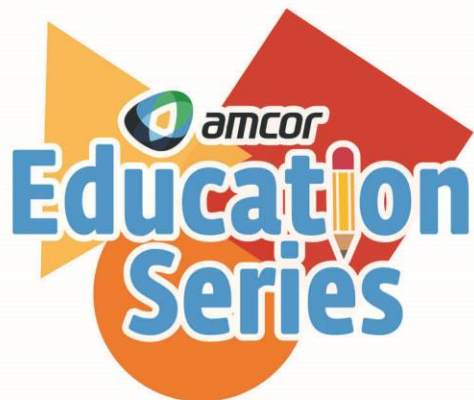


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# Resources

## Books

- "Dia's Story Cloth" by Dia Cha
- "Hmong in Minnesota" by Chia Vang
- "New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens" by Brook Hauser
- "Somewhere in the Unknown World" by Kao Kalia Yang
- "Tangled Threads: A Hmong Girl's Story" by Pegi Deitz Shea
- "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" by Anne Fadiman
- "We Are Displaced" by Malala Yousafzai

## Online

- Kao Kalia Yang's Website: <https://kaokaliayang.com/>
- NEA Big Read Resource Guide: <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Reader-Resources-TheLatehomecomer.pdf>
- NEW Hmong Professionals Appleton Engaged Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qD1qpXDBRRU&t=1094s>
- PBS Article on The Vietnam War <https://www.pbs.org/splithorn/story1.html#:~:text=Once%20in%20Thailand%2C%20most%20Hmong,disposal%2C%20and%20was%20severely%20overcrowded.>
- TED Talk with author Kao Kalia Yang: [https://www.ted.com/talks/kaokalia\\_yang\\_the\\_impossible\\_happens\\_every\\_day\\_in\\_the\\_life\\_of\\_the\\_refugee](https://www.ted.com/talks/kaokalia_yang_the_impossible_happens_every_day_in_the_life_of_the_refugee)

This resource guide was created for you by the programming team as part of The Boldt Company Beyond the Stage Education program. To download copies of this resource guide or to find additional resources for this performance or view past resource guides, please visit [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com) and click on the education tab.

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