

# Interdisciplinary Ideas

## LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Together sequence the main events in the story on a chart. Post on a bulletin board.
2. Pretend you are Raymond. In your own words, write Ut's story.

## ART

1. Create watercolor and pencil drawings of scenes from your school and/or classroom.
2. Decorate a matchbox with stickers, construction paper, wallpaper, or glitter. Paste a photograph of a loved one inside.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

1. In this story, Ut and Raymond resolve their conflict. As a class, make a list of procedures to resolve conflicts in your classroom (see *Teacher's Guide, Activities and Resources*).\*
2. Research Vietnamese culture. (Keyword: Vietnam culture) Find out about books, games, food, traditions, festivals, and music.

\* Visit [www.heartwoodethics.org](http://www.heartwoodethics.org) and choose Teaching Heartwood, for conflict resolution activities.

3. Create an *Angel Child, Dragon Child* story-door. Cover your classroom door with wrapping paper. In small groups draw, color, and cut out characters from the story such as Ut, her brother and sisters, Father, Mother, and Raymond. Add pictures of the wooden matchbox, trees, and a paper dragon. In large letters write, color and cut out the title of the book, author, and main attributes shown in the story. Add Vietnamese words from the story and English translations. Write your name beside your drawing.

## Angel Child, Dragon Child

Michele Maria Surat  
1983  
Milwaukee: Raintree

### HOPE

U.S.A./Vietnamese  
Realistic Fiction  
Reading Time: 8 minutes

## CONCEPTS

Hope  
Courage  
Respect  
Compassion

## SUMMARY

**This is the story of Ut, a young Vietnamese girl attending school in the United States for the first time. Teased by some of the children for being different, and lonely for her mother who is still in Vietnam, she has difficulty adjusting. One boy's reactions to Ut and his growing acceptance of differences enable him to give a valuable gift to Ut and her family. Soft pencil and watercolor illustrations by Vo-Dinh Mai enhance the text.**

## OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss hope, courage, respect, and compassion as they apply to this story. The student will explore strategies for making newcomers feel welcome.

# After the Story

## Angel Child, Dragon Child

### DISCUSSION

1. Why does it take courage for Ut to go to school? How is her American school different from her school in Vietnam? At first, what keeps her from making friends?
2. Ut hopes her mother will come to the United States soon. What other hopes do you think she has?
3. At the beginning of the story, the American children treated Ut and her sisters unfairly. How can you make friends with someone who speaks another language? What can you do to make a new student feel welcome? How would you want to be welcomed in a new school?
4. What happens when Raymond learns about Ut's loneliness? What happens when you learn about someone else's sadness? Talk about how Ut and Raymond show compassion for each other.
5. Talk about ways Ut's family shows kindness. How does your family show compassion and kindness?

### ACTIVITIES

1. Locate Vietnam on the world map.
2. Share hopes you have for your class this year, such as everyone feeling included or everyone being promoted. Together create a plan of action to help realize a hope.
3. Talk about how Ut feels when the children call her "Pajamas" and laugh when she speaks in Vietnamese. Together identify nonverbal "lift-up" messages that express encouragement, such as smiles, thumbs up, or high fives. Use these gestures when new students join the class.
4. Make "Welcome Packets" for new students. Discuss items you could put in a welcome packet that would show respect and caring for a new student, such as pencils, calendars of special events, and photographs of classmates. Prepare a packet to have ready for a new student.

### WRAP-UP

1. In *My Heartwood Journal* write and/or illustrate an additional hope for Ut and her family.
2. Make a list of hopeful signs found in the story. Explain your choices.

### EXTENSION

1. Complete Home Connection pages and take home to share with families.
2. Retell the story at home. Talk about how your family can show respect by welcoming new neighbors. With permission, share with the class.

### VOCABULARY

**chant**  
**twittered**  
**screeched**

**trilled**  
**squeegeed**  
**rice cakes**

**compassion**