

9781459836815



A STRONGER HOME

Teacher Guide

A boy and his mother flee the storm of family violence in their house and move from place to place in search of a stronger home. They carry their home in their heartbeats and rely on each other for support until they can return to where the journey started and create the strongest home of all with the help of their family and friends.

About the authors:



Katrina Chen (陳葦蓁) moved to Canada from Taiwan on her own and worked in the grassroots community before being elected as a Burnaby Board of Education trustee and later as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Burnaby-Lougheed, becoming the first Taiwanese-born Canadian appointed to the BC Cabinet. She has openly shared her experiences as a survivor of gender-based violence. Katrina is currently the President of 安信 Community Savings Credit Union and a certified coach, advocating for childcare, mental health and equity.



Elaine Su (苏依玲) is a teacher, librarian, and storyteller. She loves to create in the rich intersection where culture, nature, community and imagination meet. Born in Shanghai, she now lives in the beautiful Pacific Northwest with her family, as settlers on the unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓-speaking peoples.

Themes:

Family violence | Family changes | Intimate partner violence | Transitional housing | Leaving home | Cultural diversity | Trauma | Resilience | Healing

Warm-up Questions:

1. What does home mean to you?
2. What do we need to be “safe”?

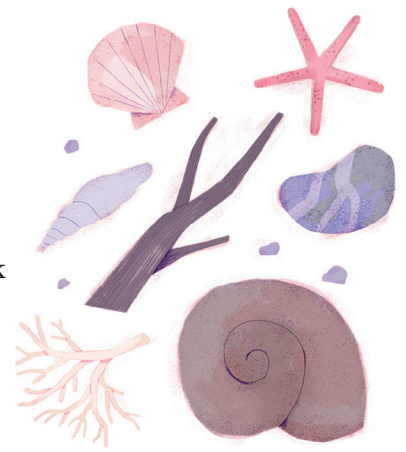


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Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think there's a storm in the mom and boy's house?
2. Why do you think the mom and boy have to leave the house?
3. Have you ever wondered why we can hear the sound of the ocean in a shell? Look up why this happens.
(Hint: The sound of crashing waves that you hear in a shell isn't actually created by the ocean!)
4. When the boy in the story feels scared, he often snuggles into his mom's arms. What do you do when you feel scared? What scares you? What comforts you?
5. The boy's mother mentions that she grew up in East Asia. Can you find the cultural elements included in the book?
6. How do you think the boy and his mom build a stronger home?
7. What does "a stronger home" mean to you?
8. This story uses a storm as an allegory/metaphor. Can you think of other metaphors that resonate with you about fear and safety?



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Activities:

1. Draw your dream home. What are the most important things or people in your home? Is your current home your dream home? If not, what makes your dream home different from your current home?
2. Present your drawing and talk about your dream home with a partner or in a small group. What similarities and differences do you notice?



My dream home...

A large, empty rectangular box with a black outline, intended for drawing a dream home. The box is positioned below the text 'My dream home...' and is the central focus of the page.