**Title: How Ha’s Mother is Turned “Inside-out”**

**Question Prompt:**

**In what ways is Ha’s mother’s experience a specific example of the universal refugee experience of fleeing and finding home and “turning inside out?”**

***\*\*\* Put check marks by each bullet and question as your group completes each section***

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| ***Opening***  Refugees are everyday people who are forced to flee their homes because they are afraid to stay in their home country. When they flee, they may leave behind family members, friends, a home, a job, and special possessions. Fleeing home and trying to find a new home can make them feel like their lives are being turned inside out. In the novel *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai, Ha’s family lives in a country at war. Ha’s mother is raising four children alone in this dangerous country, and it is more and more difficult for her to provide for their needs. When the war brings fear and hardship to the family, Mother decides to take her family and flee their home of South Vietnam. She is afraid of the dangers communism may bring to her family. Once Mother decides to flee, she and her children become refugees who try to find a new place to call home. Mother’s life feels like it is being turned “inside out” in the same way other refugees all over the world feel. | * Underline the topic sentence. * Underline the closing sentence.   1)Which sentence is the claim for the paper? (Look back at the title and prompt)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * Circle or highlight phrases between the topic and closing sentence that give evidence of mother’s struggles.   2)List 3 pieces of evidence the author uses in the opening to support the claim. You can list with phrases.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| ***First Body Paragraph***  Many refugees feel scared and worried when war comes to their home country, just like Ha’s mother. In “Children of War” (Brice 25), all four of the refugee children talk about being separated from one of their parents because of war. Amela’s father went to work one day but never returned home. Later, she learned he had been killed (Brice 26). She says, “Before the war, I really enjoyed life, but after I found out about my father’s death everything seemed so useless. I couldn’t see any future for myself” (Brice 26). In Part One of *Inside Out & Back Again*, Mother is separated from Father because of the war. In “Missing in Action,” Ha writes, “Father left home on a navy mission on this day nine years ago when I was almost one. He was captured on Route 1 an hour south of the city by moped. That’s all we know” (Lai 12). Mother misses father terribly. In “Birthday Wishes,” Ha writes about how she is hopeful her father will return home soon because Mother is so sad: “Mostly I wish Father would appear in our doorway and make Mother’s lips curl upward, lifting them from a permanent frown of worries” (Lai 31). All around the world and throughout time, wartime has separated families, and brought sadness and worry to parents and children. | * Underline the topic sentence (a sub-claim) * Circle the words in the topic sentence that clearly give clues to the gist of this paragraph.   1)What words are repeated in this topic sentence AND in the closing sentence of the first paragraph?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * Underline details that explain how refugees feel scared and worried when war comes to their country. * Highlight direct text evidence that connects to these details. * Circle every time you see the word “father.”   2)How many times is the word used? \_\_\_\_\_\_  3)What subject is focused on to support the claim that many refugees feel scared and worried when war comes, just like Ha’s mother?  Subject: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Details about this subject:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| ***2nd Body Paragraph***  When refugees make the decision to flee, they often have to take risks in order to get their families to a safer place, which can turn them emotionally “inside out.” In the novel, Mother decides to take her family and make a risky escape to flee their home of South Vietnam. She knows they may never return home. In the article “Refugees: Who, Where, Why,” the author writes, “Most refugees hope to return to their homes.” She also writes that “some refugees cannot return home” (Gevert 1–2). This decision twists Mother inside out. In “Should We,” Ha writes that her mother gathers the family together and asks them if they should leave. Ha can see the conversation is upsetting for Mother. She writes, “Mother twists her brows…. Her brows twist so much we hush” (Lai 45). Mother knows this decision will twist their lives inside out. Once the family has escaped and is on the ship, Mother realizes that everything in her life has changed now. To try to comfort herself and her family, she says, “At least the moon remains unchanged” (Lai 89). By this, she means that their lives are all changed, sort of like inside out, but at least there are some things in life that are still the way they should be. This feeling of having life turned inside out because they may not be able to return to their home after deciding to flee is something that many refugees experience. | * Underline the topic sentence. You can also call this the next “sub-claim” to connect to the major claim.   1)List the major ideas that this paragraph will talk about from this topic sentence:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  2) What claim does the writer make about Ha’s mother in ***relation to the title of the novel?***  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * Highlight all evidence in this paragraph that supports mother turning “inside out.”   3)List two phrases from the topic sentence and the closing sentence that definitely shows a connection.  Opening: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Closing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Opening: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Closing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| ***Closing***  Refugees around the world have faced challenges when they flee their homes in search of finding a new home. In the article “Refugees: Who, Where, and Why,” the author writes, “Since early times, large groups of people have been forced to leave their homelands because of persecution and the devastation of their lands” (Gevert 2). Life is not easy living in a country at war, but fleeing home and finding a new home brings its own challenges that can make a refugee feel like his or her life is being turned inside out. In *Inside Out & Back Again*, Mother made the decision to flee South Vietnam to find a safer home for her family. This difficult decision would turn her life and her children’s lives inside out, just like the first half of the title says. | In the closing, there should be a connection to the opening and leave the reader with some final important thoughts.   * Underline the topic sentence in this closing.   1)List the words that are in BOTH this topic sentence and the topic sentence in the opening.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  2) Write a summary statement or two that summarizes how the author closes this essay.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  3) What are YOU, the READER, left to personally think about after reading this essay? (This will be personal and not necessarily what everyone in the group would say.)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |