

Ha's Challenges as a Refugee

Refugees are people who are forced to leave their homes because they feel fear or panic staying in their home country. After they decide to flee their home, they face many new challenges on their journey in the new country. In the book *Inside Out & Back Again*, author Thanhha Lai writes about a little girl named Ha who became a refugee because of the Vietnam War. Ha and her family moved to America and faced many challenges such as racial discrimination and language barrier. The novel illustrates the challenges and hardships of being a refugee by telling us why Ha's family chose to flee their country, what challenges they faced on their journey to America, and what challenges they faced in America.

Many refugees choose to flee their home country because of conditions like poverty, war, or just the feeling of fear and panic. In *Inside Out & Back Again*, Ha and her family decide to flee Vietnam because of the Vietnam War. In the poem "Current News" Ha says, "We keep talking about how close the Communists have gotten to Saigon, how much prices have gone up since American soldiers left, how many distant bombs were heard the previous night..." (39). In school, all Ha and her classmates talk about is how bombs can be heard the night before, how the prices for food and daily necessities have gone up, and how the Communists are getting closer and closer to their home. In the poem "Inside Out", Ha hears on the playground that "This year's bánh chung, eaten only during Tet, will be smeared in blood" (19), causing her to think that "the war is coming closer to home." (19). Ha's mother soon decides to take her family and leave Vietnam before the Communists come and capture them. Like many other refugees, Ha's mother fears that her family may be in danger, causing Ha and her family to leave their home country.

After refugees make the decision to flee their home country, they often face many

challenges on their journey to a new country. Ha and her family faced language borders, limited food, and different religions. In the poem “One Engine”, Ha writes “The commander decides the ration is now half a clump of rice only at morning and night, and one cup of water all day.” (136) The food rations for the refugees were very little because there wasn’t to go around to let everyone have a decent meal. Eating just two clumps of rice a day isn’t enough food to satisfy their hunger, so Ha and her family starved a lot during the journey. In “Tent City”, Ha says “We have landed on an island called Guam, which no one can pronounce except Brother Quang, who becomes translator for all.” (148) Just like other refugees all over the world, Ha’s family faces language borders on their journey to the new country. They only know how to speak their home language, Vietnamese, and not the language of the country they are traveling to, English. In the poem “Another Tent City”, Ha writes “Then by chance Mother learns sponsors prefer those whose applications say ‘Christians.’ Just like that Mother amends our faith, saying all beliefs are pretty much the same.” (165) Ha suddenly becomes a Christian because Mother found out sponsors prefer refugees whose applications say they are Christians. In order to fit in and be welcomed to the new country, refugees like Ha have to pretend to be someone who they are not and change themselves. Refugees like Ha and her family face many challenges on their way to the new country, often having to change themselves to fit in with the new society.

Refugees often face many challenges when they arrive in the new country. Ha, like many of the refugees around the world, faces bullying, discrimination, and cultural differences. In the poem “American Chicken”, Ha writes down “Most food our cowboy brings is wrapped in plastic or pushed into cans, while chicken and beef are chopped and frozen. We live on rice, soy sauce, canned corn.” (181) Ha has a difficult time adjusting to how Americans eat. In Vietnam, Ha is used to having rice for every meal, but in America, all she eats is canned and frozen food. In

another poem, "English Above All", Ha says "The wife insists we keep out of her neighbors' eyes." (176) Based on what Ha hears the wife say, it shows that the wife is ashamed to have Ha and her family as guests in their house. Ha's family is discriminated against just because they are Vietnamese. Ha is not only treated differently in her neighborhood, but also in school. In the poem "Loud Outside", Ha writes "He pokes my cheek. Howls from everyone. He pokes my chest. I see nothing but squeezed eyes, twisted mouths." (221) "The pink boy and two loud friends follow me home." (223) In these sentences, Ha describes how her classmates bully her, especially a boy she calls "Pink Boy". Pink Boy and his friends bully Ha and even go as far as to follow her to her house. Ha can't do anything because she can't speak English well, so she just tries to ignore them. Many refugees around the world like Ha face many of these challenges while trying to adjust in the new country.

From the beginning of the book *Inside Out & Back Again* to the end of the book, a major change I see in Ha is that she learns how to let go and also starts to slowly adjust in her new home. Refugees like Ha all over the world go through a hard time when adjusting to their new environment, but going through these challenges also lets them slowly let go of the past and finally move on. In this book, author Thanhha Lai shows us the world of a refugee through the eyes of a 10-year-old Vietnamese girl who had to move because of a war. Refugees face many hardships, but like the title suggests, refugees' lives may turn "inside out & back again", meaning they will have to move to a new country and face many new challenges, but overcoming them will bring them "back again", meaning they will be able to see and call the new country "home".

Essay Rubric

Category Description and Goals	Possible Points	Student Assessment	Actual Points Earned
Content and Analysis – The essay conveys ideas and information clearly and accurately in order to support an insightful analysis of the text, addressing all parts of the task.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	2	30
Command of Evidence – The essay is developed with relevant, well-chosen evidence and examples from the text. The evidence is varied and clearly supports your claims. Evidence is provided with context and explained thoroughly.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	3	30
Style and Organization – There are topic sentences. The essay logically organizes ideas and uses appropriate transitions. The essay uses a formal language with sophisticated language and an engaging style of writing.	4 – 20 3 – 18 2 – 16 1 – 14	2	20
Control of Conventions – There are no spelling or capitalization errors. Punctuation is used correctly. Paragraphs are indented.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	4	10
Publishing – The final piece is in size-12, Times New Roman font, has a cover, title, and is double-spaced. The student assessment and reflections are complete.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	4	10
Total:		87	100

Student Reflection	Teacher Comments
I am most proud of... I think I did pretty well providing supporting evidence.	Glow: Excellent job analyzing the text, explaining your thoughts, and addressing the essay task.
I struggled with... I struggled with transitioning from one topic to another.	Grow: Proofreading for clarity and to make your writing more concise is always a good idea.

Inside out & back again by Thanhha Lai

In the book *Inside Out & Back Again* written by Thanhha Lai, it describes that the family is leaving Vietnam because of a war in Vietnam. And while going to a camp the family almost got stranded and could have been busted. After the family got to a refugee camp and the camp the family went to was not great but they had to deal with it. Soon the family picked the United States and ended up in Alabama. The family struggles with getting bullied and not knowing the language and more.

The reason Ha and her family are leaving Vietnam is because of the war with the North Vietnamese is getting real close to Ha and her family's house. If the family does not leave then the family could be dead. The family does not have many options. While leaving, the family left behind a lot of things that were important to them. In the poem "Left Behind," Ha lists what they left behind, like "Ten gold-rimmed glasses Father brought back from America where he trained before I was born. Brother Quang's report cards, each ranking him first in class, beginning in kindergarten." (93-94). Ha writes that they have to leave behind Brother Vu's cowboy belt, Brother Khoi's row of glass jars used to raise fighting fish, and Mother's photographs of her and Father. These objects mean a lot to the family because it is what the family adores or likes in this case. The family would love to take everything with them but the family can't because if the family does take everything with them and then the other people may take everything with them too, the ship could sink. Additionally in the poem "Wet and Crying," Ha describes how hard it is to let go of her tree: "My biggest papaya is light yellow, still flecked with green. Brother Vu wants to cut it down, saying 'it's better than letting the Communists have it.' Brother Vu chops;

the head falls; a silver blade slices.” (96) It’s difficult for Ha to get rid of the tree, however, they decide to chop it down because the family does not want the North Vietnamese to have the tree. Like many other refugees forced to flee their homes, Ha and her family have to leave what the family-owned and to survive and can’t take back what they owned after that.

The journey to Alabama was also difficult for Ha and her family. One challenge Ha faced is that Ha has to drop her doll off the ship that she loved. In the poem “Last Respects,” Ha is describing that she is alone at the back of the ship with brother Khoi trying to find her doll: “Alone at the back of the ship I open Mother’s white handkerchief. Inside lies my mouse-bitten doll, her arms wrapped around the limp fuzzy body of his chick. I tie it all into a bundle. Brother Khôi nods and I smile, but I regret not having my doll as soon as the white bundle sinks into the sea.” (133). It’s hard for Ha to let go of her doll because she loved that doll and did not want to throw it into the ocean, but she did it anyway to make Brother Khoi a little happy about his loss. Another danger they faced was the threat of being stranded or caught by the North Vietnamese. In the poem “One Engine,” Ha describes how “Mother hugs me, hearts drumming as one. If the Communists catch us fleeing, it’s a million times worse than staying at home. After many shouts and much time the ship moves forward with just one engine. Mother would not release me.” (135). Mother was worried that her family may be in a lot of trouble from the North Vietnamese if the ship got spotted, but after a while, the ship starts moving and Mother keeps holding Ha close just in case. Ha and her family face difficulties when migrating to America, like other refugees who had escaped with Ha and her family

When Ha finally arrives in Alabama, she faces new challenges like having to learn a new language and being bullied by her classmates for being Vietnamese. In the poem "Third Rule," Ha writes, "Whoever invented English should be bitten by a snake." (195). Ha has a hard time learning English, but Miss Washington tutors Ha to help her learn. In "A New Word," she helps Ha by letting her learn a new word each day and giving her treats for every word she remembers: "She makes me memorize one new word a day and practice it ten times in conversation. For every new word that sticks to my brain she gives me fruit in bite sizes, drowning in sweet, white fluff; cookies with drops of chocolate small as rain; flat, round, pan-fried cakes floating in syrup." Miss Washington is different from Miss Scott because Miss Scott does not really care or help Ha while Miss Washington actually helps Ha and cares for her. In the poem "Pancake Face," Ha describes how she is bullied at school: "Pink Boy keeps asking, What are you? By the end of school he yells an answer: She should be a pancake. She has a pancake face. It doesn't make sense until it does. I run, hearing laughter" (289). This shows the difficulties of being a refugee in a new country because you won't know the language that well and also people will pick on you just because you are a refugee.

In conclusion, being a refugee of war is never a great thing. The reason is that you would lose everything/or most of what you owned and it shows that in the book by the family losing most of everything the family-owned just to flee Vietnam. Also when a refugee goes to a new place the refugee would have to restart their life. And it would take a very long time to learn that language even if you have someone helping you with learning that language. These all show in the book and while there are some other challenges of being a refugee listed in the book I just covered the most obvious ones that almost every refugee has to go through.

Essay Rubric

Category Description and Goals	Possible Points	Student Assessment	Actual Points Earned
Content and Analysis – The essay conveys ideas and information clearly and accurately in order to support an insightful analysis of the text, addressing all parts of the task.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	30	30
Command of Evidence – The essay is developed with relevant, well-chosen evidence and examples from the text. The evidence is varied and clearly supports your claims. Evidence is provided with context and explained thoroughly.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	27	30
Style and Organization – There are topic sentences. The essay logically organizes ideas and makes appropriate transitions. The essay uses a formal language with sophisticated language and an engaging style of writing.	4 – 20 3 – 18 2 – 16 1 – 14	20	18
Control of Conventions – There are no spelling or capitalization errors. Punctuation is used correctly. Paragraphs are indented.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	9	9
Publishing – The final piece is in size-12, Times New Roman font, has a cover, title, and is double-spaced. The student assessment and reflections are complete.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	10	10
Total:		96	97

Student Reflection	Teacher Comments
I am most proud of how the essay came out because I thought it was not going to be that good.	Glow: Your essay analyzes important aspects of the novel and provides evidence to support your claims.
I struggled with correcting my mistakes because I'm kind of not use to this or it's just something like that I just don't know.	Grow: Run-on sentences and commas. Using transition words to maintain a flow.

Inside Out And Back Again by Thanhha Lai

In the novel *Inside Out & Back Again* written by Thanhha Lai, the South Vietnamese have faced a lot of challenges like the North taking over the South causing the South Vietnamese to flee their homes. Making Ha and her family's life difficult in Vietnam. The family losing their father. The family went to Alabama and became free by going to Alabama.

The novel illustrates the challenges and hardships in many ways. One challenge the family has is that they don't have money for food. In the story "Eggs" (36) "Brother Khôi is mad at Mother for taking his hen's eggs. The hen gives one egg every day and a half." This shows that they don't have money for food if they do have money then they won't need to be mad at each other taking each other's food. Another way is when Ha and her family have to move. They had to leave their memories and they will be leaving their home land. They had to leave back items such as in the poem "Left behind" "Ten gold-rimmed glasses Father brought back from America where he trained before I was born, Brother Quang's report cards, Vines of jasmine in front of every window that remind Mother of the North, A cowboy leather belt Brother V sewed on Mother's machine, a row of glass jars brother Khôi used to raise fighting fish and pictures." (95) This explains what Ha and her family left behind.

Ha and her family left Vietnam because it became unsafe for the family to stay there. The North Vietnamese had taken over the South. In the poem "TV News," Ha writes "A pilot for South Vietnam bombed the presidential palace downtown that afternoon. The news says the pilot

has been a spy for the Communists for years.” (49) This shows that it is not safe anymore. In the story “Should we” (73) Mother asks us, Should we leave our home? Brother Quang says, How can we scramble away like rats, without honor, without dignity, when everyone must help rebuild the country? Brother Khôi says, What if Father comes home and finds his family gone? Brother V says, Yes, we must go.” This shows that they are planning they should leave because it is unsafe

Ha and her family face many hardships on their journey to Alabama. Some of them include not having enough food. In the poem S-l-o-w-l-y it says “I nibble on the last clump of cooked rice from my sack. No one has offered to share what I smell: sardines, dried durian, salted eggs, toasted sesame.” (117) In the poem Last respects it says “Brother khoi and I smile but i regret not having my doll as soon as the white bundle sinks into the sea. This shows that Ha lost something important to her.

Some challenges Ha and her family face in Alabama include Her family doesn't feel welcome when they come to Alabama. In the story “neighbors” it says “A brick shatters the front window, landing on our dinner table along with a note. Brother Quang refuses to translate.” If brother quang refuses to translate that shows that it might be something bad. Another example in the story “loud Outside” it says that “He pokes my cheek. Howls from everyone. He pokes my chest. I see nothing but squeezed eyes, twisted mouths” This shows that she doesn't like it when she is being bullied.

One major change Ha and her family experiences is they learn that her father is gone forever and she has to get used to how her life is gonna be in Alabama from now on.

Essay Rubric

Category Description and Goals	Possible Points	Student Assessment	Actual Points Earned
Content and Analysis – The essay conveys ideas and information clearly and accurately in order to support an insightful analysis of the text, addressing all parts of the task.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	3	
Command of Evidence – The essay is developed with relevant, well-chosen evidence and examples from the text. The evidence is varied and clearly supports your claims. Evidence is provided with context and explained thoroughly.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	3	
Style and Organization – There are topic sentences. The essay logically organizes ideas and makes appropriate transitions. The essay uses a formal language with sophisticated language and an engaging style of writing.	4 – 20 3 – 18 2 – 16 1 – 14	4	
Control of Conventions – There are no spelling or capitalization errors. Punctuation is used correctly. Paragraphs are indented.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	4	
Publishing – The final piece is in size-12, Times New Roman font, has a cover, title, and is double-spaced. The student assessment and reflections are complete.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	4	
Total:		94	

Student Reflection	Teacher Comments
I am most proud of the introduction	Glow: Topic sentences of body paragraphs support the evidence chosen to answering the essay question
I struggled with the conclusion	Grow: In the body paragraphs, state and connect the evidence chosen to the family’s experience as refugees

Refugees are people who have fled their homes because they are too scared to stay in their country. And when they flee, they could leave behind their home, friends, school, and items that have sentimental value. In the book “Inside Out & Back Again” by Thanhha Lai, Ha, and her family live in a country that’s at war. Ha has a mother that raises four children by herself. And as it gets more and more dangerous to stay in their country, Ha’s mother decides to take her family and flee out of Southern Vietnam leaving their home behind. The family has a tough journey ahead of them.

Making the decision to leave Vietnam was not the easiest decision to make. Ha’s mother knows it’s going to be hard to find a new place to live but it was getting more and more dangerous to stay in Saigon because the war was getting closer to their home. In “Early Monsoon” it states, “In the distance bombs explode like thunder, slashes lighten the sky, gunfire falls like rain. Distant yet within ears, within eyes. Not that far away after all.” Indicating that it is risky to stay in Vietnam any longer. Moreover, deciding what to take with them and what to leave behind is difficult for Ha because she can only choose one thing to bring with her. In “Choice” it states, “...one choice. I choose my doll, once lent to a neighbor who left it outside, where mice bit her left cheek and right thumb.” Since Ha chooses her doll, this means that she has to leave her papaya tree behind.

On their journey from fleeing Vietnam, Ha faces several challenges. One of those challenges was when she decided to throw her doll along with Brother Khoi’s deceased chick into the ocean. In “Last Respects” it says, “I open Mother’s white handkerchief. Inside lies my

mouse-bitten doll, her arm wrapped around the limp fuzzy body of his chick. I tie it all into a bundle. Brother Khoi nods and I smile, but I regret not having my doll as soon as the white bundle sinks into the sea.” This was a challenge for Ha because this was her favorite doll. This also shows Ha’s self-sacrifice for Brother Khoi. Furthermore, another challenge that Ha faces is when she felt like she forgot what land was. In “Once Knew” it says, “Water, water, water everywhere making me think land was something I once knew...” showing that Ha is struggling to remember what land was like because she was out on sea for so long.

Once they arrive to Alabama, Ha faces even more challenges. When she goes to her new school in Alabama, a bunch of kids start to bully her. In “Loud Outside” the author says, “A pink boy with white hair on his head and white eyebrows and white eyelashes pulls my arm hair” At first, Ha thought he was just curious about her arm hair just like when she was curious about the “golden fuzz”. But Ha figures out that he wasn’t curious and he just wanted to make fun of her in front of all the other kids. In addition, in “More Is Not Better” it states, “Now I understand when they make fun of my name yelling ha-ha-ha down the hall when they ask if I eat dog meat, barking and chewing and falling down laughing.” The kids at Ha’s school even make mean jokes about her every day which is extremely difficult for Ha to deal with because now she understood what they meant when they made these jokes.

In conclusion, being a refugee is extremely difficult due to the challenges that they face. As proven in “Inside Out & Back again”, Ha and her family face a series of challenges while feeling their home in search of a new and safer home. A few of these challenges were being on the brink of starvation “the ration is now half a clump of rice only at morning and night, and one cup of water all day”. They’ve also faced prejudice. In “Fly Kick” it says, “Someone called me Ching Chong.” Thus, this is why being a refugee is challenging.

Essay Rubric

Category Description and Goals	Possible Points	Student Assessment	Actual Points Earned
Content and Analysis – The essay conveys ideas and information clearly and accurately in order to support an insightful analysis of the text, addressing all parts of the task.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	3	25
Command of Evidence – The essay is developed with relevant, well-chosen evidence and examples from the text. The evidence is varied and clearly supports your claims. Evidence is provided with context and explained thoroughly.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	3	27
Style and Organization – There are topic sentences. The essay logically organizes ideas and uses appropriate transitions. The essay uses a formal language with sophisticated language and an engaging style of writing.	4 – 20 3 – 18 2 – 16 1 – 14	2	20
Control of Conventions – There are no spelling or capitalization errors. Punctuation is used correctly. Paragraphs are indented.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	4	10
Publishing – The final piece is in size-12, Times New Roman font, has a cover, title, and is double-spaced. The student assessment and reflections are complete.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	3	10
Total:			92

Student Reflection	Teacher Comments
I am most proud of... my introduction and conclusion paragraphs because I think I did well introducing the story and summing it up.	Glow: Your essay has a great flow with the use of transition words and your citations help to support your claims.
I struggled with... the body paragraphs.	Grow: Analyzing important moments of their journey/Ha's character in certain body paragraphs.

Inside Out And Back Again by Thanhha Lai follows the life of a little girl named Ha and her family who became refugees after they decided to leave a war-torn Vietnam feeling it was too unsafe to stay. The book is based on Thanhha Lai's life and what her family went through. *Inside Out And Back Again* shows us the challenges and hardships of being a refugee and shows us how much your life can change in a second.

Ha is a 10-year-old girl living in Saigon, South Vietnam with her mother and three older brothers. Their story takes place in 1975 during the violent Vietnam War when Saigon is caught in the middle of the conflict. For example, on page 81 poem "Early Monsoon", states "In the distance bombs explode like thunder, slashes lighten the sky, gunfire falls like rain. Distant yet within ears, within eyes." Another example of how dangerous Saigon was becoming would be in the second poem of the book "Inside Out" on page 19 Ha says, "Maybe soldiers will no longer patrol our neighborhood, maybe I can jump rope after dark, maybe the whistles that tell Mother to push us under the bed will stop screeching." Ha wants to do the things she did before the war came closer to Saigon and took everyone's freedom from going out late and living normally and happily. Ha's family decides that it would be best to leave Saigon before it was too late. However, this decision was not an easy one to make, and it was hard for the family to come to terms with.

Ha's family decides to go to the port and get on a boat the navy abandoned to leave Saigon before the communist get there. On page 98, the poem "Sour backs" states, "At the port, we find out there's no such thing as a secret among the Vietnamese. Thousands found out about the navy ships ready to abandon the navy." Because there are so many people they only have a

tiny space to stay on the journey, more and more people cram onto the ship to get away from the war. A couple of hours into the journey there was a pilot from the South that crash-landed by the ship, on page 108 he said, “At noon today the Communists crashed their tanks through the gates of the presidential palace and planted on the roof a flag with one huge star. Then he adds what no one wants to hear: It’s over Saigon is gone.” On the ship, Ha struggles to learn English along with most of her family, on the ship everyone has a limit of food and water, and even space because of how many people were on the ship. The ship was also running out of clean water to drink so no one showered and because they had one bathroom which was the captain’s. People would go to corners or tiny empty spots and use the bathroom. About a week or so on the ship, one of the ship’s engines went out leading them to go slower and leaving a lot of people hopeless of ever getting to a safe place, luckily two weeks into the journey an American Navy ship saves the ship Ha is on and gets them to Guam. When Ha’s mother has to choose where they will live she decides to go to America and they get flown to Florida and wait for a sponsor to take them in, eventually, they get a sponsor from Alabama and move.

When Ha and her family arrive in Alabama they still face many challenges living in a new place extremely different from what they are used to. Ha refers to her sponsor as a cowboy and we don't ever truly learn his name, however, we do learn that the cowboys’ wife is not happy with them staying there and keeps them in the basement. In addition, Ha, and her family are not welcomed by the people in the town and face acts of racism. On page 246, the poem “Neighbors”, states, “Eggs explode like smears of snot on our front door. Just dumb kids, says our cowboy. Bathroom paper hangs like ghosts from our willow. More dumb kids, says our cowboy. A brick shatters the front window, landing on our dinner table with a note.” Ha’s older brother Quang was the only one who spoke fluent English refused to translate the note, giving readers the idea that whatever the note said was very prejudiced towards the family. On page 220, poem “Loud

Outside” states, “A pink boy with white hair on his head and white eyebrows and white eyelashes pulls my arm hair. Laughter. It’s true my arm hair grows so long and black. Maybe he is curious about my long, black arm hair like I was curious about the golden fuzz on the arm of the rescue-ship sailor. He pokes my cheek. Howls from everyone. He pokes my chest. I see nothing but squeezed eyes, twisted mouths. No, they’re not curious." The constant bullying from other kids and how fast her life is changing leads her into a place where all she wants is for everything to go back to the way it was before the war and moving to America. Ha also says that she wants her father back, Ha’s father sadly passed away when Ha was one after being captured by North Vietnamese communist, on page 239, poem “wishes” states, “ I wish that I could be invisible until I can talk back, that English could be learned without so many rules. I wish Father would appear in my class speaking beautiful English as he does French and Chinese and hold out his hand for mine.” Ha needed time to adjust to her new life and become a child again. When Ha finally made friends and adjusted to her new life she was grateful for what she had and has even though at times she misses Vietnam and her old friends she is still happy where she is.

Essay Rubric

Category Description and Goals	Possible Points	Student Assessment	Actual Points Earned
Content and Analysis – The essay conveys ideas and information clearly and accurately in order to support an insightful analysis of the text, addressing all parts of the task.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	4-30	
Command of Evidence – The essay is developed with relevant, well-chosen evidence and examples from the text. The evidence is varied and clearly supports your claims.	4 – 30 3 – 27 2 – 24 1 – 21	3-27	

Evidence is provided with context and explained thoroughly.			
Style and Organization – There are topic sentences. The essay logically organized ideas and makes appropriate transitions. The essay uses formal language with sophisticated language and an engaging style of writing.	4 – 20 3 – 18 2 – 16 1 – 14	4-20	
Control of Conventions – There are no spelling or capitalization errors. Punctuation is used correctly. Paragraphs are indented.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	3-9	
Publishing – The final piece is in size-12, Times New Roman font, has a cover, title, and is double-spaced. The student assessment and reflections are complete.	4 – 10 3 – 9 2 – 8 1 – 7	3-9	
Total:		95	

Student Reflection	Teacher Comments
I am most proud of this essay because of the effort I put into it and also because of the outcome.	Glow: Evidence was thoughtful+well chosen. Each selection demonstrates the family’s challenges as refugees
I struggled with the 2 paragraphs and tried to stay on topic and also trying to not go into too much detail.	Grow: - Review intro. Paragraph & include a clear thesis statement that answers the essay question. - In the body paragraphs, state and connect the evidence chosen to the family’s experience as refugees

