Overview

When young Suzy's father leaves for Vietnam, she struggles to understand what this means for her and her family. What is the jungle like? Will her father be safe? When will he return? The months slip by, marked by the passing of the familiar holidays and the postcards that he sends. But when the postcards stop coming she worries that he will never make it home.

Instructions

Close your eyes. Now picture a jungle. Wait a few minutes, open your eyes, and raise your hand to describe the jungle you saw.

Read the book.

Vocabulary

**Jungle:** a wild land, overgrown with dense forest and tangled vegetation.

**Postcard:** a card for sending a message by mail without an envelope, usually having an illustration or photograph on one side (show some examples).

Comprehension Questions

- Who is telling the story? How do you know?
- What is Suzy's idea of a jungle?
- At Halloween, why did a lady give Suzy too much extra candy? How did it make Suzy feel?
- Why did the dad send Suzy a birthday card when it was not her birthday?
• Why did the mom run into the living room and turn the TV off?
• How is dad “here but not here?”

Activity

Look at a map of Vietnam. What shape is it? A dragon! Show the students step-by-step how to draw a dragon.
How to Draw a Dragon

**Step 1**
Start with a shape for the head, and then draw a neck. Next, draw out the body shape which kind of looks like a rock.

**Step 2**
Begin shaping out the face which is just the jaw line, and nose. When that is done move to the next step.

**Step 3**
Now draw out the frills, if you look closely they look a lot like fish fins. Draw the frills on the sides of the head, and then on top of the head.

**Step 4**
Draw in the shapes of the eyes, and then draw the slitted pupils. Add dashes for the nostril holes, and then begin drawing out the body and tail.

**Step 5**
Now draw in the front and back legs, as well as the chest, and stomach. Be sure you take your time so you end up with this awesome looking dragon.

**Step 6**
Now all you have to do is draw out the toes for the feet and then draw the detailing swirls on the elbows and knees.

**Step 7**
Erase the guides and shapes you drew in the first step, and then draw out the one wing.

**Step 8**
Color in your dragon!