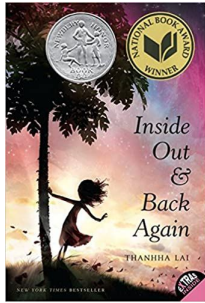


# Activities for *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai



For all ten years of her life, Hà has lived in Saigon with her family, growing and learning and raising her very own papaya tree. Now, though, war has come to Vietnam and Hà and her family must seek safety in a new country. They embark on a journey to the United States, where they are met with new people and experiences. *Inside Out and Back Again* is a gorgeous, funny and moving story of one family's refugee experience, told in verse.

You can check out the audio eBook by visiting [denverlibrary.org/downloads](https://denverlibrary.org/downloads) and choosing RB Digital.

Visit [youtube.com/denverlibrary](https://youtube.com/denverlibrary) and check out the Book Explorers playlist to learn more about the book. Then, try one of these activities to extend the experience.

## Write a thank you note

In the poem “Nước Mắm”, Thanhha Lai writes, “Everything is/more edible/with nước mắm.” Nước mắm is a fish sauce that Hà and her family put on lots of different foods in their refugee camp. Is there something in your life that makes everything better? Write a thank you note to whatever it is, whether it's a food or a book or a person or something else!

## Find a story

In her author's note at the end of the book, Thanhha Lai says that she hopes, “after you finish this book, you sit close to someone you love and implore that person to tell and tell and tell their story.” Ask someone you love to tell you the story of their life.

## Make a welcome plan.

Hà feels out of place and misunderstood at her new school. Whether kids have moved to this country from somewhere else or were born here, you may know someone who also feels out of place or misunderstood. Make a plan for how you can help someone in your life--a classmate, a neighbor, a friend or a family member--feel welcome.