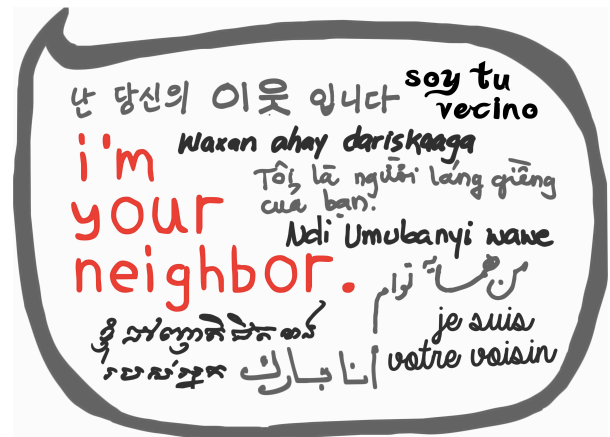


Thank you for reading this *I'm Your Neighbor, Portland* book.

*"The true meeting takes place when the book opens, and a stranger reads about — and comprehends — a stranger."* –Amit Majmudar, author of *The Abundance*.

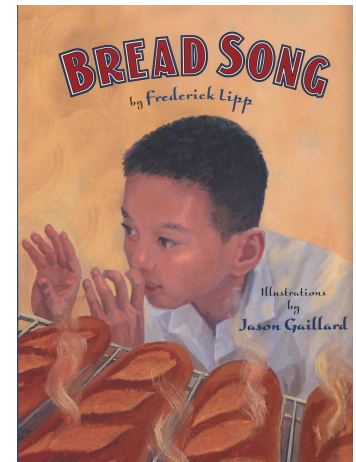
We hope that this book has introduced you to some of your neighbors' stories and as Amit Majmudar said, allowed you to "comprehend a stranger."



## Discuss

Consider exploring these questions after reading *Bread Song* by Fred Lipp.

- Chamnan comes from Thailand to live in Portland, Maine. Have you ever had to move somewhere new? What did you miss about your old home and how did you make the new place feel more like home?
- Chamnan's grandfather takes him to the bakery and encourages him to practice his English as they count the steps together. His grandfather knows Chamnan is lonely and misses his home in Thailand. Who have you turned to or talked to when you felt lonely?
- Look at the illustrations of the people in the bakery. What are they doing to make Chamnan feel more welcome? How can you make someone feel welcome when you don't share the same language?
- Alison the Baker, Bill the Fisherman and other customers at the bakery always talk to Chamnan even though he never answers them. Have you ever reached out to someone and they didn't respond? What did you do next? Does it take courage to try again?
- Alison recognizes that Chamnan knows things that she doesn't, even though he doesn't speak a lot of English. For example, she asks Chamnan to help her order from the menu at his family's restaurant. What are some things you have learned from someone else and how did you know that they knew something you didn't?



- Alison helps Chamnan overcome his shyness to speak English. Have you ever felt shy about doing something? How did you overcome your shyness or fear?
- Chamnan and Alison bond over the bread song. Is there a quality about food that crosses many cultures? Have you ever tried a food that was unfamiliar to you?

## Engage

**VISIT** the bakery that inspired the story. **Standard Bakery Co.** at 75 Commercial Street in Portland, ME serves Chamnan's chocolate biscotti and many types of bread

**EAT** at one of Portland's many Thai restaurants. **Saeng Thai House** (921 Congress Street), **Sala Thai Restaurant** (1363 Washington Avenue) and **Pom Thai Taste** (571 Congress Street) serve Thai food like Chamnan's family restaurant

**SHOP** at Asian groceries. **Mittapheap International Market** at 61 Washington Avenue has a large selection of Asian ingredients.

## Read

Selections from *I Remember Warm Rain*:

- "Untitled" by Abdiaziz Mohemud

Selections from *New Mainers*:

- Grace Valenzuela, Philippines
- Abdullah Pious Ali, Ghana
- Timwah Luk, Hong Kong

Other books by Fred Lipp set in Southeast Asian communities

Ages 4-8

- *Running Shoes*, Charlesbridge Publishers (Set in Cambodia)
- *The Caged Birds of Phnom Penh*, Holiday House (Set in Cambodia)
- *Tea Leaves*, Mondo (Set in Sri Lanka)

Titles set among Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees

Ages 4-8

- *A Path of Stars* by Anne Sibley O'Brien (Set in Maine, Cambodian American community)
- *The Lotus Seed* by Sherry Garland (Set in Vietnam, Vietnamese American community)
- *The Whispering Cloth* by Pegi Dietz Shea (Set in Thailand, Hmong American)

- community)
- ***The Gold Threaded Dress*** by Carolyn Marsden (Set in Arizona, Thai American community)

Ages 13+

- ***Alive in the Killing Fields*** by Nawuth Keat and Martha Kendall (Set in Cambodia and Thailand, Cambodian American community)
- ***Vietnamerica*** by GB Tran (Set in America and Vietnam, Vietnamese American community)
- ***Inside Out and Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai (Set in Vietnam, Vietnamese American community)
- ***Tangled Threads*** by Pegi Dietz Shea (Set in Thailand, Hmong American community)