

Book Title: Watercress

Author: Andrea Wang

Introduction

Begin by asking students:

- Do you know what watercress is?
- In this story, it's a plant that brings back memories to a young girl and her family. Are there things in your lives that, when you see them, instantly bring back memories?

Reading and Discussion

Introduce vocabulary: watercress, abrupt, muck, famine

Possible discussion questions:

- What do you think makes the parents feel a longing for China?
- Why do you think the girl wants the bottom of the bag to split open?
- How does she feel about "free things"? Why do you think she feels this way?
- What happened to the girl's uncle?
- How does the girl feel about her family at the end of the story?

Activity: Illustrate a memory

In *Watercress*, the mother shares a memory from her childhood that changes how the narrator sees her family. Have students **think of a memory** that is meaningful to them or their family. Guide students with questions such as:

- What happened in the memory?
- How did it make you feel?
- Why is it important to you or your family?

Students then **illustrate their memory** using colors, symbols, and details to represent emotions and events. Encourage them to focus on feelings—how did this moment shape them or their family?

Below their illustration, students then **write a short paragraph** explaining:

- What is happening in the picture?
- Why is this memory important?
- What did they learn from this experience?