THIS IS A SAMPLE FROM GREAT STORIES SERIES

Volume 1

Teacher's Guide to Accompany

Your Story Hour®

GREAT NEW STORIES SERIES

Volumes 1

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GS-1
Story 1

THE BRAVEST ONE

Brave Vietnam War orphan

Jeremiah Smith runs an orphanage in Vietnam. Nyan-Vet, an eleven-year-old boy, loses his family and moves into the orphanage. He is quiet at first, but he becomes one of the most popular children in the orphanage. Nyan-Vet is asked to work around the compound instead of going to school because he causes so much trouble in the classroom. One day, Nyan-Vet meets John Michael Flanagan, a Marine. They become friends and Nyan-Vet spends much of his time with the Marines. John Michael Flanagan decides to adopt Nyan-Vet and take him to the United States. The day before they are to leave, the orphanage is set on fire by bombs. Nyan-Vet runs into the orphanage to save his friends and he is killed. Years later, John Michael Flanagan describes Nyan-Vet as the bravest person he ever met.*

Time Period Covered: During the Vietnam War (1961–1975)

Main Characters

Jeremiah Smith—Director of an orphanage in Vietnam

Nyan-Vet—An eleven-year-old orphan

Miss Vaughn—A teacher at the orphanage

John Michael Flanagan—A Marine

Other Characters Mentioned

Pierre—Frenchman who ran the orphanage before Jeremiah Smith

Wan-Li—Sister of Nyan-Vet

San Se Li—An orphan

Sally—Wife of John Michael Flanagan

Mike and Kelly—Marines

Content Questions

1. How much time passed before the bodies of Nyan-Vet's family were found in the rubble?
2. What did the children in the orphanage call Jeremiah Smith?
3. What did the sign on Jeremiah's back say?
4. Where was Jeremiah from?
5. What did Nyan-Vet put in his classmate's desk?
6. What did John Michael Flanagan give to Nyan-Vet?

* Details have been changed, but this story is based on actual events during the Vietnam War.

7. Why was John Michael Flanagan so fond of Nyan-Vet?
8. Who was Sally?
9. Who wanted to adopt Nyan-Vet and take him to the United States?
10. How did John Michael Flanagan describe Nyan-Vet?

Discussion Questions

1. What does this story teach us about the way we should treat people who have lost loved ones?
2. Nyan-Vet was very mischievous. What do you think about some of the tricks he played in the story?
3. What are some things that would scare you if you were going to travel to a country you had never seen? What are some of the things you would be excited about?
4. Nyan-Vet was very brave, but is it ever a good idea to run into a burning building? Why or why not?

Map Activity

Locate the following places:

- Texas, where John Michael Flanagan lived before the war.
- Des Moines, Iowa, where some of the soldiers lived before the war.
- Vietnam, a small country in Asia torn apart by war.

PLEASE NOTE: PAGES ARE MISSING FROM THIS SAMPLE

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