

# **March 8<sup>th</sup> Flex Agenda**

## **ESOL & English Faculty work with TLC Tutors**

### **1-3pm in room 5202**

#### **Part 1: Breaking down Prompts in the Tutoring Session**

- (1) **Introductions** (5 min)
- (2) **ESOL prompt** (15 min): 5 minutes independent review (page 2)  
and 10 minutes discussion
- (3) **Engl 105 prompt** (25 min): 5 minutes independent review (page 3),  
10 minutes pair-share, 10 min large group share out
- (4) **Best practices** to help a student break down prompts (15 min)

**60 minutes**

#### **Part 2: Working with an Essay in the Tutoring Session**

- (1) **Reading the essay** (pages 4-7) and taking individual notes (10 min)
- (2) **Break into groups** of 4-5 with a mixture of tutors and faculty to discuss  
and take notes (20 mins)
- (3) **Large group share out**: each group posts one best practice on the board that  
is not already listed (15 mins)
- (4) **Listing all the best practices** to work with a student on a paper (15)

**60 minutes**



## Essay 1: Food & Identity ENGL 105-SP 18 STRUSS

Reflect on Bich Nguyen's memoir *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* and her use of music and food.

Prompt(s) choose one of the two options:

Nguyen uses many different representations of describing the development of her identity.

- a. What symbols and metaphors do you see in *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* and what aspects of her identity or her family's identity do these represent?
- b. In what ways does Nguyen use food and culinary customs a metaphor for who she and her family are and/or who she wishes to be?

Option b is slightly more challenging than option a. Pick your level of challenge and/or what you feel more inclined to write about. This essay will challenge you to think about and define Nguyen's identity as well as find representations of that identity in the memoir. Write a well-organized, well-developed essay. You must synthesize the various experiences and ideas from the chapters we read in the book to fully support your essay using a mix of paraphrase, summary, and quotation.

Criteria:

- 1000-1250 words (4-5 pages typed, double space)
- Clear thesis statement & TEA paragraphs
- Introductory hook, short intro of the full author name & book title in the introduction, and well-thought-out conclusion
- Each paragraph must have support from *Stealing Buddha's*; use MLA in-text citations
- No other outside quotations or stats (only work from Nguyen and your own creative thoughts)
- Work Cited at the end of the essay
- Underline your thesis & topic sentences
- Style: The essay should not include: any passive voice, announcement language "In this essay, I will talk about . . .," or "you."
- Proofread especially for articles, fragments, run-on sentences, comma splices, use of FANBOYS, capitalization of "I" and spelling.

Required:

- **Make an appointment to discuss one of your drafts at the Learning Center with a tutor or with myself.** If you have trouble with ideas, essay structure, or development do this for your 1<sup>st</sup> draft. If you have problems with grammar do this with your 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Due Dates:

- Outline: Feb. 7
- 1<sup>st</sup> draft (thesis & body paragraphs) You must come to class with at least two pages, 12 point font, typed --2 copies; Feb. 12
- 2<sup>nd</sup> draft: 1 copy, Feb. 21
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft, 1 copy in-class, and electronic copy sent to yourself, on USB, etc. Feb. 28
- Final Draft, Canvas (electronically) & in-class (paper form), March 2

Due on March 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Final electronically uploaded to Canvas before 5PM
- Outline, all drafts in folder
- **3<sup>rd</sup> draft thoughtfully proofread**
- **Signed Tutor/Conference Shee**

### Identities to be American

Not only do people need foods for nutrients but also foods represent people's culture, religions and identity. In the book "Stealing Buddha's Dinner" by Bich Minh Nguyen, the author tells about her identity in America. Nguyen expresses her identity with religion, fruits and food metaphors.

Nguyen clearly mentions her identity by religion. Nguyen's grandmother 'Noi' is the person who always keeps them in Buddhism. The author says, " Every evening Noi meditated, sitting on her bedroom floor in front of the family altar and Buddha statue, her back perfectly straight" ( 183). In Nguyen's house, they put golden statue of Buddha and altar for Buddha and their dead relatives in living room. Their grandmother pays respect to the Buddha statue in the morning and the evening and so do she and her sister. Nguyen likes to wake up early in the morning just to steal a piece of grape from the altar but she also feels afraid of her dead relatives and Buddha (19). It shows that Nguyen believes soulful in her religion. She was growing up among Christianity and when she went to public school, she believed in the blessing of St. Joseph, but she questioned about Christian religion (179-180). Nguyen says, "I was wondering how Mary could be the mother of God. Plus, wasn't she supposed to be a virgin?" (180). She confused about Christian's faith. Again, she didn't want to say "Amen", after students pray for school lunch because she always defines herself as a Buddhist. Nguyen writes, " At home I told Rosa about the prayers. She sat down at once to write notes for me and Anh, informing our

teachers that we were Buddhist and not Catholic, and therefore not allowed to lead the prayer, ever” (181). Nguyen told Rosa about praying at that she didn’t want to. Rosa helped her to explain that Bich and her sister are not Catholic. Nguyen strongly believes in reincarnation. Nguyen mentions in her book, Noi’s younger son Quan been killed in war and she saw her dead son in her dream, asking for help. Then in the next morning when they went to cemetery, they found out that Quan’s head stone had fallen (31). Nguyen believes about life after dead as a Buddhist but if she had chance, she would want to be a blond girl. It shows that she identifies herself as an Asian Buddhist girl.

According to Buddhism, fruits are part of religion identification. When Nguyen was child, she wanted to eat some fruits from that her grandmother offered to Buddha on the altar. Nguyen writes, “When at last Noi took up two pieces of fruit for my sister and me” (19). When Noi knew that children were willing to eat fruits, Noi took some for Nguyen and Anh. Once Nguyen’s step mother Rosa came to visit their home for very first time, Rosa laughed at the fruits from the altar and she said that fruits are belonged in the kitchen (21). Rosa’s actions shows, that fruits represent differently in other cultures. Bich notices that their behavior looked funny for other people. One day, Nguyen and her family visited to Rosa’s house, Rosa served them with delicious apples. She cut them without peeling skin and make them same size. Nguyen writes that Rosa said, “ An apple a day keeps the doctor away” (29). As Rosa said, eating fruits is good for health and keep people away from medicine. It shows fruits are eaten for different purpose and differently identified for others people. Nguyen says, “ We could never get enough. The fruit seemed dearer to us than candy, and I believed that the transformation from globe to

glistening slices involved some kind of magic” (19). In Nguyen’s book, she mentions that fruits are representable for religion and identity but also she personally like to eat fruits.

Author shows her and her family’s identity are different from American families by her Vietnamese culture and foods metaphors. Nguyen’s father and Rosa started dating after they met at a party. Soon after, Rosa came to visit to Nguyen’s house and she surveys around the house. Noi made Pho Noodle for Rosa and that was the first time Rosa ate noodle by using chopsticks. In the book of Nguyen, “At dinner Rosa sat down at the kitchen table with us and ate Noi’s Pho, trying to pick up the slippery noodle with her chopsticks” (21). That movement shows their different cultures by eating foods. Not only Rosa had suffering with cross culture but also Nguyen had same experience too. One day Nguyen visit to Tara’s house, Nguyen was yelled by Tara’s mother because Nguyen started eating dinner before they pray (120). Later, Nguyen told Rosa that she felt sorry for eating before praying in Tara’s house. Rosa laughed at her that she sat at the head of the table. In the book, “Then Rosa laughed at the idea of me sitting at the head of the table. Don’t you know you’re not supposed to sit there?” (120). In fact, normally house father or the pray person sits at the head of the table. Nguyen didn’t know about that until Rosa told her. Bich thought Americans eat bread and ham or pray before eating. Bich wanted Rosa to teach her about American culture. After that she started complaining to Rosa, “Why didn’t you tell me? Isn’t it a mother’s job to teach lessons on good manners?” (120). That time, Bich wants to start learning American culture even though she defines herself as a Vietnamese girl. Onward, she tries to fit in with American kids and follows what her step-sister Crissy does, apparently her reaction shows that she really doesn’t fit in with other American kids and eating habits (133). For example, when Bich hangs out with Crissy and others friends, Crissy asks her to eat rhubarb with

sugar. Bich hates that taste and she said, “If the rhubarb was an admission taste, I was failing it” (133). Crissy wants them to try not only rhubarb but also bread ball with honey. Nguyen writes, “Crissy had given me remained in my hands. There was something repulsive, something gruesome, about breaking down the bread. I wanted it to say firm and spongy” (133). It shows that she didn’t like the way Crissy break down a bread slice and make a ball shave and then eat with honey but her sister Anh ate them because Anh was adopting American culture and she is trying to act like other American kids. At the end, Nguyen gives up to be part of Crissy’s gang to prove her identity as American.

Nguyen say, “We were Vietnamese, we were refugee, we were Americans” (251). There is nothing different among of American people to be Americans. Nguyen slowly knows that she wrongly believed her identity as an American by religion, culture and food metaphors. She finally found out the truth about her identity as an American by being Vietnamese.

#### Work Cited

Nguyen,Bich Minh. *Stealing Buddha’s dinner*.Penguin,2007.