



Simone

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Illustrated by Minnie Phan

Grades K-5

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Reading Guide by Jennifer Silver, Southland Council of Teachers of English

Discussion Questions

1. What role does imagination play in Simone's life? Does it help her, and why or why not? Why do you think she needs it?
2. How does Simone's mother help Simone through the challenges she experiences in the story? How does their cultural background and past experiences, such as Simone's mother's life in Vietnam, aid them in overcoming the challenges they face?
3. In what ways do the illustration's and story work together in this book? Choose your favorite page in the book and explain why it interests you.
4. What are ways you can help yourself and others during important changes in life? What does Simone do to help herself and others?
5. At one point toward the end of the story, Simone's mother says, "You don't fight fire with fire. You fight fire with water." While we know that fires are sometimes put out by water, what other lessons could there be in this statement?



**LOS ANGELES
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EXPLORE

Beyond This Book

1. What do you want to know about a firefighter's life? Write a few questions to ask a firefighter in your area. Then, ask an adult to help you arrange a short phone call to learn more about their experiences.
2. With a few friends or classmates (or on your own!), create thank you cards and drawings like Simone does for firefighters or for other important people in your community. Deliver or mail what you create.
3. What causes fires to happen in California and other places in the United States? Why do fires happen in some places more than others? What kind of science is involved? What can we do to help prevent fires or to help others affected by these events?

