

Meet Bao Phi!

What is your book about?

A young Vietnamese girl and her two moms deal with bullying through love and family.

Where did the inspiration for *My Footprints* come from?

Partially through my own experience as a child, and partially from wanting to write a picture book dealing with bullying that simultaneously expands our understanding of what an Asian American family looks like.



What does imagination mean to you?

Much like the protagonist in *My Footprints*, imagination was a tool for me to cope with the difficulties in life. As an adult, imagination is also a tool to imagine a better world.



My Footprints

Thuy walks home one afternoon, angry and lonely after a bully's taunts. A bird catches her attention and sparks Thuy's imagination. Mimicking the footprints of creatures in the snow, she makes her way home to the arms of her moms. Together, they imagine beautiful and powerful creatures who always have courage, just like Thuy.

What do you want readers to take away from your book?

Kindness is underrated.

A lot of readers want Thuy's cat hat! Is there a story behind it?

In the initial sketches, Basia had drawn an adorable deer hat. But since my daughter Sông likes cats so much, and actually had a similar hat when she was little, we suggested a change.

