

# MY NAME IS BANLANG PHOMMASOUVANH

HONORING BANLANG PHOMMASOUVANH



By STUDENTS from  
HIAWATHA-HOWE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## **MY NAME IS BANLANG PHOMMASOUVANH**

Words & music by Larry Long with Lynn Pyfferoen's 3RD GRADE CLASS of Hiawatha-Howe Community School

Illustrations by Artist Kenneth Antonio Rivera, Art Instructor at Hiawatha-Howe Community School

Illustration models: 4th Grade Students

Music Instructor: Janice Bauer

HIAWATHA-HOWE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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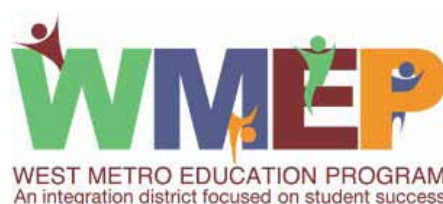


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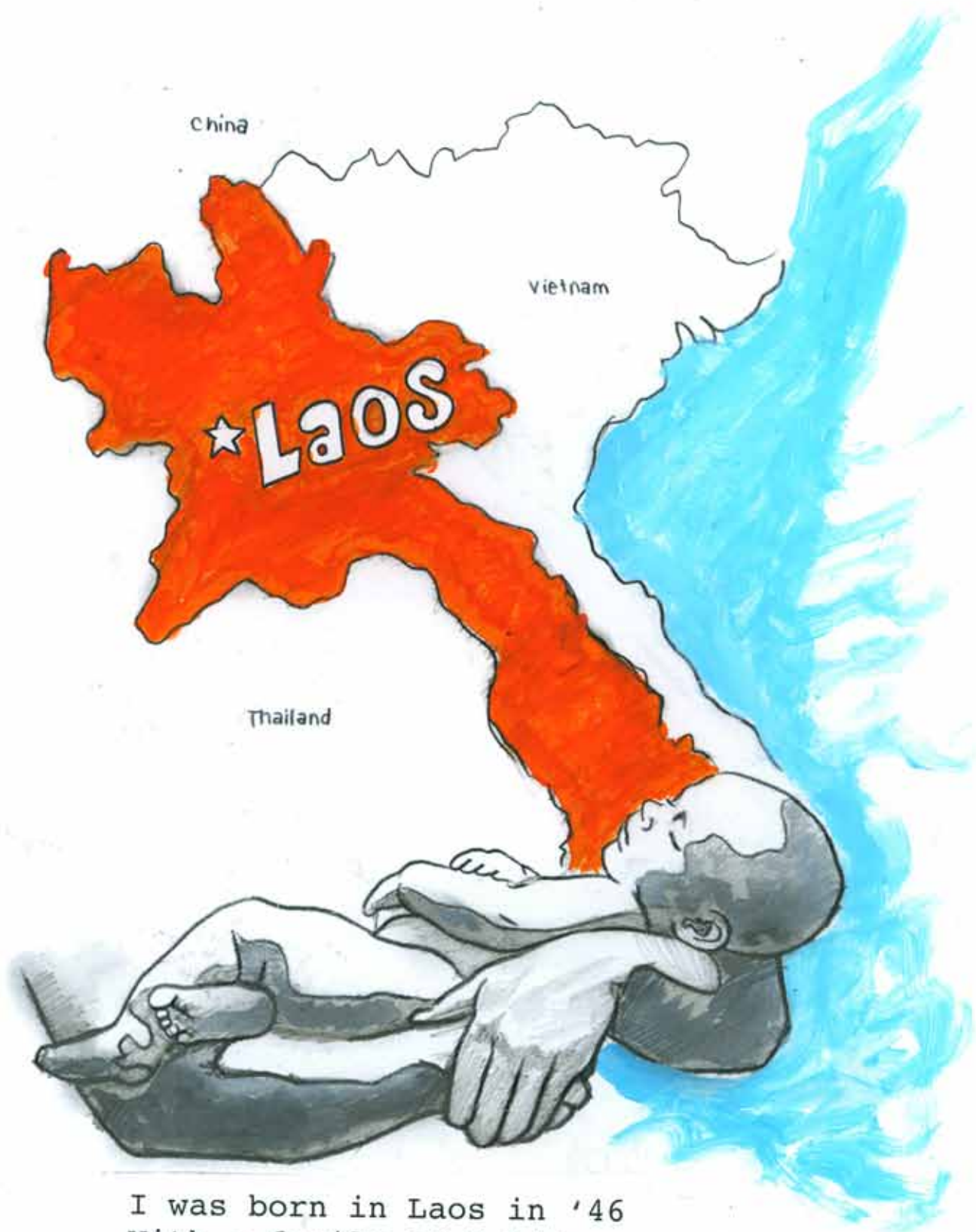


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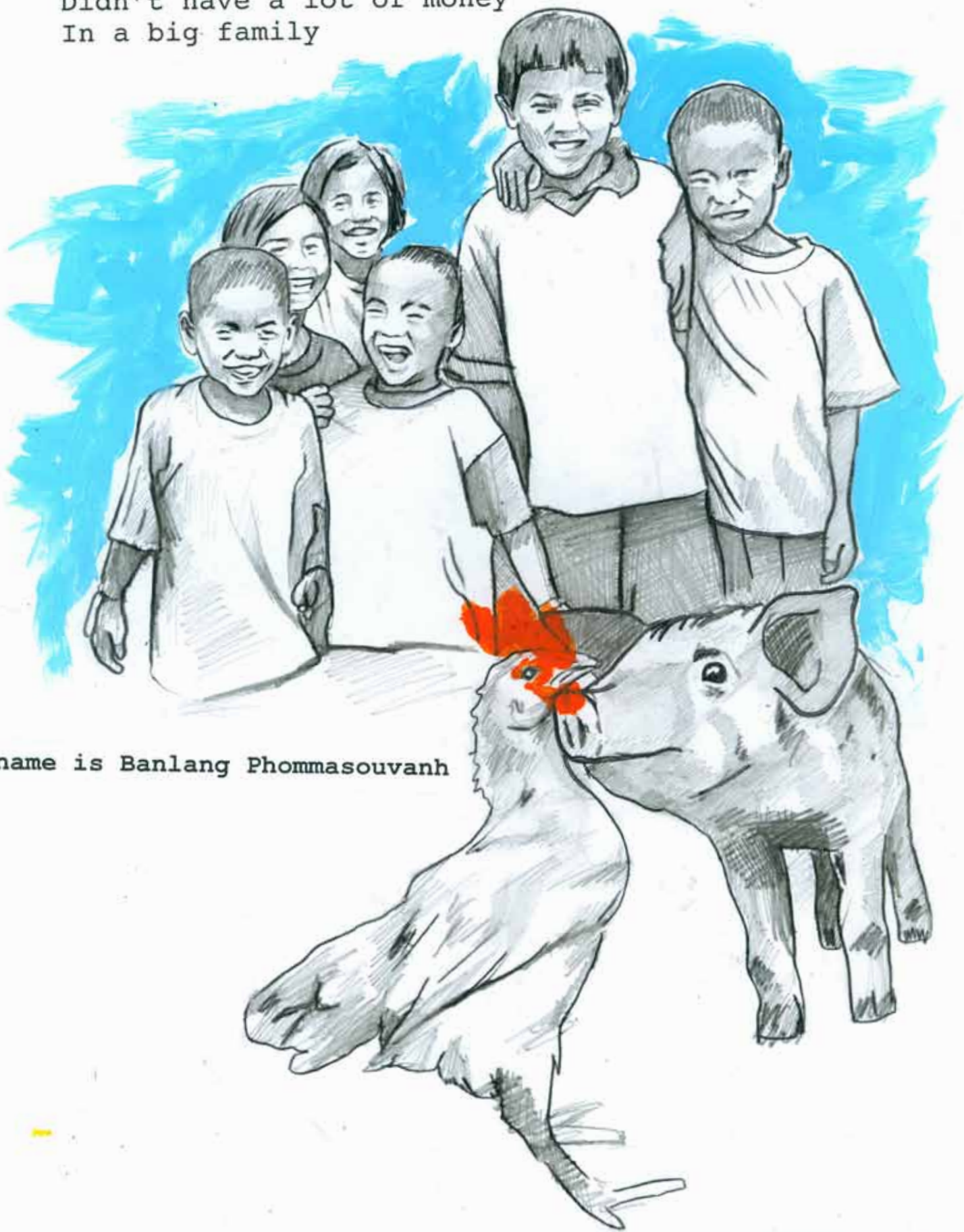






I was born in Laos in '46  
With a family of 8 kids  
After school, when I came home  
I would tutor my younger siblings

I would babysit, my mom didn't  
Have to pay anybody  
With chickens and pigs, so we could live  
Didn't have a lot of money  
In a big family



My name is Banlang Phommasouvanh



From the mango, lychee, banana trees  
From watching my mother  
I learned to share and how to care  
For my sisters and brothers  
For one another



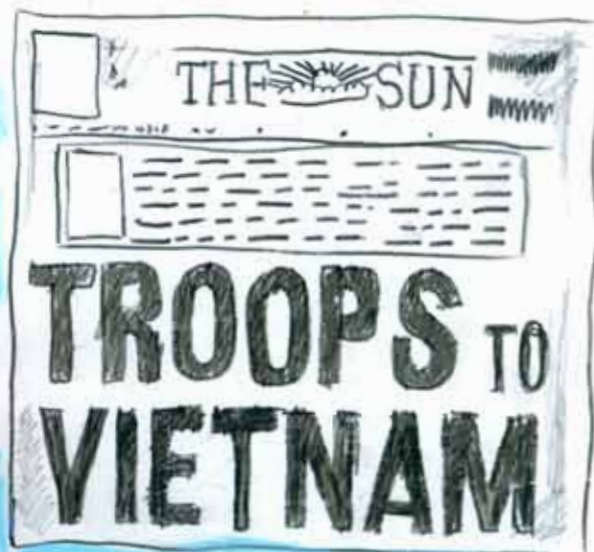
My name is Banlang Phommasouvahn



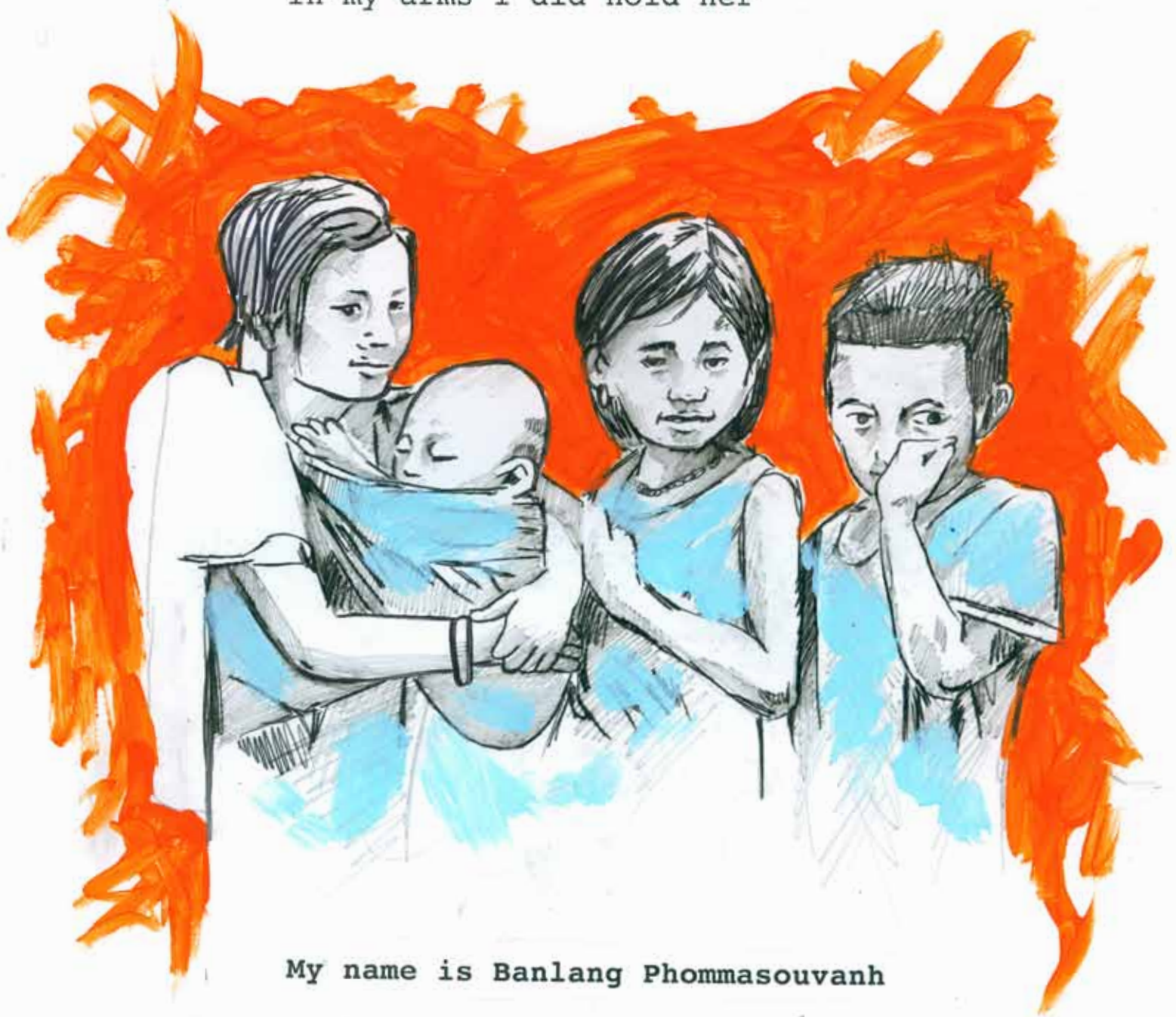
I would walk a mile from my home  
In Dry and wet weather  
To bring food to the monks  
And to feed the poor stranger



With a scholarship, I went to France  
To get my degree  
When I returned the war broke out  
To become a refugee

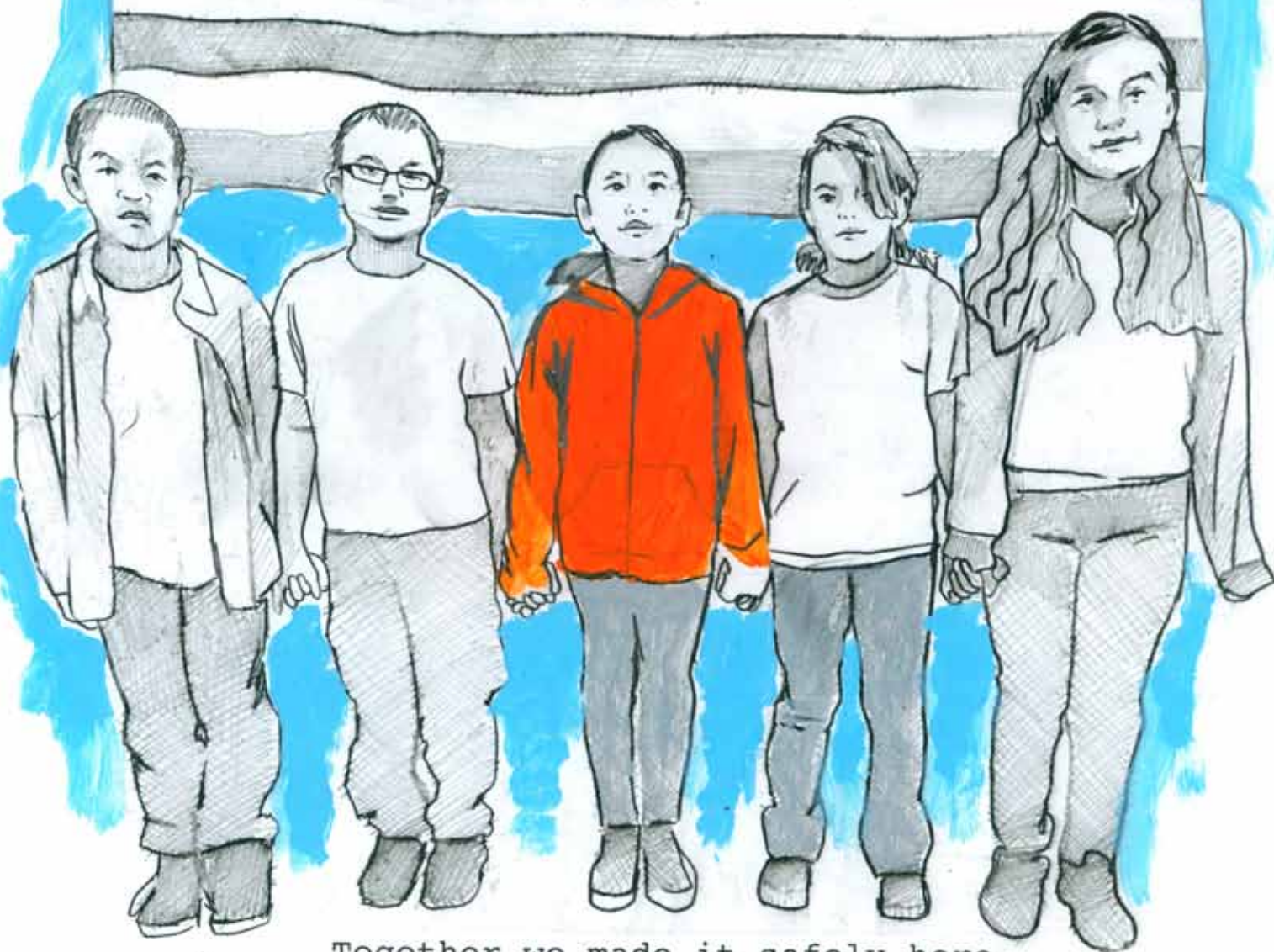
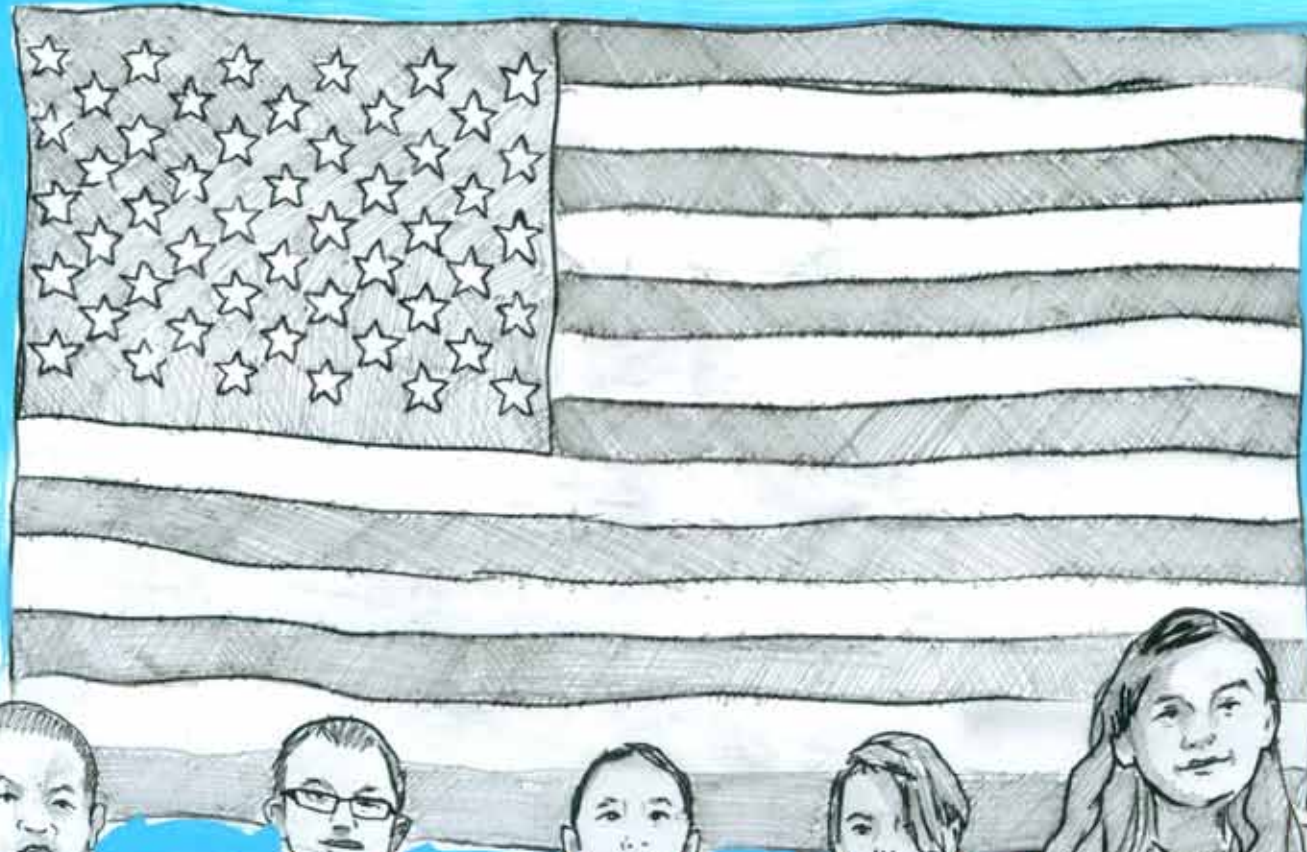


Lots of friends die  
In the Mekong-River crossing over  
Into Thailand with my youngest  
Daughter on my shoulder  
In my arms I did hold her



My name is Banlang Phommasouvanh





Together we made it safely here  
Not that long ago  
From Thailand to America  
Ten thousand miles from home





Life is full of ups and downs  
But with an education  
I know you will survive  
In any situation  
With an Education





This is my song, this is my story  
Never to lie, speak the truth only  
Do not steal from anybody  
Do not kill or hurt somebody



My name is Banlang Phommasouvahn





## ABOUT THIS BOOK:

MY NAME IS BANLANG PHOMMASOUVANH was produced through an educational and cultural program created by Smithsonian Folkways Recording artist Larry Long, entitled Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song.

Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song is a program of Community Celebration of Place, a non-profit organization, which works with communities through music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children, elders, and people of different backgrounds-economic, faith, racial and cultural-in order to build intergenerational and multicultural opportunities for all schools and communities to prosper.

Dr. Tony Seeger, Curator Emeritus of Smithsonian Folkways, writes, *"When senior members of a community talk about their lives and work and children write songs with Larry Long about what they have learned from the elders, they create a remarkable celebration of humanity and hard work."*



To learn more about Elders' Wisdom,  
Children's Song:  
[www.communitycelebration.org](http://www.communitycelebration.org)

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