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## Southest Asia, Second Grade

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SOUTHEAST ASIA, SECOND GRADE

When the art class washes black  
over their secret crayola drawings  
Blong's Spiderman  
pulls a green net across  
the watery page. When we write  
poems that begin *I remember*  
Blong designs  
a Mercedes limousine, the exact  
military detail. In dream  
poems, he colors  
a ship with two anchors  
a ship whose stars and stripes  
shine turquoise, orange, and green.  
He prints slowly  
*I'm the one who eats ghosts.*  
He's the one who searches  
all the books for more  
designs: a pink brontosaurus grins  
and hops, his Arapaho  
eagle rises like fire, Norwegian  
serpents curl  
to bronze, aquamarine and Spiderman  
comes back again  
and again without a sound  
to my desk, to my lap —  
the scraps, manilla, white  
paper in sixteen folds.  
And I'm the one  
with the wide Caucasian face  
who stares inscrutably  
at the nets that bind. Down the hall  
the soldiers' boys, pencils in fists,

*Roseann Lloyd*

grudge out the calligraphy of punishment —  
I WILL NOT EXPLODE IN CLASS —  
these sentences  
knotting inside  
one hundred times.