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## Two Poems: My Interaction with Other SE Asian Communities, Struggle to Laotian Community

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## Creative and Literary Works

### Two Poems

#### Princeton Pan

#### My Interaction with other SE Asian Communities

The bell rings  
The scorching sun out and about  
Burning into the back of our necks  
It's lunch time.

One brought banh,  
The other brought Prahak,  
I brought my laap  
Together we bond through  
One theme: underrepresentation  
We teach each other  
We learn from each other  
So we can fight the same problems that we all have

We create communities at school  
To invoke discussion  
And bring forth new ideas  
To help cure the illness that we all suffer from  
We can't fix this on our own  
We need to find others who are similar to us  
The three boys with the same home-made lunches

We all seek equality and resources  
The matter is how we work together to succeed  
We are the next generation  
We need to be the one to change



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If we never work together things will stay the same  
We must learn from the past to succeed in the future

### **Struggle to Laotian community**

The history of my people is beginning to fade  
The elders are emotionally scarred  
It hurts for them to relive the war  
Or think “what would happen if we stayed?”  
Yet this is something that our generation must work around  
We must realize that we must be wholesome to get to the dark answers we seek  
Direct questions will only drag us down  
Little steps are the only way  
We need to ask questions that bring fond memories  
That lead into a deep dark hole  
Where the answers are that you seek  
The answers that you need to preserve the history of our people

### **About the Author**



**Princeton Pan** was born in Kansas and is currently living in Southern California. Growing up he spent most of his summers in Kansas at his grandparents’ Lao grocery store, where he interacted with many customers and learned about their lives in Laos. He is also the author of *Kong's Adventure*, a children's book about his grandfather's journey from Laos to America.



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