

Different Voices

Warren Flynn

PUBLICATION DATE: 1996, 1999

ISBN: 9781863 682992

The Story

Kim had hoped that the traumas of the past were now far behind her — leaving Vietnam, the forced separation from her family, and the horrifying boat journey to Australia. But the terrifying memories continued to surface when least expected.

Yet, despite the nightmares, life in the small Australian coastal town seemed so ordinary, so safe. School was always the same, as was life with her uncle and aunt, and her relationship with Gary had become comfortable. Perhaps too comfortable.

Suddenly it all changed. Everything was happening all at once. First a boating accident, then Gary's band really started going somewhere, and then Kim found herself caught up in a desperate struggle to save a local lake from developers.

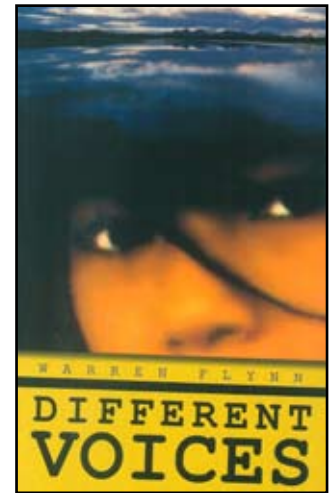
And then, through it all, an unexpected glimmer from the past — a voice Kim had almost given up hope of ever hearing again.

Author Background

When he's not writing, Warren Flynn enjoys mountain bike riding, sailing and splashing about in the ocean. Perhaps best known for his fun adventures of Gaz and the gripping suspense thriller, *Escaping Paradise*, each of Flynn's novels have been shortlisted in the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award. *Different Voices* was also shortlisted for the Western Australian Premier's Award. Flynn loves to travel and is fascinated by the many languages and cultures of Australia. He has provided professional development for educators in Vietnam, China and various parts of Australia. A former Asialink literature resident in Seoul, South Korea, he currently teaches at The University of Western Australia, Albany.

Ideas for the Classroom

1. Describe a type of yacht you would like to sail on. Explain your choice.
2. Find out as much as you can about traditional Vietnamese food. You might like to prepare one dish and share it with some class members.



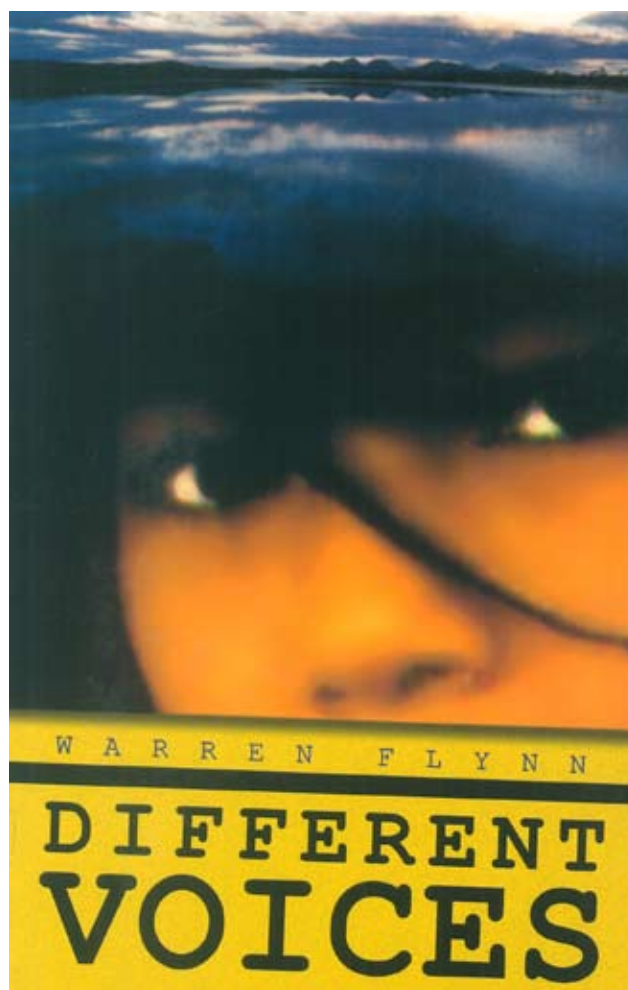
3. Have a class debate on one of the following topics:
 - teenagers don't care
 - Australia is a racist society
 - jobs are more important than the environment
4. Write Lan's letter to Mee Ling (in Germany) after a month's stay in Australia.
5. Compare the two covers for *Different Voices* [see Appendix A]. How do you think each contributes to your understandings of the novel?
6. Research one of the following topics:
 - International Red Cross Tracing Agency
 - Immigration statistics for Vietnam or another Asian country
 - Aboriginal Citizenship Cards
 - Landcare
 - World Vision
7. Using information from the book and your own ideas, write a feature article OR a news story about saving the lake (Lot 677).
8. Find the full version of e.e. cummings' poem 'when faces called flowers float out of the ground'. What does it contribute to your understanding of the novel? Why do you think Warren Flynn chose to quote from this poem on the opening page?
9. Learn and recite another of e.e.cummings' poems.

TEACHING NOTES

Appendix A



COVER OF THE ORIGINAL EDITION (1996)



COVER OF THE SECOND EDITION (1999)