“I’m Name Nguyen.”

“I lived with my family in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War.”

“There were eleven of us, with one on the way, and we were worried about what might happen to us if the Americans were to leave.”

“April 30th 1975 was the last day the Americans participated in the Vietnam War and the NVA dropped bombs on our village as soon as they left. We had to escape immediately with only the shirts on our backs.”

“We ran as fast as we could to the boats to escape the bombs, not knowing that we would never see our home again.”

“Our journey to Malaysia was terrifying. We witnessed pirates attacking refugee ships just like ours.”

“The Nguyen’s boat capsizes.”

“We were thankful that we weren’t attacked by pirates but as we approached Malaysia, our boat capsized!”

“The boat was sinking.”

“We had to swim to shore.”

“It was horrifying knowing that I could lose any of my family members at any given moment, and lose my own life as well.”
THE NGUYEN FAMILY ARRIVED AT A REFUGEE CAMP IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.

“After a few months, as part of the U.S.A.'s Operation New Life, we left Malaysia and were sent on to Guam. In September 1975, we received our passes to leave for America.”

THE NGUYEN'S BOARD THEIR SHIP BOUND FOR AMERICA.

“Eventually, we arrived at Camp Pendleton in California.”

“WE WERE REFERRED TO AS ‘BOAT PEOPLE’ AT THE CAMP AND IT WAS THERE THAT WE FOUND OUT THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE SPONSORED!”

“This is Bill Benson. He's from the First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, Colorado. He wants to sponsor your family.”

“WE WERE MOVED TO DENVER, COLORADO, WHERE WE WOULD BEGIN OUR NEW LIFE. ANYTHING WAS BETTER THAN HAVING TO LIVE WITH A HORRIFIC WAR HAPPENING IN MY BACKYARD.”

“I still live in Colorado today along with most of my siblings. I am a successful real estate agent in Denver.”

“I am a part of Colorado's colorful history!”

THE END.
The Nguyen Family: Escape from Vietnam to Colorado

Page One - 6 Panels

Panel One
Nguyen Family of 11 with pregnant mom in a small unnamed village in the background. (4 boys, 5 girls, 1 mom, 1 dad). Nang is the oldest brother (Age 24) in the foreground speaking directly to the reader.

Caption (Title): The Nguyen Family: Escape from Vietnam to Colorado
Caption: “I’m Nang Nguyen.”
Caption: “I lived with my family in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War.”
Caption: “There were eleven of us, with one on the way, and we were worried about what might happen to us if the Americans were to leave.

Panel two
The North Vietnamese Army bombing the South Vietnamese village. Jungle background with explosions and dust everywhere. Nguyens and neighbors (men, women and children) running out of houses and running away from danger.
Caption: “April 30th 1975 was the last day the Americans participated in the Vietnam War and the NVA dropped bombs on our village as soon as they left. We had to escape immediately with only the shirts on our backs.”

Panel three
A boat like the one in the picture with the Nguyen family climbing in, in the foreground, surrounded in the background by many other boats overflowing with people and heading out to sea.

Caption: “We ran as fast as we could to the boats to escape the bombs; not knowing that we would never see our home again.”
Panel four
From Nang’s view from their boat, he sees Pirates taking over nearby boats and capturing other refugees. The first picture is a picture of a pirate ship and the picture on the right can be used as a background in the panel.

Caption- “Our journey to Malaysia was terrifying. We witnessed pirates attacking refugee ships just like ours.”

Panel five
A picture of the Nguyen family in the water with a capsized boat, pirate ships in the back.

Caption: [Narration Box] The Nguyen’s boat capsizes.
Caption: “We were thankful that we weren't attacked by pirates but as we approached Malaysia, our boat capsized!”
Panel six
Nang Nguyen with his little sister on his back, swimming away from the capsized boat to the Guam coast with the rest of his family swimming behind him struggling to stay afloat. Nang is worried, stressed and exhausted.

Caption: “The boat was sinking.”
Caption: “We had to swim to shore.”
Caption: “It was horrifying knowing that I could lose any of my family members at any given moment, and lose my own life as well.”
Panel 1
The refugee camp shows the crowds of people around the camp waiting in lines for information and supplies. Tents, people, kids show what the camp was like. Families getting off boats in the background.

Caption: [Narration Box] The Nguyen family arrived at a refugee camp in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Caption: “We all safely made it to shore, arriving at Camp Kuala Lumpur in May 1975.”

Panel 2
Nang Nguyen’s pass to Guam/U.S.A. A proud, excited and smiling Nang from 1970s. For the picture of the pass do not include address or any numbers
“After a few months, as part of the U.S.A.’s Operation New Life, we left Malaysia and were sent on to Guam. In September 1975, we received our passes to leave for America.”

Panel 3
A picture of a boat with the Nguyens boarding it along with many other families heading to the U.S.

Caption: [Narration Box] The Nguyens board their ship bound for America.
Panel 4
Panel Description: The Nguyens arrive at Camp Pendleton in California, shows tents, people, U.S. soldiers, buses unloading other refugees and kids running around.

Caption: “Eventually, we arrived at Camp Pendleton in California.”
Caption: “We were referred to as ‘Boat People’ at the camp and it was there that we found out that we were going to be sponsored!”

Panel 5
Entire family is sitting in a tent (all eleven of them) with an American soldier introducing them to Bill Benson (pic of Bill below)
American Soldier saying: “This is Bill Benson. He’s from the First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, Colorado. He wants to sponsor your family.”

Panel 6
Picture of the plane flying toward the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

“We were moved to Denver, Colorado, where we would begin our new life. Anything was better than having to live with a horrific war happening in my backyard.”
Panel 7
Picture of a proud Nang today.

Caption: "I still live in Colorado today along with most of my siblings. I am a successful real estate agent in Denver."
Caption: "I am a part of Colorado’s colorful history!"