Wellspring of Joy Lesson 05: Characters in the story

Assignment: To help us keep the characters from ‘Wellspring of Joy’ straight in our minds, and understand their relationships to each other, create a visual diagram using their names.

The names in this story are unfamiliar to many of us. Although their life experiences and challenges of the people in this story are similar to refugees from many different lands, I think the names of people in this story are from the Karen people, refugees from Myanmar.

The example shown is loosely based on family genealogy. Men/boys names are enclosed in a rectangle. Women/girls names are enclosed in an oval. Horizontal lines connecting two people signify marriage. A vertical line descending from a ‘marriage’ line identifies the children of that marriage. There are two families in Wellspring of Joy, and there are other named folks in the community.

Do not simply print this example and glue it into your book. The assignment is to either copy it into your book using your own handwriting, or use it as inspiration to create something original. It is okay to sketch your idea with a pencil, and then write over it in ink. When the ink is completely dry, you can erase the pencil marks.

If you wish, you may further decorate your page inspired by the arts of the Karen people.

Weaving art: <https://www.mnkaren.org/news/november-weaving-event/>

Songs and music: <https://hearnebraska.org/feature/karen-refugees-preserve-cultural-identity-through-song/>

Another activity is to do independent research on the Karen people, reading about their culture, history, religion/s and art.

<https://www.mnkaren.org/history-culture/karen-culture/art/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_people>





