

The Blue House I Loved

KAO KALIA YANG

Illustrations by Jen Shin



THE BLUE HOUSE I LOVED

A READING AND ACTIVITY GUIDE

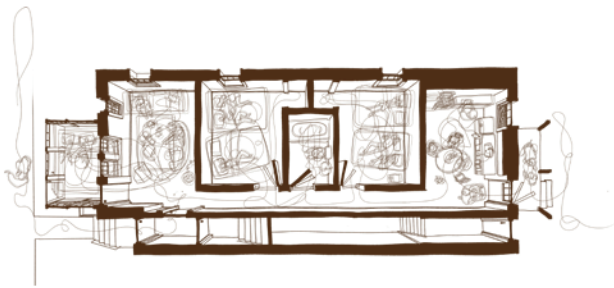
BY JEN SHIN

“Through the gift
of her art,
Kao Kalia Yang
once again encourages
us to engage with one
another in the
communal—and vital—
practice of remembering.
A beautiful book.”

—BAO PHI

Draw like an architect!

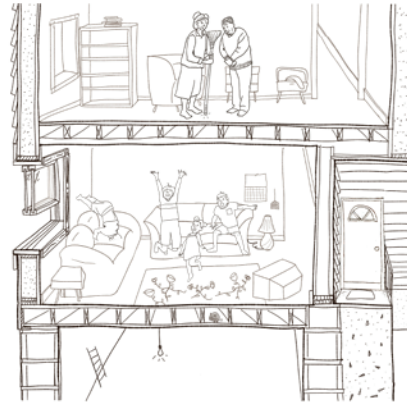
Architects are house detectives! They draw houses in special ways to show what's inside, outside, and even from above. In *The Blue House I Loved*, three special drawings helped to show the memories, people, and activities that happened in The Blue House.



#1: The Plan – Bird's-Eye View

A Plan is like being a bird flying over the house. You can see all the rooms from the top, like looking at a map of the house!

Try it: Draw your bedroom as if you were looking down from the ceiling. Where's your bed? Where's the door?



#2: The Section – X-Ray View

A Section is like slicing the house in half with a giant knife (don't worry, it's pretend!). You can peek inside and see what's upstairs and downstairs. It's like having X-ray vision for a house!

Try it: Imagine your house is a dollhouse. Draw what you'd see if you sliced the dollhouse like a cake.



#3: The Elevation – Face of the House

An Elevation is like standing in front of the house and drawing its face. You can see the windows, doors, and roof. It's what the house shows to the street!

Try it: Go outside and draw the front of your house (or make up your own dream house!).

Draw like an architect!

Try drawing a Plan, Section, or Elevation of your house—or a dream house—in the box below. Don't forget to include your favorite family members, pets, neighbors, and memories.

Remember: There are no right or wrong answers!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a house or other architectural plan.

What makes a home special?

Every family uses their home in different ways. In *The Blue House I Loved*, the boys slept on the front porch and even used porch windows as doors—wow!

Think about your home. Who are the people that make it feel cozy? Do you have any special spots where you like to play, read, or build forts? Has your family ever used a space in a silly or creative way? Draw something that makes your home special.

This could be your favorite room, the people or pets you live with, or a fun memory—like a birthday, holiday, or fort you built!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing. It occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.

Yummy memories

Food isn't just for eating—it's for bringing people together and creating warm memories. In *The Blue House I Loved*, the narrator remembers how her family came together every year to make a special food, like fragrant pickled mustard greens.

Think about a time when food brought YOUR family together. Maybe it was a picnic in the park, pickling veggies with grandma, or a big birthday cake. Draw your special food memory below. Remember to include your family, friends, and funny details!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a special food memory.