

## Prompts for *First They Killed My Father*

1. Memoirs are both “fiction” and “non-fiction” texts simultaneously. Explain how a memoir functions as both fiction and non-fiction. Explain using specific examples from the text. How does this affect your response to the text?
2. There is a continuous theme of “hunger” running throughout *First They Killed My Father*. However, hunger does not always mean the same thing. There are many different kinds of hunger. Discuss the theme of hunger in the memoir, using specific examples. Be sure to illustrate how it is important to the overall message of the text.
3. The author of *First They Killed My Father* relates an experience that occurred during her childhood. However, she is an adult relating these experiences. In what way is the voice of the narrator a child’s voice? In what way is the voice of the narrator an adult’s voice? How can you tell the difference? How are the impacts of the two voices different? How does the author successfully intertwine both voices? Be sure to give specific examples.
4. The author of *First They Killed My Father* is clearly a survivor of the Khmer Rouge takeover in Cambodia. However, being a “survivor” is not as simple as just staying alive. Oftentimes, survivors are forced to make painful choices, live with guilt and painful memories, and die to parts of themselves in order to survive at all. Complicate Loung’s surviving the Khmer Rouge takeover of Cambodia by examining the various choices she had to make and still has to live with today.