

The First Journey

by
Phung Nguyen Quang
and Huynh Kim Lien

edited by
Daphne Lee



For Alfredo R. Santos, our teacher.

About the creators of
The First Journey

Phung Nguyen Quang and Huynh Kim Lien are both writers and illustrators of children's books. They live and work together in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
The First Journey is their first book.

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Phung Nguyen Quang used a pigment liner pen for the artwork in this book.
A digital painting programme was then used by Huynh Kim Lien to colour the pictures.

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When the floating season
comes, every road and field
is submerged in water.

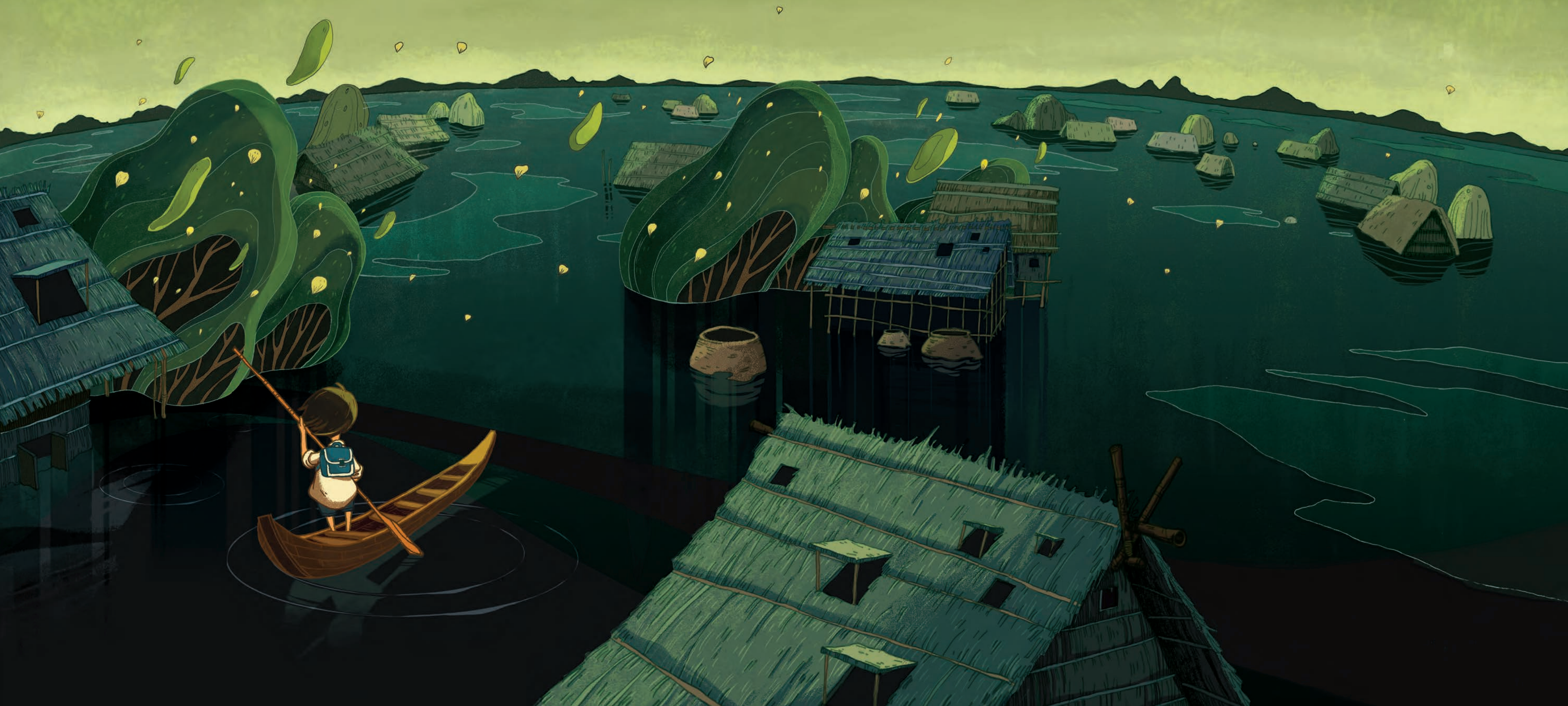
A child with brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt and a backpack, sits in a small wooden boat on a dark, rippling river at night. The child holds a long wooden pole. The river is filled with numerous fishing traps, which are circular wooden frames with nets, some floating and some anchored. In the background, several traditional houses with thatched roofs are visible along the riverbank. The scene is dimly lit, with a few small lights reflecting on the water's surface.

Papa goes fishing in the middle of the night
with the other village men, while Mama
harvests Sesbania flowers in the paddy fields.

I am ready for my first journey, by myself.

I row lightly through my village,

past tree tops and roof tops.



Suddenly,
the first waves of the day
come to meet me.



They toss my small boat
high up and away ...

