

## Personal History

By Adrienne Su

The world's largest Confederate monument  
was too big to perceive on my earliest trips to the park.  
Unlike my parents, I was not an immigrant

but learned, in speech and writing, to represent.  
Picnicking at the foot and sometimes peak  
of the world's largest Confederate monument,

we raised our Cokes to the first Georgian president.  
His daughter was nine like me, but Jimmy Carter,  
unlike my father, was not an immigrant.

Teachers and tour guides stressed the achievement  
of turning three vertical granite acres into art.  
Since no one called it a Confederate monument,

it remained invisible, like outdated wallpaper meant  
long ago to be stripped. Nothing at Stone Mountain Park  
echoed my ancestry, but it's normal for immigrants

not to see themselves in landmarks. On summer nights,  
fireworks and laser shows obscured, with sparks,  
the world's largest Confederate monument.  
Our story began when my parents arrived as immigrants.

## Questions

### Opening

- When did the story of your family begin?
- Where did you go on field trips when you were in elementary school?
- What experiences did you have as a child that looking back now, you realize you didn't have an understanding or context?

### Core

- In the first line of the poem, the speaker says, "The world's largest Confederate monument/was too big to perceive." How does this line relate to the title?
- In the poem, the speaker goes on field trips, picnics, takes tours, and sees fireworks, never realizing that it is a Confederate monument. Now that she realizes what it is as an adult, do you think she would still do these things?
- In the fourth stanza, the speaker explains that teachers and tour guides never referenced the Confederate history of the monument. Should they be held accountable, or is it better that the monument has no context.
- In the last stanza, the speaker says that "it's normal for immigrants not to see themselves in landmarks." Is it important for citizens to know the history of the country where they live?

### Closing

- What should happen with Confederate monuments?
- Name a monument, building, or place where you feel like you can see yourself.

Seminar: Student Self-Assessment

Name:

Date:

Check all boxes that apply. Then, complete the reflection statements.

Preparation

- ☐ Read and annotated the text beforehand
- ☐ Identified one passage to discuss during seminar
- ☐ Created three Level Questions to ask during seminar
- ☐ Brought my text to the seminar circle

Participation

- ☐ Listened to others attentively
- ☐ Took turns speaking
- ☐ Posed a question to the group
- ☐ Answered a question asked by another person
- ☐ Responded to ("piggy backed") another person's response
- ☐ Used text evidence to support an idea
- ☐ Stayed on topic
- ☐ Addressed others by name
- ☐ Remained positive and polite
- ☐ Used positive body language (eye contact, good posture)

Reflection

I am most proud of...

I am still struggling with...

Next seminar, my goal is to...