



## Vue Thao

*Vue Thao was born in Vinai. He now resides in Wausau with his family.*

***What is your name?***

My name is Vue Thao.

***How old are you?***

I am 15 years old.

***Where were you born?***

I was born in Vinai.

***Where did you live in Thailand?***

Lived in Vinai, then to Chan Kon, then to Takobolt.

***How long did you go to school?***

Four years.

***At what age did you start school?***

I began school when I was 11 years old.

***If you compare the schools in Thailand to the schools in America, what is the difference?***

I think the schools in Thailand are not as good as the schools here.

***What are the Thai schools like?***

The Thai schools have three levels and they are not as good as the ones here.

***What do they teach you?***

They talk about the Thai ancestors and Americans, but I forgot.

***What are the rules for Thailand schools like?***

I don't really know.

***How many different languages can you speak?***

I only know two languages.

***What are the two languages you know?***

Hmong and Thai.

***Do you know Thai well?***

No, not really. I only know a little.

***Which language do you think is harder?***

The English language.

***How were you checked before coming to America?***

I don't really recall.

***Did they check your blood or examine your body?***

Yes, they did.

***They also examined you for signs of diseases or sickness, right?***

Yes.

***How did they do that?***

We had to take off our clothes. They examined our body and checked our blood pressure.

***Did you know many people in America before you came here?***

No, I didn't know many people.

***Did your parents know?***

I haven't asked them.

***Who helped you and your family to come to America?***

Chai Seng.

***Why did you come to America?***

I don't really know. The older folks said to come so we just came.

***Did you have any difficulties on the airplane?***

None.

***How about in America?***

None either.

***What did you think when you first arrived in America?***

I thought that in America you couldn't go out much like in Thailand.

***Are you happy that you are now in America?***

Yes.

***What do you think about interracial dating?***

It's not that strange or different.

***What do you think about getting married at a young age?***

I think children that get married at around age 15 are not ready.

***Do you think it's good for those kids?***

No, it's not good for them.

***What do you think about the Hmong-American children?***

They are different from the Thailand children because the rules are not like Thailand's.

*"I thought that in America you couldn't go out much like in Thailand."*

***Do you think the way they dress is different from Hmong Thailand people?***

Yes, it is different.

***How different do you think the stores here are compared to Thailand?***

I don't know.

***What are the stores like in Thailand?***

The stores in Thailand are almost the same. They have as many products as in American stores.

***Compare the weather in Thailand to the weather in America. What is the difference? How about in America?***

In Thailand, the weather is very hot and if it gets really windy then you can get sick. It's good.

***What do you think about the clothes here in America compared to Thailand?***

American clothes are much better than in Thailand. Thailand clothes are good to wear to match you, but some American clothes are a little too big to wear.

***Do you think Thailand clothes are better than American clothes or American clothes are better than Thailand clothes?***

I think Thailand clothes are better to wear.

***Compare the food in Thailand to the food in America. What do you think?***

When I got to America, I'd been eating American food a lot and just don't have the taste for it. But when I eat Thailand food, I like it a lot and have the taste for it.

***If you could return to Thailand, would you go back?***

No, I wouldn't go back.

***So you'd rather live here in America? Why?***

Yes, because all of our relatives are here in America.

***Would you go back just to visit? Why?***

Yes. I would go to see our other relatives so they know a little bit more about Jesus.