



PRE-LISTENING/READING QUESTIONS

Please consider the following questions **before** listening to “Never Home” and reading the personal narrative from David Lindes.

1. Think of a time when you were far from home or found yourself in a situation very different from your usual surroundings. How did you feel? Did you experience “culture shock” or feel displaced? What if you were told that you had to remain there and could never come home?
2. If you were to leave your home for several years and then return, what would change while you were away? How would you be different? Could you ever fully return to the way things used to be?

POST-LISTENING/READING QUESTIONS

After listening to “Never Home” and reading the personal narrative from David Lindes, please write a brief response to each of the following questions. Be prepared to share your ideas in class.

1. At the beginning of the narrative, David Lindes writes: “When I boarded a US-bound plane in Guatemala City, I made a transaction I’m still struggling to understand, one that divided me forever.” In what ways is one’s “homeland” connected to personal identity? In your opinion, how is that identity altered when an individual crosses a border?
2. Try to label David Lindes with a single identity marker. Is he Guatemalan? Is he a Spanish speaker? Is he American? Can you limit his background to a single source? How might Lindes’s story challenge common stereotypes often attached to “Spanish-speaking” immigrants in the United States?
3. Consider the following lines from the song “Never Home”: “When you returned, with hopes in hand / That home would warm your feet again / You learned, instead, that every land is foreign / You left your home on every road you’ve trodden.” What do you think he means? Can he ever truly go back to the Guatemala of his childhood? How does the immigrant experience complicate the notion of home?