

Guiding Questions as you read and then discuss  
"The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down"

1. In her preface, the author says that while she was working on this book, she often asked herself two questions: "What is a good doctor?" "What is a good parent?" How would you answer these questions?
2. What do traditional Hmong consider *their* most important duties and obligations? What do American doctors consider their most important duties and obligations?
3. How did the negative stereotypes and/or stigmas associated with Hmong immigrants affect or impede their care by Merced health care practitioners and personnel? Can you think of any parallel examples that exist in health care today?
4. The only American who fully won the Lees' trust was Jeanine Hilt, their social worker. Why did Jeanine succeed where so many others had failed?
5. Do the stories and events told in this book remind you of anything that has happened to you or to people you know? If not, can you imagine that events like these might happen to you or someone you know in the future?
6. What relevance does this book have to your potential career? In the context of your future career, how do you think you would handle similar situations, if faced with them?
7. How do you think the issues raised by this book should affect your education at OHSU and/or your life as a citizen today?
8. As healthcare professionals, how can we be more sensitive to cultural practices and/or beliefs?
9. Do you think this story would be different if written today? How so?