

Rationale for Postcard Series based on
How to Pronounce Knife by Souvankham Thammavongsa

“Mary believed there were two kinds of people in the world. There were those that were seen, and those who were not. Mary considered herself one of the latter.” Reading this opening paragraph in *The Gas Station*, it is apparent that many characters in other stories would also be considered ‘unseen.’ Despite their invisibility, their stories give the characters the chance to be seen by the reader and have their voice heard. It is essential to recognize the importance of their final thoughts and actions in their stories because their impact is more substantial than anything their loud counterparts have done or said.

This postcard series highlights the importance of what the ‘unseen’ characters are thinking, shown through found poetry. The imagery being used is highlighting specific moments in each story. These characters are shown through the use of black and white. They are more withdrawn characters but still interesting, so the postcards rely more heavily on texture and details.

The first postcard shows the aerial view of a tornado, which Daniel mentioned in *Slingshot*. The words of both Daniel and the main character are being shown, highlighting them both as memorable ‘unseen’ characters. However, there is a difference between the two voices because once Daniel died, the main character realized how much time Daniel had wasted on Rose and didn’t want the same with Richard.

The second postcard depicts Jai’s final thoughts in the story of *The School Bus Driver*. It is his stance against his wife’s misuse of his kindness and understanding. While he does not physically speak out against her, it shows his mindset shift but still maintains his softness. This imagery is more direct to the text, depicting a heart, while the background text is blurred to show the difference in pace between Jai and his wife.

In the third postcard, Mary’s final thought directly correlates to the previously stated quote. While almost everyone ignores her, she has one person that will feel her absence. The imagery of raindrops progressing toward the viewer shows Mary’s mental steps through the story. She is moving forward, making more realizations about her situation, and slowly making her way out of town.

By using found poetry, the viewer can better understand the progression and development of each character. It highlights ‘unseen’ characters, blocking the louder characters the same way they are depicted in their stories.