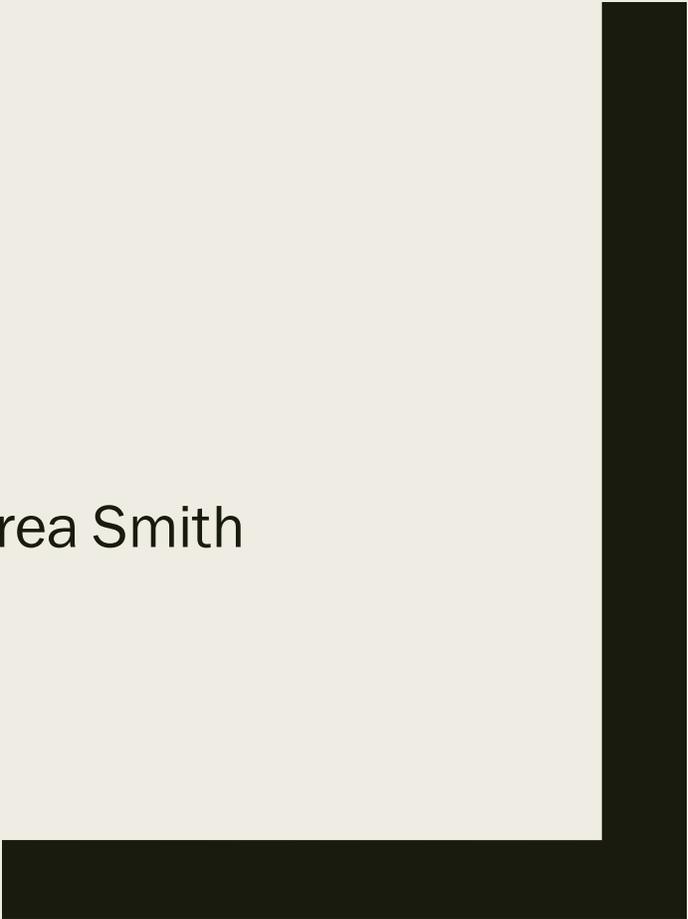




STUCK

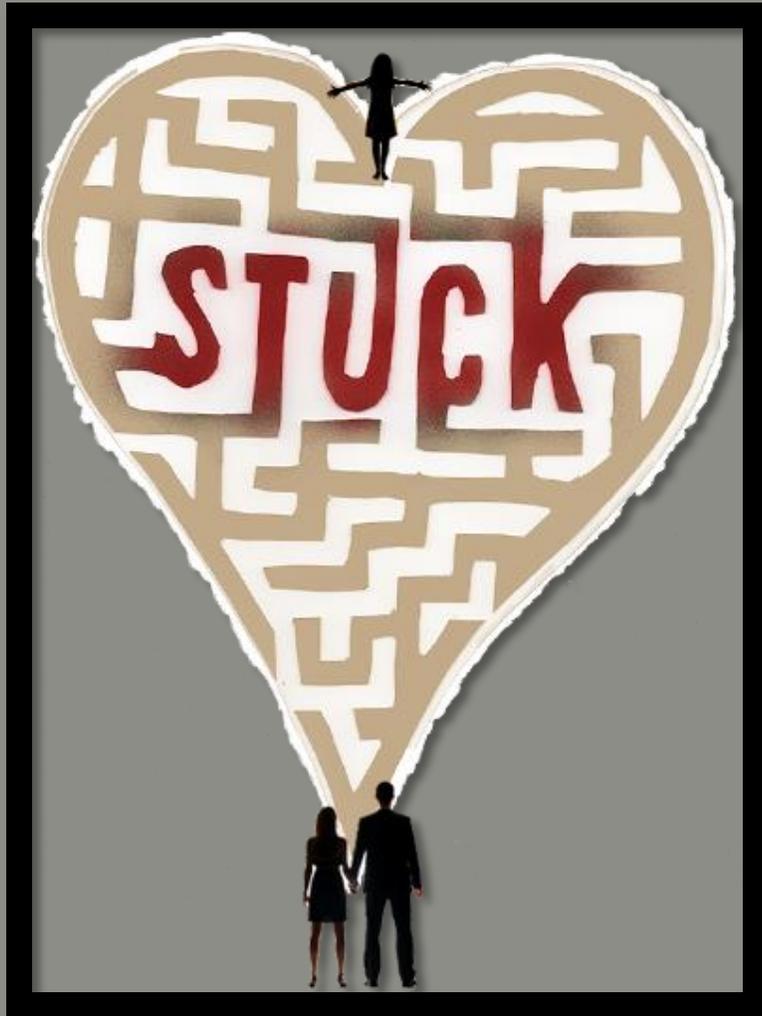
By: Rachel Copes, Stephanie Huynh, and Brea Smith



Movie Trailer



Summary



- *Stuck* follows four international orphans that American families were seeking to adopt.
 - This documentary illustrates just how hard it is to adopt international children.
- Faults around international adoption laws were revealed.
 - The documentary featured families, adoptees, government officials and lawyers who attempted to change adoption legislations.
- The documentary was released in 2013 and was filmed in the United States and in countries such as Vietnam, Ethiopia, Haiti, and Romania.

International Adoption Facts

- International adoption as we know it today was introduced after the Korean War when Korean orphans were moved to the United States to live with American families. After this, American families started to adopt children from many countries around the world.
- Some countries, such as Guatemala and Russia have closed international adoption and some countries have begun to impose extensive restrictions on adoption from their country due to lack of funds and political discrepancies.
- Over 90% of international adoptees are under the age of 5 years old. There are more girls involved in international adoption due to families in China that favor having male children.

Four Pillars of ACES

- There are four pillars of Advocates for Communities and Education Scholars that form the foundation for this scholars group.
- The four pillars are Positive Social Change, Advocacy, Community and Service.
- These pillars coincide with the G.O.A.L.S. of the Honors and Scholars program, which are Global Awareness, Original Inquiry, Academic Engagement, Leadership Development, and Service Engagement.
- The four pillars were evident in this documentary as shown in the following slides.

Advocacy

The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal

- Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana:
 - Advocated for Orphans and vulnerable children after the earthquake in Haiti in 2010
 - Humanitarian Parole Visa
- Legislative change:
 - Going to Washington, D.C.
 - Meetings with government officials
 - Pressure law makers
 - Legal action
- Families seeking adoption:
 - Advocates for themselves
 - Research, time, money and effort
 - Breaking barriers

Positive Social Change

Changes promoting the community and empowering individuals

- Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana:
 - Adoptees were able to go home quickly
 - Medical attention
 - Improvements
 - Less orphans
- Legislative changes:
 - Sped up adoption
 - Made it easier to adopt internationally
 - Brought awareness to politicians
- Families seeking adoption:
 - Happiness for all parties
 - Brought adoption issues to the forefront

Service

Aiding individuals and the community through the form of actions or work

- Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana:
 - Service to community and the world
 - Helped orphans leave disaster
 - Orphans are in safer homes
- Legislative changes:
 - Made it easier to adopt internationally
 - Politicians took action
 - Brought national awareness to the issue
- Families seeking adoption:
 - Orphans were able to thrive
 - Less children in orphanages
 - Love and affection

Community

*Community is both a feeling and a set of relationships among people.
People form and maintain communities to meet common needs*

- Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana:
 - Service to community and the world
 - Maximizing wealth of human potential
 - Bringing children into a new community and out of institutions
- Legislative changes:
 - Family care vs. Institutional care
 - New family dynamic
 - Positive impact on economy
- Families seeking adoption:
 - Single mother
 - Wealthy families
 - White families
 - Breaking barriers

Updates

2013

- 20 million orphans in the world
- International adoption: \$28,000.
- Adoptions took about 3 years to complete.

2017

- 140 million orphans world-wide (UNICEF)
- Adoption costs around \$32,000-\$66,000 (adoptionnetwork.com)
- Usually takes 2-7 years to complete adoption (adopt.org)





Connections to the Film

- We were especially moved when the adoptees were first united with their new parents, as shown in the top photo. It was easy to see how happy both parties were.
- We were also very moved when the treatment of the orphans was compared to that of animals. Seeing the conditions that the children were living in was unsettling to say the least, as seen in the bottom photo.

Critiques

- We wish that the film would have only followed one family, so that it would be easier to follow as well as connect with the families.
- Also, we believe that the film should have given some positive reasons for the drawn out adoption process, such as the benefit of knowing that the child is going to a safe home where they will be loved and not have to experience abandonment yet again.

Targeted Audience

- The constituents and lawmakers of the United States would benefit the most from watching this film because, in order for a law to be passed or changed, constituents have to show support for it. When constituents show support for an issue, lawmakers will take action on it in order to be re-elected. Therefore, the people of the United States need to be informed on this issue in order for there to be change.

Course of Action

- This film calls for a course of action to help revise the adoption process. The adoption process is currently ineffective and broken. The documentary encourages people to be informed and to try to make a positive social change through being an advocate for orphaned and vulnerable children.

