

Study Guide for “Hug”

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Pre-reading discussion questions:

1. When you came home to your house or apartment, do you greet your family in any special way? What do you do? What do other members of your family do?
2. Do you think people in this country express affection more openly than people in the country from which you come?
3. Does the way people in the U.S. express affection make you uncomfortable, or do you like it?

Vocabulary:

Simultaneously
Barking

Whining
Scarcely

Embrace
Dumbfounded

At a loss
Consolation

Post-reading comprehension questions:

1. The two sounds the writer hears when her husband comes home from work are:
 - a. the garage door and her dog
 - b. the doorbell and the key in the door
 - c. birds singing and a baby crying
2. The first “person” her husband greets is:
 - a. his son
 - b. his wife
 - c. his dog
3. On what kinds of occasions do you see people hug in the U.S.?

4. According to the writer, is hugging common in Taiwan? Why?

5. Is hugging common in your country? Explain.

6. What was the writer’s reaction when she first received a hug from an American? Have you ever felt like that? Explain.

7. Why do you think the writer rarely receives hugs from her American friends?

8. What was the result of the one hug she received from an American friend?

9. What does the writer worry about if she decides to start hugging people? Do you think she is right to worry? Why?

10. What do you think the writer wants from her husband and why?

What is the main idea of this story?

- a. Pets make a lot of noise and demand too much attention.
- b. Hugging, a profound and lovely form of body language, is one way to deepen relationships and bring people closer together.
- c. Hugging is rare in Taiwan.

Write your experience:

Title: _____

Hugging is a rare/common experience for me because:

I remember one time when a hug was especially important to me ...

Or

Instead of hugging, one way I show someone how much I care is...

What I most want from my spouse/friend to show that he/she cares is...
