“Don’t take your family for granted.”

How would you feel if your family was here today, but gone tomorrow? In “God Grew Tired of Us,” the Lost Boys of Sudan lost their families in an instant. Similarly, Jose Vargas experienced the loss of his family, which he documented in “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant.” We see this lesson in several of the texts we read this unit, for example, in “Fish Cheeks,” Amy Tan recounts how she took her family for granted instead of appreciating their culture. Many people experience times when they did not appreciate their family, and then suddenly face the loss of it. For example, I have always regretted giving up the chance to go to Iran and visit my family, when my grandfather died suddenly and I had not seen him in over 20 years. From this, I learned the lesson that we cannot take our family for granted. Sometimes they are gone too fast.