

**Dr. Mark A. Ashwill's Study Guide Questions for *When Broken Glass Floats*. These questions were for his "American Pluralism" class at the University at Buffalo. He is the former Director & Fulbright Program Adviser at the University at Buffalo, SUNY.**

1. What is the meaning of the proverb containing the phrase "when broken glass floats"?
2. Why did Him write *When Broken Glass Floats*?
3. How did Him describe her life before the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia in April 1975?
4. What are her recollections of her parents, especially her father?
5. When did her life begin to change and why?
6. What were the circumstances and conditions that permitted the Khmer Rouge to come to power?
7. Who was the enemy during the Khmer Rouge?
8. What is *Angka*?
9. Describe the daily routine under the Khmer Rouge for Him and others like her?
10. How did she and others manage to survive?
11. She tells the story about her friend, Cheng. What happens?
12. Him writes about a number of acts of cruelty that she either witnessed or experienced personally. Describe at least three.
13. She also speaks of the occasional act of kindness by a member of the Khmer Rouge. Mention one or two.
14. How does she describe the time when "broken glass" sinks (the liberation of the survivors by the Vietnam in 1978/79)?
15. Why did Him make a solemn vow to become a doctor?
16. What kind of language does the author use and how does she tell her story? Could you be there with her?
17. How was she able to recall these events?
18. Did reading this book make you want to learn more or read more by this author?
19. What was the emotional impact of this book on you?
20. Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?