



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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**Central Library Hosts Literature Talk on “*The Tale of Kieu*” (Truyện Kiều) --
*The National Epic Poem of Vietnam is Discussed***

San Diego, CA... The San Diego Public Library resumes its occasional LITERATURE TALK series in conjunction with the 2011 *One Book, One San Diego* selection, “The Gangster We Are All Looking”, by native San Diegan Lê Thi Diem Thúy. *The Tale of Kieu* will be the topic of discussion on Wednesday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wangenheim Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street downtown. This event is free to the public.

The Tale of Kiều is the epic national poem of Vietnam, written by Nguyễn Du (1766–1820) and widely regarded as one of the most significant works of Vietnamese literature. In 3,254 verses, the poem recounts the life, trials and tribulations of Thúy Kiều, a beautiful and talented young woman who sacrifices herself to save her family. *The Tale of Kieu* occupies a place akin to the work of Shakespeare in English-language literature, with children studying it in school and adults alluding to it in daily conversation. Interestingly, the work is sometimes referenced for fortune-telling.

Dr. Lam, from the Comparative Literature Department at UC Riverside, will present the talk on the *Tale of Kieu* and its central role in the Vietnamese literary tradition. Copies of the poem are available to be checked-out at the library and Vietnamese-speakers can find various online versions at <http://nomna.org/index.php?IDcat=13>.

Literature Talk is part of the library’s “talk series”—which includes literature, philosophy, and science—to illuminate the ‘what,’ ‘why,’ and ‘how’ of human culture. *One Book, One San Diego* is a city-wide campaign which promotes reading as a source of pleasure and enrichment while engaging the community in dialogue.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, including more *One Book, One San Diego* happenings, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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