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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1: Seven-year-old Moon Shadow Lee is a Chinese boy whose grandfather had been lynched by white people thirty years before Moon Shadow's father emigrated alone to the United States. Without a husband, his mother pretends to be too busy in the rice paddies to answer her son's questions about America and about the father he never met. He realizes that she is afraid for Father and that it is difficult for women to join men in the distant land or pay the debt they incurred. Relatives like Cousin Hand Clap return with glorified tales of Father and Uncle Bright Star. The illiterate mother and widowed grandmother pay the schoolmaster to read Father's weekly letters, which tell of his wonderful kites. In one letter, Father summons Moon Shadow to America. Mother protests, but in March 1903, he departs. Because of strict immigration laws, he remains two weeks in a warehouse, undergoes physical exams, then is released with Hand Clap. At the pier, Father and the Tang clan await.

Chap. 2: In April, Moon Shadow is awed by his 80-year-old Uncle Bright Star, the clan leader, and surprised at Father's name, Windrider. The stories that Hand Clap told turn out to be tall tales. White people rebuke the boy for stargazing; Uncle, who plays the ignorant Chinaman, apologizes. In Chinatown, sights and sounds are more familiar. At the three-storyed Company of the Peach Orchard Vow, sixty-year-old White Deer cooks a traditional meal. Moon Shadow learns that Lefty chopped off his right hand in remorse for gambling away his money and ticket home. Uncle insists that people must help each other in this dangerous place. Moon Shadow receives new clothes and a butterfly kite. Black Dog tosses the boy a steel knife. A mob hurls a brick into an upstairs window.

Chap. 3: In their upstairs quarters, Windrider shows the boy many machines, a crystal set, and an electric light. Windrider tells his son that he had a previous life as a great healer of the Imperial Dragon. He was a flier who retained the ability to build kites. Uncle gives Moon Shadow a carved monkey, a gift of love carved with arthritic hands.

Chap. 4: During the first year, Moon Shadow values the Company's brotherhood. After a day's work delivering laundry in a wagon, he attends a segregated school for Tang people, then washes dishes before bed. Windrider reminds him that the Old Ones, especially the grandfather who was lynched on a lamppost, are family spirits who guard the Lees. In January 1904, Windrider and Moon Shadow meet Oliver Alger, a realtor whose Oldsmobile needs repair. Because Windrider fixes a loose wire, Mr. Alger offers him a tip and a job as handyman. Windrider dreams of building a boxy airplane like one he saw in the *New York Herald*. Uncle doubts that white people can fly and fears that Windrider will turn into a gambler like Lefty or an opium addict like Black Dog.

Ten days later, Windrider, Hand Clap, and White Deer locate Black Dog. Windrider hits Black Dog in the jaw and carries him home over his shoulder.

Chap. 5: That night, Uncle figures the cost of bringing Windrider's wife to America. Black Dog reforms for a month, then returns to his opium use. In May of Moon Shadow's second year in America, he collects overdue bills. Black Dog kicks the boy and steals the Company money. The adults discuss the problem of Chinese criminals. Windrider admits that he once belonged to the Sleepers, an anti-Manchu society. Windrider speaks with the Tiger General, who heads the brotherhood and shelters Black Dog. Windrider fights Black Dog for harming Moon Shadow and pierces the man with his sword. The Tiger General bars Black Dog from the brotherhood and advises Windrider to leave town. He takes a job with Mr. Alger, who manages apartment buildings.

Chap. 6: On Polk Street, Miss Whitlaw, their landlady, accepts their gift of the Chinese kitchen god and gives Moon Shadow gingerbread and milk. Robin, her niece, shows Windrider a stereopticon; Miss Whitlaw points out their stained-glass window. Robin and Moon Shadow discuss differing views of dragons. Miss Whitlaw plays "Simple Gifts" on the piano. The Lees retire to their new quarters.

Chap. 7: The next day, Moon Shadow helps with chores. Windrider grants his son a half day free of work each week. Moon Shadow is accosted by white boys and refuses to run. For a week, he hesitates to go outside. Two weeks later, Robin grows curious about the glider Windrider builds. Miss Whitlaw helps Moon Shadow correspond with the Wright brothers. Orville replies with tables and diagrams. Windrider sends a crate of oranges as a thank-you gift.

Chap. 8: Correspondence with the Wrights continues. At a Saturday picnic with Robin and her aunt, Windrider and Moon Shadow provide oriental food. Robin flies the glider. After many turns at the string, Windrider sets the model free. On a weekly trip to Chinatown in late July, Moon Shadow receives a reply from his mother and grandmother. He remains indoors when bigger boys prowl the neighborhood. Moon Shadow takes Robin's advice and scares away the gang. Jack becomes Moon Shadow's admirer.

Chap. 9: That winter, Windrider saves money to pay Mother's fare. The Lees celebrate the New Year and, on April 5, make offerings to the dead. On April 18 at 5:00 A. M., an earthquake hits. Miss Whitlaw's house remains firm. She organizes rescue parties and saves twenty people trapped by debris. Robin and Moon Shadow make tea and sandwiches. Windrider overpowers a looter. Fire threatens the street. By 9:00 A. M., the army evacuates survivors to Golden Gate Park. Uncle arrives. Before fire devours their home, Robin packs their goods. Miss Whitlaw promises to meet Windrider at the park.

Chap. 10: In the afternoon, the Lees travel to the Company building. Fire threatens Chinatown's traditional wooden

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buildings. Uncle abandons the Company. Windrider helps Miss Whitlaw erect her tent. Everyone enjoys the evening in the park. Uncle visits Miss Whitlaw. Soldiers arrive and force the 25,000 Chinese to a warehouse. The next day, they go to a parade ground. On Thursday, the Chinese are moved to the Presidio; on Friday, they are marched back to the parade ground. Uncle refuses to worry because Chinese immigrants own a third of the city and provide services and businesses. Chinese relatives arrive to help; kin in China send money. The family builds a new building of stone. Windrider regrets that Miss Whitlaw has lost the boarding house and must work as a housekeeper. Uncle is angry that Windrider returns to his project.

Chap. 11: A week later, the Lees move to a barn in Oakland to test the plane. They budget their funds and continue sending money to Mother. In August, a private letter from Mother orders Moon Shadow to support his father's dream. Windrider recalls that he has not seen his wife in twelve years. For three years, the Lees work six days a week and spend three Sundays per month visiting Miss Whitlaw and Robin. By summer's end in 1909, the plane, named Dragonwings, is ready. In September, Miss Whitlaw helps christen it. Black Dog takes their money. The Lees face eviction.

Chap. 12: Uncle arrives by wagon with his partners and as recompense for Black Dog's theft. Uncle helps ferry Dragonwings from the barn. Windrider flies four minutes around the Esperanza estate. On landing, the plane crumples; Windrider breaks his right leg and two ribs, but promises to build another plane. Uncle makes him a partner in the Company by lending him a thousand dollars. The Lees move back to the Company. The next summer, Windrider sails to China to fetch his wife to America.

TIME LINE

- 551-479 B.C.** Confucius lives.
A.D. 618-907 The people of the Tang settle China's Middle Kingdom.
1606 Tang men begin wearing the queue.
ca. 1823 Uncle Bright Star is born.
1843 White Deer is born.
1865 Grandmother marries Grandfather.
1866 Moon Shadow's grandfather is lynched on a lamppost.
1869 Tang men chant while building railroads.
1869 **May 10** The Transcontinental Railroad is completed at Promontory, Utah.
1896 Windrider leaves China for San Francisco. Moon Shadow is born in China on the night that Windrider has a dream about the Imperial Dragon.
1899-1900 The Boxer Rebellion disrupts Chinese relations with England.
1901 **Sept. 14** After the assassination of President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt is sworn in.
1903 **February** Moon Shadow asks questions about his father and flies his father's swallow kite.
March Hand Clap comes to China and escorts Moon Shadow to San Francisco.
a week later Moon Shadow departs the immigration warehouse and embraces Windrider, his father.
that night Uncle gives Moon Shadow a carved

monkey.

April Moon Shadow gets to know the partners of the Company, led by Uncle Bright Star.

November Moon Shadow writes his first letter to his mother and grandmother in China.

1904 **January** Windrider repairs Oliver Alger's Oldsmobile.

Jan. 17 A copy of the *New York Herald* reports the Wright brothers' successful flight.

February Moon Shadow receives a reply to his letter. Windrider carries Black Dog from an opium den to the Company building.

that night Uncle counts by abacus the cost of bringing Moon Shadow's mother to America.

1905 **March** Black Dog resumes smoking opium.

May Black Dog attacks Moon Shadow and steals a canvas bag of Company money.

that night Windrider seeks Black Dog, who takes shelter with the Tiger General. Windrider pierces an attacker with a sword.

next day Moon Shadow and his father move to a stable managed by Mr. Alger and meet Miss Whitlaw and her niece Robin.

next day Moon Shadow helps his father with his chores and presents Miss Whitlaw a gift of jasmine tea. White boys attack Moon Shadow, who remains calm.

weeks later Miss Whitlaw helps Moon Shadow write a letter to the Wright brothers.

two weeks later Moon Shadow receives a reply from Orville Wright.

next day Windrider decides to send the Wrights a crate of oranges.

1905 **late July** The Lees receive a letter from Mother and Grandmother.

August Jack and Moon Shadow become friends.

September The Lees, Miss Whitlaw, and Robin study the constellations.

February The Lees celebrate Chinese New Year by burning a picture of the Stove King.

April 5 The Lees make spring offerings to the dead.

April 18 An earthquake destroys much of San Francisco. Jack dies in the rubble.

The army evacuates survivors to Golden Gate Park. Soldiers evacuate 25,000 Chinese to a warehouse.

April 19 Soldiers force the Chinese to a parade ground.

April 20 The Chinese are marched to the golf course at the Presidio.

April 21 The Chinese are reestablished at the parade ground.

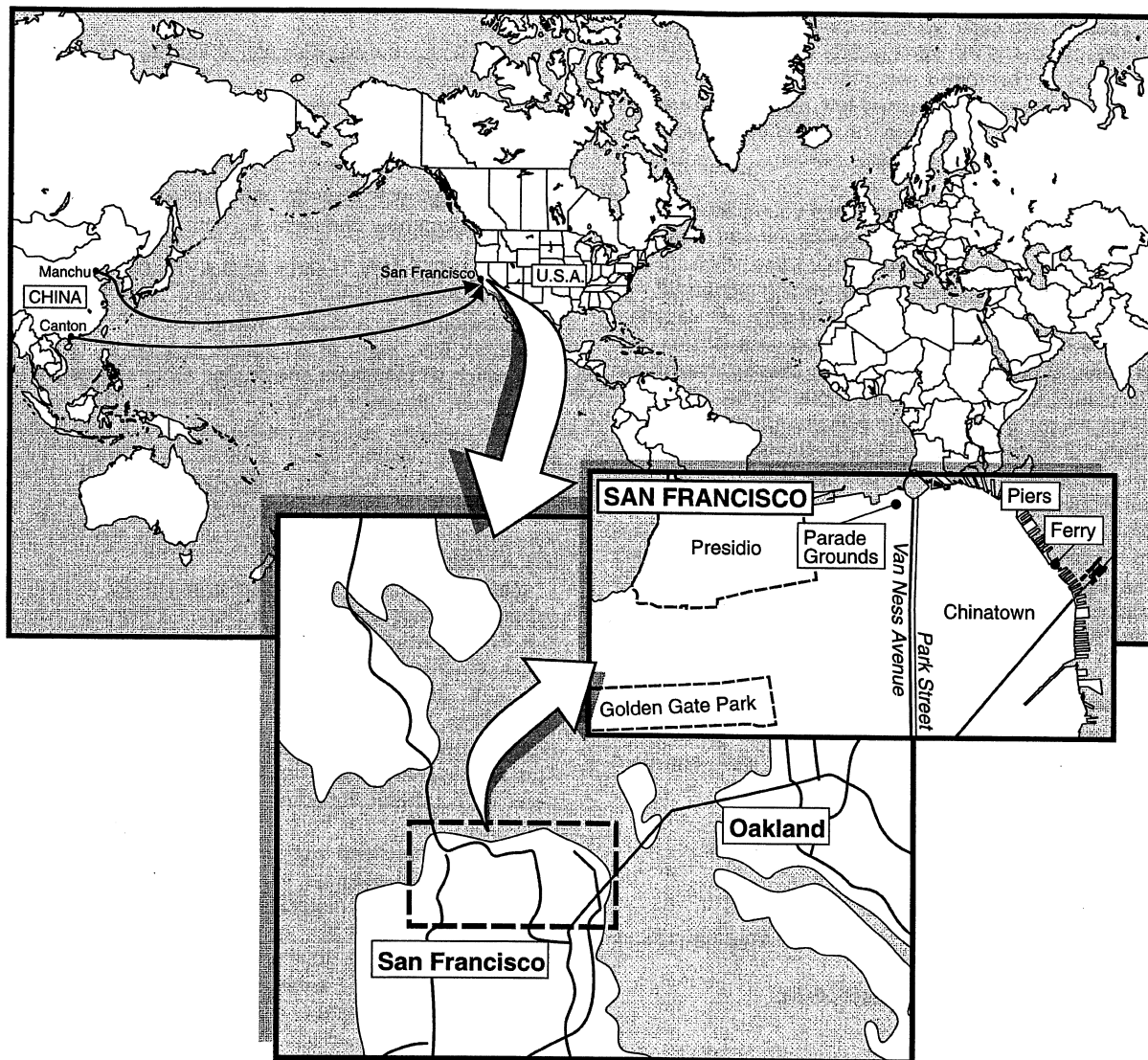
April 22 Firefighters begin to quell the flames threatening San Francisco.

April 29 The Lees move to a barn near Oakland.

1906 **August** Mother's letter orders Moon Shadow to support his father's dream of flying.

late July Dragonwings, Windrider's plane, is ready to fly.

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1909

September Miss Whitlaw helps christen the plane. Black Dog threatens to kill Moon Shadow if Windrider does not give him all his money.

Windrider breaks a leg and two ribs in the crash of Dragonwings.

Sept. 22 Fung Joe Guey flies a plane in Oakland.

1910

June Windrider sails to China to fetch his wife to America.

AUTHOR'S LIFE AND WORKS

The son of Franche Lee and Thomas Gim Yep, a grocer and postal worker, Laurence Michael Yep knew the terrain of racial compromise soon after his birth June 14, 1948, in the black section of San Francisco, California. His family had long since given up their cultural heritage and brought him up in an artificially middle American milieu, where they ran a small convenience store. Yep attended a parochial school in Chinatown, where his lack of skill with the Cantonese dialect made him an outsider. At a white Jesuit high school, his need

to blend with people of another race continued to put demands on his social skills. He began reading nationless stories of aliens and Martians and experimenting with his own science fiction and fantasy.

In 1966, the year he began publishing science fiction at a penny a word, Yep entered Marquette University, his first journey away from San Francisco. He received a B. A. from the University of California in 1970 and won a Book-of-the-Month Club writing fellowship. In 1973, on the advice of a friend at a major New York publishing house, he wrote his first novel, *Sweetwater*. Two years later, he earned a Ph. D. at State University of New York in Buffalo, where he studied under novelist John Barth and completed a dissertation on William Faulkner's early novels. Like Faulkner, Yep came to appreciate a sense of place and a racial identity that fueled his early works.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Early on, as a writer of multicultural fiction while he taught English part-time at Foothill College and San Jose City College, Laurence Yep began to thrive, having found his metier

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at last. Although his second novel, *Dragonwings*, required intense research into early twentieth-century Chinese-American bachelor clans and the aeronautical engineering skills of Fung Joe Guey, Yep found recompense in honoring his ancestry. Family members disarmed him with their interest in his young adult fiction; in addition, he netted extensive positive feedback from readers, librarians, teachers, parents, and critics.

Yep expanded his skills to encompass young adult fiction, mystery stories, historical novels, science fantasy, folklore, adult novels, plays, psychological fiction, and myth. In the late 1980s, he returned to the class as visiting lecturer at the University of California and writer in residence. His growing list of awards includes *School Library Journal's* Best of the Best list, three Boston *Globe-Horn Book* awards, New York *Times* Outstanding Books, Newbery Honor Book, IRA Children's Book Award, twice the Jane Addams Children's Honor Book, Carter G. Woodson Book Award, National Council for Social Studies citation, Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, three-time New York Public Library book award, Commonwealth Club of California medal, and a Child Study Association of America's Children's Book of the Year. His works have been adapted for audiocassette, sound filmstrip, and braille. At home with wife Joanne Ryder, a children's book author, in Sunnyvale, California, Yep continues working on writing projects.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To describe coping alone in a hostile environment
2. To characterize objectivity in solving scientific questions
3. To characterize persistence, self-control, skill, and daring
4. To account for threats to family unity
5. To enumerate examples of menace and disaster
6. To discuss arrival in a new culture
7. To outline a close kinship bond
8. To account for the author's emphasis on cooperation and sharing
9. To read aloud examples of verbal conflict
10. To analyze an afterword
11. To explain how an immigrant community affects the economy
12. To set the story in the milieu of the early twentieth century

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To recount how Windrider makes a plane
2. To discuss the causes of opium addiction, looting, and violence
3. To explain why male Chinese immigrants leave their families behind
4. To evaluate changes in Windrider as father, citizen, and worker
5. To explain the Tiger General's change of heart toward Black Dog
6. To analyze the scene in which Uncle comes to Windrider's assistance
7. To assess Windrider's promises to his wife and to the Sleepers
8. To contrast the Company and the barn as settings
9. To consider the significance of healing the Imperial Dragon

10. To explain the effects of the fire on citizens of San Francisco
11. To discuss the significance of laundry, kites, and Dragonwings
12. To surmise what motivates Orville Wright to reply to the letter
13. To account for Miss Whitlaw's kindness to the Lees
14. To explain how invention influences the plot
15. To project how Windrider will continue to earn his name

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Laurence Yep's writing, present the following terms and applications:

climax the height of an action, a crisis or turning point from which all behaviors or attitudes are permanently altered and nothing can ever be what it once was. The alteration in behaviors occurs with the earthquake, which turns people of all races into victims and rescuers. The work of Windrider and Uncle parallels the many kindnesses of Miss Whitlaw. At one stroke of disaster, the opportunity to reach out to suffering humanity ennobles them and elevates their behavior in difficult times.

motif a pattern or predictable arrangement of elements to express an abstract theme in a story, as found in the reports that Charlie writes of his experiences. The motif of persistence sets Windrider above other immigrants. Not only is he striving to establish a family in America and bring his wife from China, he also reaches for a scientific attainment that requires tedious study, schematic drawings, and test models. The concept of achievement becomes the story's guiding motif as Windrider continues his search for a viable flying machine.

novel an extended work of prose fiction that is carefully controlled and features a varied cast of characters, clearly defined setting, an historical or social milieu, sustained action, a complicated plot, and usually one or more subplots. The elements in the definition of novel suit *Dragonwings*. Development after the earthquake adds more plot complication, such as the sharing of food, arrival of forces, and relocation of survivors to several locales. By having the disaster affect everyone's welfare and fortune, the author evens odds among major and minor characters. By the time that Windrider succeeds in his plane, he elevates himself to hero for persistence and skill.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The settings in Laurence Yep's *Dragonwings* express the major cultural chasm between Mother and Grandmother in China and the distance Moon Shadow must cover in his journey to his father in California. Along the way, the boy must come to terms with excessive legends of the Golden Mountain and his fear of a land where violence erupts in the streets and a hapless old man could be lynched at a lamp-post. Traveling by water to Canton, the boy is frightened of the new land, where he is locked in a warehouse for a week and must eat and sleep on the floor within range of reeking sewage and the bilge of the bay.

The loving reception Moon Shadow receives from his father and clan hurries the boy from the inelegant pier to the welcoming milieu of *Chinatown*, which lies between the docks and town of the Tang people. He is revolted by the saloon, which reeks of vomit, liquor, and sweat before taking refuge in buildings at the top of the hill that look much like

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Canton in the Middle Kingdom. Roof tiles, arches, and brightly colored walls envelop him in the familiar. Decorations feature protective lions, red paper scrolls, together in traditional tunics and pants thrust him into a reassuring world.

Among groceries and herb shops, clothing stores and laundries, meeting halls and clan offices, Moon Shadow confronts the Lee family building. Yep emphasizes that the building is "small, neat, three-story," and painted in traditional red and green. The careful separation of chores inside locates washing in the basement and back of the first floor and flatirons and drying racks on the middle of the floor. The wall hangings of poems and aphorisms reminds him of the vigor and beauty of Chinese poetry. The second floor begins the separation from business as the boy finds a place to read, talk, or play Mah-Jongg. After a pleasant Chinese meal, he escapes the random violence of a brick through a window by entering his father's private quarters, which is covered with his working models of flying machines.

The milieu continues to vary as Windrider attempts to make a stable home for Moon Shadow. From the comfort of Chinatown, they take quarters near Miss Whitlaw on Polk Street, where the boy must defend himself against neighborhood ruffians. On April 18, the question of where to live and near whom becomes moot as people scramble to escape debris and fire caused by the earthquake. Resettled in a barn near Oakland, Windrider provides the feeling of family and unity as he saves for his wife's passage and works toward completing his dream.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about Laurence Yep, flight, Chinese immigrants, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Chinatown, the abacus, the Manchu Society, the Wright brothers, inventions, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

Chinese Women Traversing Diaspora, Sharon K. Hom

Earthquake!, Dale Seymour

East Meets West, Guidance Associates

Farewell to Manzanar, Movies Unlimited

Flight, Science Resources

Focus on 1900-1909, Coronet

Lessons on Asia, Social Studies School Service

The Math of China, Dale Seymour

The Railroad, Knowledge Unlimited

Self-Fulfillment, Guidance Associates

Well, They Did It, Educational Impressions

Writing About Family Roots, Interact

Also, consult these websites:

"The Amazing Abacus," <http://tqd.advanced.org/3711/>

"Chinatown Walking Tour,"

<http://www.consumer-information.org/sftraveltour4.asp>.

"Cultural History (Manchu Society),"

<http://www.glenbow.org/recent/cult.htm>.

"How Big Was the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake?,"

<http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/more/1906/howbig.html>.

"1906 San Francisco Earthquake,"

<http://www.ess.ucla.edu/lecture/index102.html>.

"The Wright Brothers," [http://ase20.wpafb.af.mil/museum/](http://ase20.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/preww1/pw11.htm)

[history/preww1/pw11.htm](http://ase20.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/preww1/pw11.htm).

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Laurence Yep's *Dragonwings* should include these aspects:

Themes

- emigration
- kinship
- racism
- conflict
- loyalty
- failure
- loss
- friendship
- collaboration
- success
- reunion

Motifs

- making progress through hard work and cooperation
- asserting self-control over fear
- saying farewell to a native culture
- following a dream

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each. Chapter and page numbers are provided so that you can re-read the passage from which the item is taken.

1. The rice had to be grown from seeds, and the seedlings transplanted to the paddies, and the paddies tended and harvested. (Chap. 1, p. 2)
(Moon Shadow's mother is confined to a labor-intensive agricultural task, which requires planters to dam small plots of earth, flood them with water, then stand ankle-deep in water while setting out tender rice seedlings in the muddy bottoms to grow strong and fruitful. This messy, backbreaking job, plus the responsibility of a pig and chickens, keeps Mother occupied on the farm in Father's absence.)
2. The mountain's a thousand miles high and three thousand miles wide, and all a man has to do is wait until the sun warms the mountain and then scoop the gold into big buckets. (Chap. 1, p. 6)
(To explain the unknown, Grandmother passes on to Moon Shadow the far-fetched fable of America. The depiction of opportunity as heaps of gold suggests to the boy some of the promise of the new land. To temper outrageous get-rich-quick data with attendant danger, she adds the threat of demons, who "roam the mountain up and down, and . . . beat up any of our men who try to get the gold." Thus, with a child's version of the coexistence of good and evil, she expresses the nature of racism and the inequalities that await the boy on his arrival in San Francisco.)
3. "Windrider?" I asked Father. "That's not your name." (Chap. 2, p. 16)
(Moon Shadow, who is encountering a stranger, knows little about his father. The difference in names is unsettling to the boy until he makes the connection between the models and drawings and Windrider's interest in kites and planes.)
4. "Well, the Emperor's son will just have to go naked," Hand Clap shouted and they laughed and hooted at that, for there was no love lost for the present Emperor, who was a Manchu, a son of the foreigners who had conquered the Middle Kingdom and who long ago made us wear queues as a sign that we had been beaten by

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them. (Chap. 2, p. 27)

(Hand Clap displays disrespect for the northeastern ethnic origins of Manchurians, a people living on the border of Siberia who conquered China. They established a powerful, coercive dynasty in 1644 that remained in power until 1911. After the Republican revolt, they lost their distinct character as they were assimilated.)

5. Finally, Black Dog had taken to opium. (Chap. 2, pp. 28-29)

(A drug extracted from green seedpods of the Oriental poppy, opium is a long-respected folk remedy and painkiller throughout India and China. When opium smoking seized China in the seventeenth century, the trade in drugs profited Western countries and became a widespread scourge as more people were addicted.)

6. Because this dragon had five gold-tipped claws, I knew him for the Imperial Dragon, for only royal family have five claws. (Chap. 3, p. 36)

(The dragon in Windrider's dream is the mythical being described in the I Ching as a bringer of health, fertility, and power. The motif is focal to art, particularly pottery and folk pageants during the Chinese New Year.)

7. You will be eating with us soon, though, if you just remember to watch for the tests and hold to the dragonness within that softskin body. Now fare you well.

(Chap. 3, p. 46)

(The conclusion to Windrider's dream is a three-stage trial by ordeal, a standard element in folk tales. Moon Shadow takes the matter seriously and enumerates each of three episodes that test his father, the softskin or human inventor whom the Lord promises a seat at the banquet table of the most high.)

8. I can use honest handymen like you. You come around anytime, you sabe me? (Chap. 4, p. 57)

(Oliver Alger addresses Windrider in standard English pidgin, a make-do language between unequals that whites use with native Americans and non-English speaking immigrants. The term "sabe" or "savvy" derives from the French "savoir," which means "to know or understand." Its use dates to the arrival of the coureurs de bois, the French woodsmen who explored the Mississippi Valley during the heyday of New World trapping and trade.)

9. He belonged to the same guild as we did and often caught the ferry over to attend the guild meetings. (Chap. 4, p. 63)

(In a place and time when immigrants have no government or legal structure to protect them, workers of the same trade band together to form trade guilds, a kind of labor union that offers them strength in numbers. Melon Head extends the friendship and protection of the guild to personal friendship with Windrider.)

10. It was thirteen days after the Feast of Pure Brightness that the earthquake hit. (Chap. 9, p. 154)

(The disaster that strikes at 5:00 A. M. kills 500 people and spreads fire over 3,000 acres in the center of San Francisco. Loss spurred a generous rebuilding effort that restored the city to one of the most beautiful and enjoyable in North America.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is

not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the novel.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Describe Moon Shadow's life after Father leaves.

(When Windrider leaves Canton, China, for California, his wife is pregnant with a son who doesn't meet his father for eight years. Laden with debt, Mother remains behind to work the farm, which is too demanding for Moon Shadow's aged grandmother. Mother must tend a pig and chickens and grow rice seedlings to set out and harvest in the paddies. She invests father's money on more land and livestock. Carrying the burden of hard labor and a small son, she avoids the fearful subject of California, where Grandfather was lynched and left hanging from a lamppost. To assure her husband's safety, she and Moon Shadow go to the village temple to pray and light incense.

Moon Shadow requests information about the place where his father lives. Although his mother and grandmother are illiterate and depend on the village schoolmaster to read Father's weekly letters, Grandmother fills in details with a fable about the Golden Mountain, the folk name for America. For pleasure, Moon Shadow flies a kite, his tie with a father skilled in making flying machines.)

2. What difficulties await Moon Shadow on the journey?

(By age eight, Moon Shadow is old enough for the journey to America. Hand Clap, the emissary from Father and Uncle Bright Star, declares that beatings are not so common for immigrants. He promises that the fighting brotherhoods and the Company will protect the boy. At length, Moon Shadow willingly agrees to go.

From Canton, Moon Shadow makes the passage with Hand Clap. On the way, he listens to more stories of fearful demons. When San Francisco becomes a smudge on the horizon, Hand Clap begins rehearsing the boy for the difficulties of inspection by immigration authorities. For a week, the boy and other newcomers remain locked into a foul-smelling warehouse. After physical exams and lengthy questions about the village and family, the authorities release the boy to enter the strange land. He ponders the strange boxy buildings with no courtyards as he walks toward his family waiting on the pier.)

3. Describe Moon Shadow's new home.

(Moon Shadow is immediately engulfed in family on his arrival. At the three-storied wooden building that houses the Company, he learns the layout of their shared laundry business, an orderly arrangement that begins in the basement with washing and proceeds upstairs with drying on racks and ironing. On the second floor, the family relaxes and cooks. The third floor is reserved for sleeping quarters.

Up the stairs in their first moments alone as father and son, Moonrider introduces his son to their private residence. In a gaslit room ten feet wide, the boy sees piles of schematic drawings on the table and every inch of space crowded with airplane models and fragments of crystal sets. Father is proud to display an electric light, which scares Moon Shadow. Within the year, however, he rises to make a fire and brew tea for the family and

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learns to keep a low profile as he hurries to school past rattling cable cars and menacing white people.)

4. Summarize the myth of the first opium flower.
(To Moon Shadow's understanding of British-Chinese differences over the opium trade, Black Dog relates a characteristic folk myth that "[gives] the poor man his due." The story of the poor working man with an ugly wife centers on spousal abuse. Beaten and despised, she falls gravely ill. The man regrets having abused her. Ten days after she dies, a white flower and round fruit spring up on her grave. When the man sickens, he has a dream of his wife telling him to use the flower for healing. The man hardens the juice of the fruit and smokes it daily until he is cured. The love of the man for his dead wife becomes stronger than when she was alive.)
5. Why does Windrider assault Black Dog?
(A fearful sybarite, Black Dog is driven by the hunger for opium. In a depraved state, he accosts Moon Shadow in May while the boy is collecting overdue bills among the Tang people. After telling the boy the myth of the opium flower, he grabs his arm and complains of the pain of living thirty years among racists. Moon Shadow kicks him and runs up the hill, but Black Dog grabs his queue and snatches the Company money bag. He kicks the boy so severely that Moon Shadow passes out.

When the boy awakens at the Company, Windrider and Uncle question him about Black Dog's attack. White Deer suggests letting the police handle the matter to avoid a confrontation with the Sleepers. Uncle advises "Be silent; be cunning, be invisible." Moonrider volunteers to go to the Sleepers, the secret society that he once belonged to.

Armed with a square sword, Moonrider overcomes Lefty, who guards his door, and hurries into the fog to the Tiger General's quarters to demand custody of Black Dog. Father demands compensation for Black Dog's assault on Moon Shadow. The boy intercedes against a man with a pistol while Windrider fights Black Dog. Windrider cuts Black Dog in the chest and strikes the armed man with the sword.

The Tiger General ejects Black Dog from the brotherhood and leaves Windrider to settle personal grudges. The Tiger General warns Windrider to leave town. To assure safety for Moon Shadow, Windrider takes a job as handyman with Alger, the apartment manager. The departure to live among demons angers Uncle, but assures Moon Shadow a different life away from Chinese criminals.)

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. How does life change for Windrider and his son after they leave the Company?
(On Polk Street far from Chinatown and family, Windrider and his son live among white-owned tenements in a drafty corner of a backyard stable. They learn the ways of their landlady, Miss Whitlaw, and befriend her niece Robin. Their camaraderie involves an exchange of culture. Miss Whitlaw accepts a picture of the kitchen god; Moon Shadow learns to drink milk and eat cookies.
Life in the white neighborhood is difficult. Moon Shadow helps his father with handyman chores in safe areas and returns to the stable by the time white children leave school to assure he will not be molested. He

learns to face down Jack and other ruffians who stone him. The first flying holiday takes Windrider and Moon Shadow to the dunes and gradually widens their world of opportunity.)

7. How does the earthquake change Moon Shadow's life?
(The devastation left by the earthquake unites San Franciscans as they seek to protect their belongings from fire and looters and to find new quarters to replace their lost buildings. Moon Shadow witnesses the destruction of Jack's family in their two-room apartment and helps his father assure the safety of Miss Whitlaw and her boarders. With the whole street devastated, Moon Shadow and his father and friends have much to do to rescue and protect survivors from walls that may collapse. Robin and the boy work together to make tea and sandwiches. The unity of work and salvage unites people who had formerly tormented Moon Shadow.

The resettlement effort reunites the Tang people. Moon Shadow is pleased to see Uncle sharing plum brandy with Miss Whitlaw. From living in tents and rebuilding the Company, Moon Shadow and his family recover, but the boy loses Miss Whitlaw and Robin when they move to new quarters. His security totters out of fear that Windrider will leave home to become an itinerant aeronaut. Nevertheless, he supports his father's dream. Reestablished in the Oakland foothills, he lives in a barn while Windrider perfects his flying machine.)

8. How does hardship bring out quality in Windrider's character?
(Always eager to find work as a handyman, Windrider cuts firewood and performs other chores while his son delivers groceries. The two work on a mutually shared schedule of tasks and limited budget while Windrider completes his plane. Although the father's spirit flags after twelve years apart from his wife, he works steadily at his dream. For three years, the pair are cold and sometimes hungry, but they maintain friendship with Miss Whitlaw and Robin.

The scrimping for parts for Dragonwings keeps the family poor, yet Windrider creates character in his son by teaching him about struggle. The last face-off against Black Dog causes Moon Shadow to state the intrinsic value of life at the barn: "We have something to believe in." When Black Dog forces Windrider to give up the money hidden in the birdhouse in the oak tree, the threat of losing Dragonwings forces an immediate test flight. Moon Shadow concludes, "There was some beauty to life after all, even if it was only the beauty of hope.")

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. What does reunion with the Company accomplish?
(When Uncle, Hand Clap, Lefty, and White Deer appear at the barn shortly before Windrider is to be evicted and Dragonwings confiscated, Uncle intends to do penance by making up for the damage caused by Black Dog. The reunion forces Uncle to lower his stiff pride and admit, "There will be those among the Tang people who will laugh—but now they will have to laugh at all of us, for we'll share in your folly." The offer of a loan to pay the rent restores security and amity among the Company members.
To facilitate the first flight, Uncle chants the railroad-builder builders' marching cadence. Moon Shadow realizes,

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"If life seems awfully petty most of the time, every now and then there is something noble and beautiful and almost pure that lifts us suddenly out of the pettiness and lets us share in it a little." The brief flight is worth the pain of a broken leg and two broken ribs. Windrider, finally rid of his passion for flying, gives up inventing and turns his attention to reuniting his family.)

10. Why does Laurence Yep conclude with an afterward? *(Yep seems uncomfortable with any misidentification of the Tang/Tong. By carrying the history of China back to A.D. 618 and forward to the flight of Fung Joe Guey in 1909, he coalesces a story that places Chinese immigrants among worthy contributors to the history of California. In paragraph three, Yep admits that a complete history of these "shadowy [figures]" is impossible, but that the fictionalized story of Moon Shadow and Windrider makes a dignified guess at the "facts of the Chinese-American experience." Yep is eager to create realism to banish the stereotyping of "Dr. Fu Manchu and his yellow hordes, Charlie Chan and his fortune-cookie wisdom, the laundrymen and cooks of the movie and television Westerns, and the houseboys of various comedies." By quashing clichés about Asian immigrants, the author showcases not only the affect of America on immigrant Chinese, but the contributions of Asian immigrants to America. The result is a satisfying historical novel that projects the humanistic values of friendship, cooperation, loyalty, and following a dream.)*

Questions 11 and 12 Creative Level

11. Compose the text of a television documentary on people who contributed to the first successful airplane. Include Fung Joe Guey and Orville and Wilbur Wright.
12. Suggest a memorial or plaque to honor people who aided their neighbors during the San Francisco earthquake.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Logic and Mathematics

1. Lead a debate about how to teach survivors to cope with an earthquake or fire. List important information about taking a census, first aid, clean water, protection against looters, transportation, food, temporary housing, burial details, and the use of the army to keep the peace. Discuss the logistics of reuniting families who are separated during the disaster.
2. Create a bulletin board illustrating the tenuous balance of ethnic neighborhoods in San Francisco. Include tenements, Chinese laborers building railroads, the Company's laundry, gangs waylaying Chinese children and throwing bricks, and Moon Shadow's first gift to Miss Whitlaw. Explain how the earthquake and fire equalize people of all races and social classes. Describe Miss Whitlaw's response to the ejection of Chinese survivors from Golden Gate Park. Account for Uncle's assurance that San Francisco cannot do without the Chinese population.

Education

Compose an informal essay on how to learn a new language and a new alphabet. Suggest exercises that might aid Moon Shadow in writing and spelling difficult words and in expressing his needs in letters to Orville Wright. Name places Robin can go to learn more Chinese words

and characters, such as down the main street of Chinatown past shop signs and posted notices.

Music

Give an oral report on the background of "Simple Gifts." Explain why it is a landmark folksong in American music history.

Literature

1. Create and discuss a list of images from the novel that appeal to the five senses, for instance "His wings brushed the grasstops and then the left side of his wings dipped dangerously toward the ground, but he steadied Dragonwings with a shove of his hips."
2. Write a theme in which you explain the role of a minor character. How do these people affect Windrider's role as kinsman, member of the Sleepers, husband, partner in the Company, citizen of San Francisco, patient, handy man, aeronautical engineer, immigrant, and father?

Drama and Speech

1. Write several conversations which are only implied, such as the Tiger General's banishment of Black Dog, Mother's discussions with Grandmother about Moon Shadow's trip to America, Miss Whitlaw's visit to the landlord, Robin's introduction to the Company partners, Jack's comments to his buddies about Moon Shadow, the soldiers' orders to looters, Windrider's departure from the Company to China, and Uncle's preparations to leave the Company as the fire approaches Chinatown.
2. Compose orally an extended definition of neighbor. How do Windrider, Robin, Moon Shadow, and Miss Whitlaw demonstrate their concern for others? Why does Uncle elect to pack food for the survivors of the earthquake? What needs demand neighborly action or acknowledgement, for example, the plane crash, Windrider's broken leg and ribs, the fire, Jack's death in the rubble, Black Dog's disappearance and murder, and Miss Whitlaw's lost income?
3. Role-play the part of pilot, white immigration officer, teacher, laundry worker, delivery driver, builder, firefighter, ship captain, stranded motorist, translator, letter writer, army officer, or landlord. Explain how the book would change if the main character had been a girl.

Cinema

1. Draw settings for a movie version of *Dragonwings*. Show the placement of actors, music, costumes, props, sound effects, and lighting.
2. View various films about young people who make difficult adjustments, e. g. *Souder* or *My Side of the Mountain*. Discuss why filmmakers focus on young people and their problems with coming of age.

Science and Health

1. Explain to a small group how these terms apply to flight: center of gravity, wing configuration, aeronautical, schematics, glider, ratios, wingspan, biplane, struts, cockpit, gear-and-sprocket, and banking.
2. Briefly discuss the purpose of Dragonwings. Describe its shape, materials, and steering devices. Summarize the role of the pilot in guiding and landing. Why is Moon Shadow's attitude toward dragons important? How does he react to stories of St. George, the slayer of dragons?

Social Studies and Geography

1. Compose a short speech in which you describe the role

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of San Francisco in the lives of these characters: Jack and his family, Robin, Moon Shadow, Mr. Alger, Windrider, the Company, the Tiger General, Mother, Grandmother, Grandfather, looters, survivors of the earthquake, soldiers, laundry patrons, Miss Whitlaw and her boarders, Red Rabbit, railroad workers, Theodore Roosevelt, and children and lynch mobs who torment Chinese immigrants.

2. Make an oral report on the theme of community cooperation. Stress how harmony in a racially mixed neighborhood requires understanding, patience, and mutual respect. Give evidence that Miss Whitlaw and Windrider attempt to acquaint each other with white and Chinese beliefs and interests. Describe Uncle Bright Star's response to the brick through the window. Comment on Grandfather's death on the lamppost and Windrider's black eye.
3. Compose a first person account of a visit to San Francisco. Describe the Golden Gate Bridge, Golden Gate Park, Ocean Beach, the dunes, the parade ground, the Presidio, the Oakland ferry, and Chinatown. What other sites might Robin and Moon Shadow enjoy visiting? Include a tourist map in your description of their itinerary.
4. Compose a short segment in which you report on Chinese culture. Include Confucius, New Year celebrations, burning the picture of the Stove King, chopsticks, dumplings, Silver River, Buddha-to-be, the Boxer Rebellion, rice wine, Mah-Jongg, jasmine tea, choy, opium dens, aphorisms, bright colored buildings, and the traditional queue. Discuss how Windrider decorates his hair for a special occasion. Explain why the Chinese quote aphorisms as guides to behavior.
5. Survey California history. Express the importance of gold, railroads, immigrants, boom towns, and mixed races on the state's growth and economic abundance. Place the earthquake and fire on a time line of important events comprising the state's difficulties and challenges.

Art

1. Create a bulletin board contrasting settings described or mentioned in the text. Include dunes, foothills, Ferry Building, depot, Ocean Beach, Niagara Falls, Seal Rock, Twins, Milky Way, Aquila, Lyra, Altair, Vega, Spinning Maid, Silver River, Oakland, Golden Gate Park, Hunter's Point, Sacramento, Colorado, Pearl River, Los Angeles, parade ground, Sierras, Presidio, Central Pacific, Union Pacific, San Francisco, Chinatown, Canton, Barbary Coast, Middle Kingdom, and Land of the Golden Mountain.
2. Using desktop publishing or other media, design a page from an illustrated Cantonese dictionary or a dime novel about Buffalo Bill, a banner welcoming the homeless and injured to Golden Gate Park, a sign offering free delivery of laundry and reasonable prices, multiple views of an airplane or box kite, a business card for Mr. Alger or Uncle Bright Star, visiting hours at the immigration center detention area, an epitaph for Grandfather or McKinley, a news feature about the fire that followed the San Francisco earthquake, an illustrated entry on aeronautics for an encyclopedia or science book, a scientific explanation of electricity or a crystal set, a chart featuring advancements in flying to the present day, and a

schematic drawing of Chinatown, the Oakland ferry, and Golden Gate Park.

3. Draw a book jacket or poster emphasizing the picnic, laundry deliveries in the buckboard, dunes, surf, China, rice paddies, Chinatown, fallen houses, tents in the Golden Gate Park, soldiers directing the Chinese to the parade ground or golf course at the Presidio, the Lees' quarters in the stable, Mother praying at the temple and lighting incense, Robin's work at the water pump, Miss Whitlaw's performance on the piano, the fight in the alley, Windrider's hiding place for the rent money, or Windrider's workshop.

Law and Economics

1. Explain to a small group why male immigrants remain bachelors. How do railroads and gold mines influence immigrants? Why does Windrider leave China before Moon Shadow's birth? Why does Mother work hard in the paddies for so few comforts? Why does she allow her son to leave for America? Why does Uncle Bright Star think that Windrider is crazy to save money to bring Mother to America?
2. Explain in a theme how the author characterizes the Chinese in a changing society. Why is brotherhood necessary to immigrant survival? How do the Chinese react to questions from whites? How do family members in America and China assist victims of the earthquake and fire? How do Chinese children receive an education? What part did the Gold Rush and the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads play in assisting former generations of Chinese immigrants to find a place in the work force?
3. Characterize Uncle's role as business manager, adviser, disciplinarian, decision maker, head of the family, peacemaker, and mourner for Black Dog. Project how Windrider or Moon Shadow will function among the next generation of managers of the Company. Account for the failures of Lefty and Black Dog.

Language

With a group, list and explain these terms, which express important concepts: Tang dynasty, Mah-Jongg, Buddhist, Confucius, Jade Emperor, stereopticon, Stove King, Lord of Heaven, abacus, horselesses, Manchu, crystal set, queue, opium, Boxer Rebellion, Theodore Roosevelt, firebreak, shanghaier, tremor, Tong, Charlie Chan, Dr. Fu Manchu, solar calendar, hip cradle, and warp.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Describe aloud the difference between living with Mother and Grandmother in China and living with Windrider, Uncle Bright Star, Lefty, and Hand Clap in Chinatown. How do the men teach Moon Shadow to cooperate with the Brotherhood? What does Moon Shadow learn from Black Dog? from the Tiger General? from Jack and his friends? from Robin?
2. Contrast female characters in terms of action, control, and compassion. Include Mother, Robin, Maisie, the Imperial Dragon's daughters, Grandmother, Miss Whitlaw, and the mother of the dead baby. Why does Miss Whitlaw urge Robin to accept Moon Shadow's fears without question? How does Robin assist Moon Shadow in stopping the daily harassment from Jack and his

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- gang? What does the sound of Moon Shadow's distant cry remind Windrider about his family in China?
3. Divide the class into small groups to study the background elements of the story, particularly segregation, education, grudges, ethnic allegiance, male kinship societies, aeronautical technique, firebreaks, mythology, constellations, the Wright brothers, Chinese New Year, the Kitchen God, immigration laws, the Transcontinental Railroad, Confucius, opium dens, martial law, and earthquakes.
 4. Analyze character interaction by emphasizing the type of relationship Moon Shadow has with his mother and father, grandmother, great uncle, cousin Black Dog, and partners in the Company. What does he learn about thrift, work, obedience, revenge, violence, secrecy, friendship, reconciliation, and racial pride? What parallels exist between Moon Shadow and his male role models and between Miss Whitlaw and her niece?
 5. Describe in a short speech the effects on characters in the story of loss of the Company building, fear of Jack, disillusion with the Gold Mountain, danger from lynch mobs, terror from collapsing buildings, threat of fire, frustration with building a plane, defeat, and humiliation by bands of soldiers. How does the Chinese community respond to daily changes of location? What is Uncle Bright Star's attitude toward white authorities, racism, and harassment?
 6. Make a time line of events in the story. Stress moments of emotional and physical stress.
 7. Discuss your response to Miss Whitlaw as a friend and worker. How does the fire destroy her family home and standard of living? Why does she remain in contact with the Lees? How does she intercede with the landlord? How does she win Uncle's friendship and trust?
 8. Discuss with a group the theme of challenge. How does the dream help Windrider explain to himself his ambition of making kites and planes? Why does he draw courage and support from the newspaper article about the Wright brothers? What does Uncle's disapproval do to Windrider's plans? Why does Windrider choose to live in a barn?
 9. Draw a character web representing the interconnectedness between the Company, Grandfather, the Brotherhood, the Tiger General, Miss Whitlaw, Robin, Jack, the unnamed assassin, Black Dog, soldiers, Mr. Alger, Grandmother, and the Lees. What promises did Windrider make in China? Where does Red Rabbit belong on this chart? Why does Windrider return to the Company and accept the loan of a thousand dollars from Uncle?
 10. Apply a Freytag diagram to the novel. Label parts of the plot that form exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Why does this clear delineation of action lend itself well to radio, audio cassette, or the stage? What problems would a producer have in staging *Dragonwings* as a play, opera, TV miniseries, or outdoor musical drama?

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List examples of teamwork, fear, insecurity, intimidation, loyalty, fairness, poor judgment, and reward in the first years of Moon Shadow's life in America.

2. Compile a list of actions that demonstrate Moonrider's method of improving on his original design.
3. Compose a scene in which Miss Whitlaw goes for a ride on the glider.
4. Make a character list and explain the character flaws of each, including Black Dog's anger, Uncle's stubbornness, Jack's rudeness, and Moon Shadow's fear of the unknown.
5. Account for the popularity of a book about a minority people during a famous disaster.

OTHER WORKS BY LAURENCE YEP

World's Best Science Fiction (contributor, 1969)
Quark Number Two (contributor, 1971)
Protostars (contributor, 1971)
Strange Bedfellows: Sex and Science Fiction (1973)
The Demon Children (1973)
Sweetwater (1973)
Last Dangerous Visions (contributor, 1975)
Child of the Owl (1977)
"Writing Dragonwings," *Reading Teacher* (January 1977)
Sendemons (1977)
Sea Glass (1979)
The Green Darkness (1980)
Kind Hearts and Gentle Monsters (1982)
The Mark Twain Murders (1982)
Dragon of the Lost Sea (1982)
Liar, Liar (1983)
The Serpent's Children (1984)
The Tom Sawyer Files (1984)
Dragon Steel (1985)
Mountain Light (1985)
The Shadow Lord (1986)
Monster Makers, Inc. (1986)
Literature for Today's Young Adults (contributor, 1986)
Curse of the Squirrel (1987)
Age of Wonders (1987)
Pay the Chinaman (1987)
The Rainbow People (1989)
Between Worlds (contributor, 1990)
Dragon Cauldron (1991)
Tongues of Jade (1991)
Lost Garden (1991)
Star Fisher (1991)
Dragon War (1992)
American Dragons: Twenty-Five Asian American Voices (ed., 1993)
The Shell Woman and the King: A Chinese Folktale (1993)
Dragon's Gate (1993)
The Man Who Tricked a Ghost (1993)
The Butterfly Boy (1993)
Dragon Wings (play, 1993)
The Boy Who Swallowed Snakes (1994)
Foxfire (1994)
Ghost Fox (1994)
The Case of the Goblin Pearls (1997)
The Case of the Lion Dance (1998)

RELATED READING

William Armstrong, *Sounder*
Hal Borland, *When the Legends Die*
Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*
Forrest Carter, *The Education of Little Tree*

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Robin Graham, *Dove*
Joseph Krungold, *And Now, Miguel*
Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
Gary Paulsen, *Harris and Me* and *The Voyage of the Frog*
Robert Newton Peck, *A Day No Pigs Would Die*
Conrad Richter, *A Light in the Forest*
John Steinbeck, *The Red Pony*
Theodore Taylor, *Timothy of the Cay*
Yoko Kawashima Watkins, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. notorious | 6. intrigued | 11. shadowy |
| 2. dynasty | 7. accounts | 12. flocked |
| 3. brotherhood | 8. mishap | 13. mass |
| 4. extension | 9. ingenious | 14. fodder |
| 5. fantasy | 10. distributed | 15. manipulated |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Uncle Bright Star | 9. Mr. Alger |
| 2. Miss Whitlaw | 10. Tiger General |
| 3. Imperial Dragon | 11. Stove King |
| 4. Wright brothers | 12. Dragonwings |
| 5. Black Dog | 13. Miss Whitlaw |
| 6. Theodore Roosevelt | 14. Lefty |
| 7. Maisie | 15. Hand Clap |
| 8. Mother | |

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Answers will vary.

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. T | 7. T |
| 3. T | 8. F |
| 4. F | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. A |
| 2. A | 7. C |
| 3. D | 8. B |
| 4. C | 9. B |
| 5. A | 10. D |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. A |
| 2. C | 7. G |
| 3. D | 8. E |
| 4. J | 9. I |
| 5. H | 10. B |

Part III: Short Answer (30 points)

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. money owed the Company | 9. breakfast cooking |
| 2. Windrider | 10. soldiers |
| 3. Wright brothers | 11. golf course |
| 4. Windrider | 12. steel knife |
| 5. Imperial Dragon | 13. white people |
| 6. handyman | 14. stereopticon |
| 7. Uncle | 15. rice paddies |
| 8. \$1000 | |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

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VOCABULARY TEST

Fill in each blank in the Afterword with an appropriate synonym for the underlined word from the list below. Place your answer in the blank provided. You will have answers left over when you finish:

accounts	dynasty	fodder	intrigued	notorious
brotherhood	extension	hordes	manipulated	radical
counter	fantasy	houseboys	mass	shadowy
distributed	flocked	ingenious	mishap	unique

I ought to explain that when the story refers to a Tang man, he is not one of the (1) famous _____ Tong men, or hatchetmen. As the story notes, the word Tang refers to the Tang (2) royal family _____, which ruled from 618 to 907 A. D., and is more properly spelled T'ang. The "Tong" of the hatchetmen is translated as (3) belonging _____ in the story, and means a hall or a court, and by (4) stretching, _____ a lodge or a fraternity.

I should also warn thoughtful readers that *Dragonwings* is more of a historical (5) creation _____ than a factual reconstruction. I was (6) interested _____ when I first read the newspaper (7) stories _____ of the young Chinese flier Fung Joe Guey. He flew in the hills of Oakland on September 22, 1909, for twenty minutes before a (8) fault _____ with one propeller brought his biplane down. Not only had the (9) clever _____ Fung Joe Guey improved upon the Wrights' original design, but he had also made his own wireless sets and telephones, which he (10) shared _____ among other interested Chinese. He had plans to build a new biplane of steel pipes and silk.

Did he ever build that new biplane? I do not know. Nor do I know why he built that first biplane. I do not even know where he came from or whether he had a wife and a family. Like the other Chinese who came to America, he remains a (11) mysterious _____ figure. Of the hundreds of thousands of Chinese who (12) hurried _____ to these shores we know next to nothing. They remain a dull, faceless (13) group _____: statistical (14) data _____ to be fed to the sociologists, or lifeless abstractions to be (15) rearranged _____ by historians. And yet these Chinese were human beings—with fears and hopes, joys and sorrows like the rest of us.

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

Supply a term to complete each of the following statements.

1. The clan and the Company fall under the control of _____.
2. _____ protests when soldiers order the Chinese out of Golden Gate Park.
3. In a strange dream, Windrider repairs muscles and bones in a wound on the side of the _____.
4. An article in the *New York Herald* describes the flight of the _____.
5. _____ holds a knife to Moon Shadow's throat and threatens to kill him.
6. Uncle fears that _____ meddles too much in American business affairs.
7. Robin learns from _____ that Jack is afraid of blood.
8. _____ prays for her husband at the temple and lights sticks of incense.
9. _____'s card gives his name and occupation.
10. The _____ evicts Black Dog from the brotherhood.
11. Burning a picture of the _____ is a part of traditional Chinese celebration.
12. Parts of _____ become the crosspieces and bed of a litter to carry Father from the crash site.
13. _____ makes no fuss over having to take a job as a housekeeper.
14. _____ chops off his hand out of frustration that he gambled away his money and ticket.
15. _____ escorts Moon Shadow to America and remains with him in the detention center for immigrants.

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Briefly describe each of the following characters.

1. Moon Shadow
2. Jack
3. Fung Joe Guey
4. Black Dog
5. Sleepers
6. Windrider
7. White Deer
8. Orville Wright
9. Hand Clap
10. Grandfather

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Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- 1. Most of the outings with Miss Whitlaw end in arguments between Robin and Moon Shadow.
- 2. Chinatown seems unusual because there are no women on the streets.
- 3. If Moon Shadow forgets to put "Lee" on the end of his name, he might be sent back to China.
- 4. Grandmother dislikes letting a small boy travel to America because the water in California is unclean.
- 5. Killing a member of a brotherhood could lead to a bloody feud.
- 6. The carved monkey proves to Moon Shadow that Uncle loves him.
- 7. Miss Whitlaw's gift of plum brandy impresses Uncle.
- 8. Moon Shadow carries an antique pistol during his deliveries and bill collection.
- 9. At age fifteen, Moon Shadow reunites with his mother.
- 10. The barn rafters are filled with gliders for Moon Shadow and his friends.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Explain why Uncle enjoys telling railroad stories.
- 2. Describe the flight of Dragonwings.
- 3. Discuss why Black Dog disappoints his father.
- 4. Summarize elements of life in San Francisco that are new and strange to Moon Shadow.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

- _____ 1. Moon Shadow feels more comfortable
A. on Red Rabbit B. in Chinatown C. near the railroad depot D. at the pump.
- _____ 2. Robin is surprised when Windrider
A. cuts the string B. breaks two ribs C. carries a club
D. tells a story about the Silver River.
- _____ 3. The Imperial Dragon warns Windrider to expect
A. wealth B. a return to China C. painful wings D. tests.
- _____ 4. Rude boys hit Moon Shadow with
A. clubs B. wood torn from Dragonwings C. a tomato D. a brick.
- _____ 5. Shortly before the earthquake the Lees
A. honor the dead B. make a sleeping room in the barn
C. go to Oakland on the ferry D. travel by cable car to Mr. Alger's business address.
- _____ 6. By 9:00 A. M. on April 18,
A. soldiers arrive B. Uncle presents Miss Whitlaw with apples
C. school begins for Chinese children D. the Oldsmobile is repaired.
- _____ 7. While rescue parties work,
A. Windrider packs the wagon B. Miss Whitlaw sends for Uncle
C. Robin and Moon Shadow make sandwiches D. a doctor sets Father's broken leg.
- _____ 8. The Chinese immigrants helped with
A. the arrest of looters B. the building of the railroad
C. the creation of firebreaks near the Company
D. California's celebration of Theodore Roosevelt's election.
- _____ 9. Dragonwings flies four minutes above
A. Chinatown B. the Esperanza estate C. the Chinese cemetery D. the parade ground.
- _____ 10. Mother and Father agree that
A. Moon Shadow will one day run the Company
B. Black Dog is guilty of taking opium and stealing from the Company
C. Moon Shadow should not learn the demon language
D. he will return for her.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the following descriptions with places from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| _____ 1. the Lees' home on Polk Street | A. near Oakland |
| _____ 2. area that Moon Shadow avoids | B. Windrider's room |
| _____ 3. location of Windrider's fight with the unidentified assassin | C. pump |
| _____ 4. home of the Tangs | D. alley |
| _____ 5. building that Uncle's relatives reconstruct | E. apartment |
| _____ 6. site of Dragonwings' first flight | F. stable |
| _____ 7. place from which Dragonwings must be pulled | G. barn |
| _____ 8. spot where Jack and his family die | H. the Company |
| _____ 9. place where Miss Whitlaw drinks jasmine tea | I. Miss Whitlaw's house |
| _____ 10. area guarded by a partner of the Company. | J. the Middle Kingdom |

DRAGONWINGS

Part III: Short Answer (30 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to each of the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. What is in the canvas bag?
- _____ 2. Who repairs an Oldsmobile?
- _____ 3. Who owns a bicycle shop?
- _____ 4. Who sells Miss Whitlaw's wagon?
- _____ 5. Who lifts a wing to display a wound?
- _____ 6. What kind of job does Mr. Alger offer Windrider?
- _____ 7. Who suffers with rheumatic hands?
- _____ 8. How much money does Uncle lend Windrider?
- _____ 9. What starts the fire?
- _____ 10. Who joins the looters?
- _____ 11. On what part of the presidio do the Chinese stay?
- _____ 12. What gift does Black Dog give Moon Shadow?
- _____ 13. Who are the demons?
- _____ 14. Where does Miss Whitlaw see pictures of Niagara Falls?
- _____ 15. Where does Mother work?

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Compare Windrider as father, husband, worker, and engineer.
2. Discuss the importance of teamwork in the story.
3. Describe how Dragonwings is guided.
4. Explain how the disaster equalizes survivors.



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