



A Single Shard

Linda Sue Park

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis

CHAPTER 1

Twelve-year-old Tree-ear is delighted when he helps a passing farmer plug a hole in his rice basket and is rewarded with the rice that had fallen to the ground. He brings the rice to Crane-man, the crippled man who had adopted the orphaned Tree-ear when the lad was about two years old. Tree-ear's parents had died of fever. Crane-man and Tree-ear are very poor—they live under a bridge in the village of Ch'ulp'o in medieval Korea—but happy together. After their meager meal, Tree-ear sneaks up to watch the potter Min. The village is known for its potters, but Min is the best of them all, perhaps in the entire country.

CHAPTER 2

Tree-ear sneaks into Min's yard and examines one of his creations, a duck. When Min surprises him, Tree-ear drops a box, denting it. To pay off his debt, Tree-ear volunteers to work for Min. The next day, Tree-ear chops wood for hours, raising blisters. He is so tired that night that Crane-man must feed him his dinner and clean his wounds.

CHAPTER 3

Annoyed that Tree-ear did not carry out the task as he had wanted, Min tries to get rid of him. But more than anything else, Tree-ear wants to learn to become a potter so he begs for another chance to do manual labor—anything for the opportunity to learn from the master. In nine days of work, Tree-ear does not get to touch a single bit of clay. Min's wife is surprisingly kind, a sharp contrast to her husband's irritable nature. Min agrees to let Tree-ear stay on, without pay. Soon, Tree-ear gets to dig clay, a brutally difficult job. Min's wife feeds Tree-ear, simple food that to him is a feast. Back home, Crane-man has destroyed his crutch in a fit of temper at being unable to catch any fish. As they make a new crutch and eat their meager dinner, Tree-ear feels very guilty about eating all the food that Min's wife had given him.

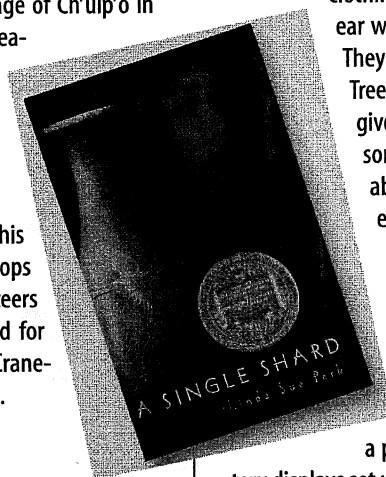
CHAPTER 4

The next day, Tree-ear brings his own bowl. Tree-ear is brutally disappointed when a wild animal eats all his food that day. Tree-ear works for two months. Every day, he eats half the food, hides the bowl, and brings the rest of the food home to Crane-man at night, to his delight. Soon, he realizes that Min's wife is refilling the bowl for him so he always has a full bowl for his return to the home he shares with Crane-

man under the bridge. Tree-ear learns how to prepare the clay. Time passes and Tree-ear learns more. To thank Min's wife for her kindness, he does some small chores for her, always without being asked.

CHAPTER 5

That fall, Tree-ear sees Kang the potter taking some pottery to the communal kiln. By being vigilant, Tree-ear sees that Kang has a new technique: red and white clay intermingled. As winter comes, Crane-man weaves some new sandals for Tree-ear. The child has grown so much that the first pair are too small. Every year at this time, the monks come down to collect their tithes of rice and often pass on warm winter clothing to the poor. But the monks do not come, and Tree-ear worries that Crane-man will suffer during the winter. They will soon move to their winter home, a dugout that Tree-ear detests. To Tree-ear's astonishment, Min's wife gives him warm winter clothing: it had belonged to their son Hyung-gu, who had died of fever when he was about Tree-ear's age. Tree-ear decides to give the jacket to Crane-man and keeps the trousers.



CHAPTER 6

Tree-ear spies on Kang to see what the potter is doing. The announcement that a royal emissary is coming to the village to buy pottery sends everyone into a frenzy of work, most of all Min, who is a perfectionist. The emissary arrives and tours the pottery displays set up by the waterfront. Tree-ear takes it upon himself to bring Min some flowers to display in his vases. Then Tree-ear sees Kang's work: it is covered with beautiful black chrysanthemums. Emissary Kim is impressed with both Min's work and Kang's.

CHAPTER 7

Min is even more irritable and decides to try some inlay work of his own. As Tree-ear prepares the clay, he is suddenly able to feel when the mixture is perfect, showing how much he has learned. Min makes five replicas of a melon-shaped vase. The next day, Tree-ear learns that Min had smashed the vases because they had not met his standards.

CHAPTER 8

The next day, the Emissary visits Min and says that Kang has been given a limited commission for only one year and asks Min to bring some of his work to court at Songdo, but Min refuses because of his old age. Tree-ear asks Min's wife permission to take the pots to Songdo. Tree-ear is shocked and delighted when Min's wife asks him to call her *Ajima*, a term of affection like "Auntie." Before he goes, Tree-ear asks Min if he will teach him to make a pot, since he has been working for

more than a year. Min refuses, saying that the trade of potter goes from father to son, and Tree-ear is not his son.

CHAPTER 9

At home, Crane-man comforts Tree-ear, but the pleasure has gone out of his work. Ajima asks Crane-man to help at the house in Tree-ear's absence, offering to pay in food. This had been Tree-ear's greatest fear: how Crane-man would eat in his absence. Min tests two vases in the special carrier they had woven. The vases don't break, so Tree-ear is ready to set off. As a parting gift, Tree-ear gives Crane-man a small monkey he had made from clay, which touches Crane-man deeply.

CHAPTER 10

Six days into Tree-ear's journey, a fox lurks about, but does not attack. Tree-ear enters the village of Puyo and sees that Kang's designs are already for sale.

CHAPTER 11

Two bandits attack, stealing Tree-ear's coins and flinging the vases over the cliff. Tree-ear contemplates suicide, but Crane-man's words echo in his ears and he doesn't leap over the cliff. He runs to the bottom of the cliff and retrieves some shards from the vases. He vows to bring a single shard to the emissary.

CHAPTER 12

On the basis of the shard, Min is awarded the commission. Tree-ear notices that the emissary has the same kind look in his eyes as Crane-man and Ajima have.

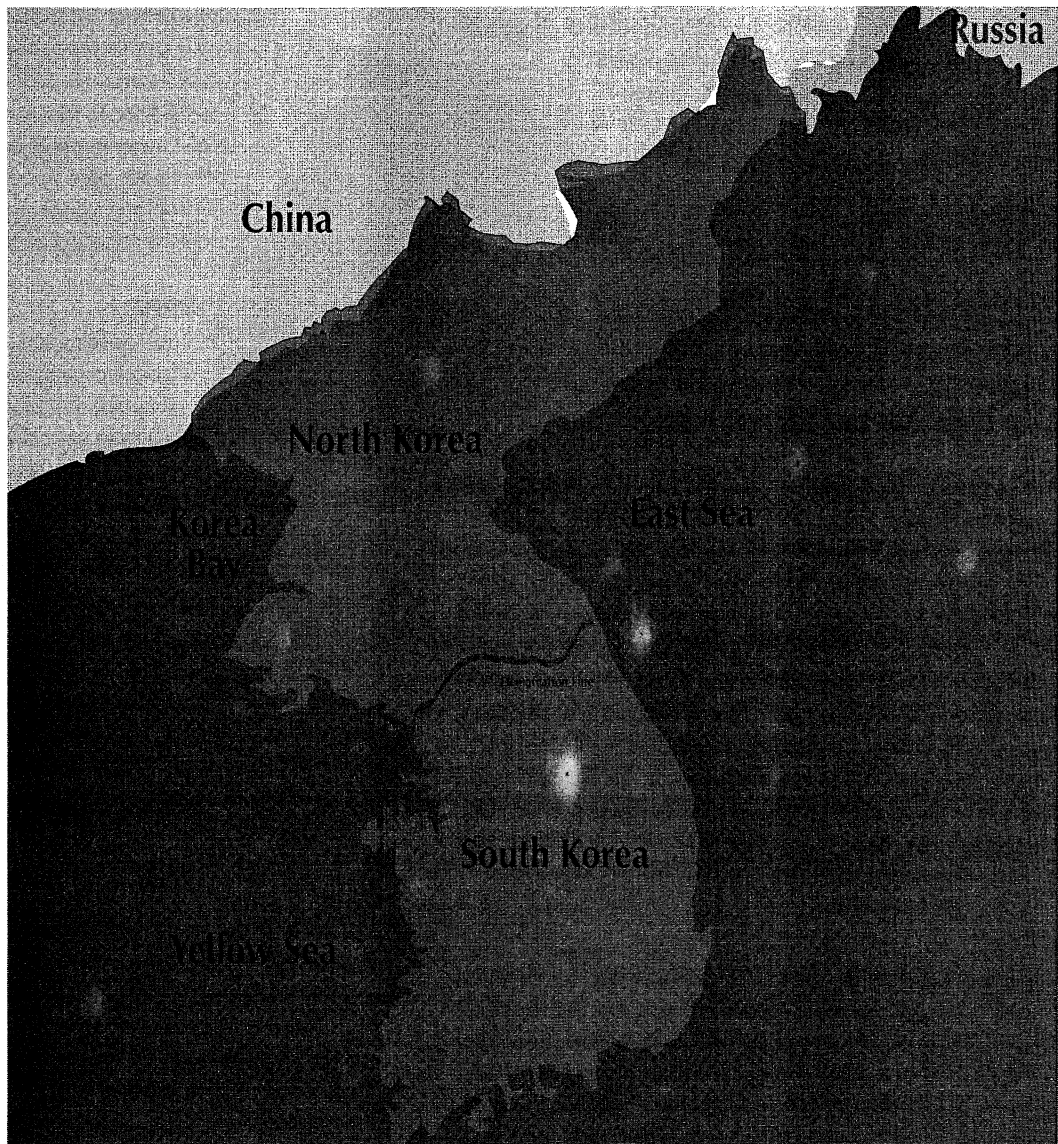
CHAPTER 13

The emissary arranges for Tree-ear to return home by sea. Min delivers the sad news that Crane-man had fallen into the river and died. He was clutching Tree-ear's ceramic monkey when his body was recovered. Ajima asks Tree-ear to take a new name, Hyung-pil, a great

honor because of its similarity to their son's name. Tree-ear lives with the couple and learns to be a potter.

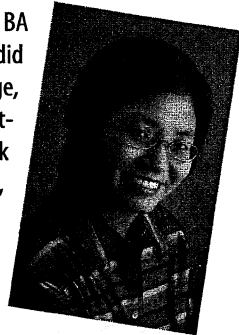
THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

The modern-day Korean Peninsula is bounded by water and includes the countries of North and South Korea, which signed an armistice in 1953, agreeing to cease the Korean war. For the majority of the past millenium, Korea was under Chinese sovereignty, and was later occupied by Japan from 1905-1945. The republic of South Korea and the communist-controlled government of North Korea were established following Japan's defeat in WWII.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Park was born in 1960, in Urbana, IL into a Korean-American family. She earned her BA in 1981 from Stanford University and did graduate work in Ireland at Trinity College, earning a higher diploma in Anglo-Irish literature in 1984 and England's Birkbeck College, earning an M.A. in 1988. In 1984, Park married Ben Dobbin, a journalist. They have two children. While in London, Park worked as a food journalist for five years. This was followed by stints as a teacher of English as a second language in London, Brooklyn, and Rochester, NY.



In an interview, Park commented: "I have been writing all my life, but only after I had children of my own did I feel the desire to explore my ethnic heritage (Korean) through writing. The fascinating discoveries I made have resulted in several books for young people. I continue to write poetry and fiction for adults as well, but because books were so important to me during my childhood, my work in children's literature holds special importance in my heart."

CRITIC'S CORNER

This 2002 Newbery Medal winner received glowing reviews. Though she found the book "rich in details of life in Korea," *School Library Journal* contributor Barbara Scotto thought that "what truly stands out are the characters." Carolyn Phelan, reviewing the book for the American Library Association's *Booklist*, noted: "This quiet, but involving, story draws readers into a very different time and place. Readers will feel the hunger and cold that Tree-ear experiences, as well as his shame, fear, gratitude, and love. A well-crafted novel with an unusual setting." *Horn Book* said: "Park's story is alive with fascinating information about life and art in ancient Korea." *Kirkus* called *A Single Shard* "a compelling read. A timeless jewel."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Booklist, April 1, 2001, Carolyn Phelan, review of *A Single Shard*, p. 1483.
Contemporary Authors Online, Gale, 2003.
Publishers Weekly, March 5, 2001, review of *A Single Shard*, p. 80.
School Library Journal, May, 2001, Barbara Scotto, review of *A Single Shard*, p. 158.
 Linda Sue Park Web site, <http://www.lindasuepark.com/>

OTHER BOOKS BY LINDA SUE PARK

The Kite Fighters (2000)
Seesaw Girl (1999)
When My Name Was Keoko (2002)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the importance of love and acceptance
2. To recognize ambition
3. To recognize the theme of loyalty
4. To analyze the significance of a strong father figure
5. To understand the novel's title
6. To probe the importance of setting goals
7. To find examples of friendship
8. To understand the social structure in medieval Korea
9. To sympathize with the main character's plight
10. To predict what the future holds for Tree-ear

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the effects of poverty
2. To analyze why Tree-ear wants to work with Min
3. To probe the relationship between Tree-ear and Crane-man
4. To understand Ajima's compassion
5. To recognize Tree-ear's determination and talent
6. To trace how Tree-ear and Crane-man create a family
7. To understand the story's theme
8. To analyze why Tree-ear undertakes the journey to court
9. To learn more about life in medieval Korea
10. To identify the novel's structure, especially its climax

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Park's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

setting the time and place of the action. The setting is crucial to *A Single Shard* because the culture determines much of the action. The pottery industry of 12th century Korea, especially the production of fine inlaid celadon vases, provides the center of the action.

theme the main idea in a literary work, the author's overriding message about life. The primary theme of *A Single Shard* concerns the importance of love and acceptance. Tree-ear is loved by Crane-man and together they create a life. It is humble and filled with hardship, but the boy and man create a family unit. With Crane-man's death, Tree-ear comes to live with Potter Min and his kindly wife. This creates a new family, a sense of acceptance, and a career for the orphan.

suspense the feeling of tension or anticipation an author creates in a work. Authors create suspense by unexpected plot twists. This keeps readers interested in the story and makes them want to read on to find out what will happen. Park builds suspense by having the robber smash the pots over the cliff. At first, it appears that Tree-ear will kill himself in shame or give up and return to his village in disgrace. Determined to succeed, Tree-ear takes a shard to the emissary. Will the emissary laugh him off? Will a single shard be sufficient to procure a commission for Potter Ming? These questions maintain the novel's suspense and compel the reader on.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

FICTION

Shirin Yim Bridges, *Ruby's Wish*
Da Chen, *Wandering Warrior*
Sook Nyul Choi, *The Year of Impossible Goodbyes*
Erik Christian Haugaard, *The Samurai's Tale*
Jeanne Lee, *I Once Was a Monkey: Stories Buddha Told*
Gloria Whelan, *Homeless Bird*
Lawrence Yep, *Spring Pearl: The Last Flower*

NONFICTION

Tamara L. Britton, *North Korea*
Elaine Landau, *Korea*
Johanna Masse, *South Korea*
James Irving Matray, *Korea Divided: Thirty-eighth Parallel and the Demilitarized Zone*
Karen Kwek, *Welcome to South Korea*
Debra Miller, *North Korea*
Christopher Salter, *South Korea*

AUDIOCASSETTES

A Single Shard (Audiofile)

INTERNET

Linda Sue Park Web site <<http://www.lindasuepark.com/>>
Linda Sue Park: <eduscapes.com/newbery/02a.htm>
Linda Sue Park: <www.carolhurst.com/titles/singleshard.html>

VIDEOS/FILMS

Families of Korea (2001)
Hidden Korea (2001)
People's Century: Asia Rising—Japan and Korea Rebuild (1999)
South Korea (1996)
Living in the Past: Life in Medieval Times (2000)
Secrets of the Lost Empires II: Medieval Siege (2000)

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Linda Sue Park's *A Single Shard* should include these aspects:

THEMES

acceptance
determination
bravery
poverty
parenthood
fear
love
friendship
loyalty
pottery
suspense

MOTIFS

being determined to learn an art you love
appreciating the kindness of others
being orphaned
traveling and widening your experiences
having a father figure
dealing with being different
experiencing growth and change
having self-awareness and maturity
helping others get ahead
understanding the importance of hard work to success

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. Tree-ear was so called after the mushroom that grew in wrinkled half-circles on dead or fallen tree trunks. (Chap. 1, p. 7) (*Orphaned when his parents died of fever, Tree-ear was supposed to be sheltered by monks, but they were unable to take him in because the fever raged there as well. The crippled Crane-man took him in and named him after the mushroom that grows without benefit of parent seed. The name suggests his survival instincts.*)
2. Tree-ear's mind raced to think of a polite refusal. (Chap. 3, p. 27) (*Seeing how badly injured Tree-ear is by the brutally hard work of chopping wood, Crane-man offers to work with him. Knowing that Crane-man could never chop wood, Tree-ear thinks of a polite way to refuse and spare his feelings. This shows the love and mutual respect they have for each other.*)
3. Several days after he had begun using the new hiding place Tree-ear made an odd discovery. (Chap. 4, p. 41) (*Knowing that Crane-man and Tree-ear do not get enough to eat, Min's wife kindly refills the bowl for their supper.*)
4. Two bowls, two different colors of slip. (Chap. 5, p. 50) (*Kang's new technique sets the major plot complication into motion: How can Potter Min compete?*)
5. "Our son, Hyung-gu, died of fever when he was about your age. (Chap. 5, p. 56) (*Min's wife gives Tree-ear her deceased son's clothing, showing her great kindness and generosity of spirit.*)
6. Suddenly, his fingertips tingled with a strange feeling. (Chap. 7, p. 75) (*Tree-ear suddenly feels the clay's correct texture, marking a key stage in his development as a master potter.*)

7. Tree-ear's eyes filled with tears. (Chap. 9, p. 91)
(Min's wife asks Tree-ear to call her "Ajima," a term of affection similar to "Auntie." Tree-ear is very touched that she treats him like a member of the family.)
8. "You are not my son." (Chap. 9, p. 95)
(Because Tree-ear is not his son, Min refuses to accept him as an apprentice. Min's cruelty is a sharp contrast to his wife's great kindness.)
9. The robber picked up one of the vases. (Chap. 11, p. 125)
(The robber flings the vases over the cliff, shattering them. Tree-ear is suicidal at the loss.)
10. "I am sorry, Tree-ear." (Chap. 13, p. 142)
(Min tells Tree-ear that in his absence, Crane-man has died. This sad event paves the way for Tree-ear to be adopted by Min and his wife and taught the potter's trade.)

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 book.

QUESTIONS 1-5 (LITERAL LEVEL)

1. When and where does the story take place?
(The story is set in a small village on the west coast of Korea, in the mid-to-late 12th century.)
2. Why does Tree-ear work for free for Min?
(He is paying off a debt—he accidentally destroyed one of Min's pots—but more, he wants to learn the potter's trade.)
3. Where do Tree-ear and Crane-man live?
(In the summer, they live under a bridge; in the winter, they live in a dugout in the ground.)
4. How are the vases destroyed?
(Robbers throw them off a cliff.)
5. How does Crane-man die?
(He falls from the bridge after it collapses and drowns in the cold water while holding the ceramic monkey Tree-ear has made.)

QUESTIONS 6-8 (INTERPRETATIVE LEVEL)

6. In what ways is Ajima a surrogate mother to Tree-ear?
(She feeds and clothes him; she shows him kindness.)
7. In what ways is Crane-man like a father to Tree-ear?
(Crane-man loves, protects, and teaches Tree-ear.)
8. Why is Tree-ear so determined to take the vases to the court?
(Tree-ear wants to prove to Min that he is worthy of being taken on as an apprentice; he wants to thank Ajima for her kindness.)

QUESTIONS 9 AND 10 (CRITICAL LEVEL)

9. What might the single shard symbolize?
(It can stand for the way the part represents the whole or the difference that one person can make in another person's life.)
10. What does Tree-ear's new name, Hyung-pil, represent?
(It shows that Tree-ear has become part of Min's family by being given a name so close to Min and Ajima's son's name, Hyung-gu.)

QUESTIONS 11-13 (CREATIVE LEVEL)

11. List examples of hardships that Tree-ear faced. Then rank these hardships from most to least difficult.
12. Analyze whether the novel would have been different if the two vases for the emissary had not been broken.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Explain how the concept of family is central in the novel.
2. *A Single Shard* received the Newbery award. In a book review, argue that the novel did or did not deserve this honor.
3. Explain Tree-ear's fear of foxes by drawing comparisons to relatively harmless animals that inspire similar fears today.
4. Analyze the style that Park uses to tell the story, paying especially close attention to the dialogue.
5. Evaluate Park's choice to tell the story from the third-person point of view. In a brief essay, explain how the novel would change if told from a different point of view.

SPEECH AND MUSIC

1. Overcome with emotion, Tree-ear is unable to thank the emissary for his kindness. Write the speech that he might have delivered.
2. Debate one of the central issues in the novel: What is home?
3. Argue that someone can or can not own a creative idea.
4. Organize a round-robin to decide how much of an art object must be seen in order to judge its quality.

ART

1. Design a poster for a movie version of *A Single Shard*.
2. Make a clay pot. Compare it to the ones in the novel.
3. Make a model of a traditional Korean house.
4. Draw the clothing that Ajima gives to Tree-ear.
5. Make the monkey that Tree-ear gives to Crane-man.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

1. Write a report about life in medieval Korea.
2. Explain how Korea's topography determines in part how people live.
3. Explain the apprentice system.
4. Describe life in Korea today. How is it the same and different from the society described in the novel?
5. Make a map showing contemporary Korea. Locate Songdo.

SCIENCE AND MATH

1. Explain the "fever" that killed Tree-ear's parents and Min's son. What diseases are the most likely culprits?
2. Describe the scientific process by which clay pots are fired.
3. Learn more about herbal cures, such as the ones described in the novel. Which ones would you recommend? Why?
4. Report on the modern Korean diet. Compare and contrast it to the modern American diet.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Make a character list and briefly describe each character.
2. Retell the events in this novel from Tree-ear's point of view.
3. Choose a key scene from the novel and perform it for the class.
4. Write a critical review of the novel for publication in the school newspaper.

VOCABULARY TEST

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| _____ | 1. shard | a. dull-colored, homely |
| _____ | 2. gruel | b. related to cooking |
| _____ | 3. arid | c. oven used to bake pottery |
| _____ | 4. oafish | d. representative |
| _____ | 5. kiln | e. boring |
| _____ | 6. frenzy | f. small piece |
| _____ | 7. diligent | g. inconspicuous |
| _____ | 8. culinary | h. great fury |
| _____ | 9. mire | i. watery soup |
| _____ | 10. unobtrusive | j. clumsy |
| _____ | 11. tedious | k. carefully |
| _____ | 12. ponder | l. think |
| _____ | 13. mousy | m. dry |
| _____ | 14. warily | n. swamp |
| _____ | 15. emissary | o. hard working, paying close attention to detail |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blanks provided.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| A. Tree-ear | F. Min |
| B. Crane-man | G. Ajima |
| C. Kang | H. Songdo |
| D. Hyung-pil | I. Rock of the Falling Flowers |
| E. the emissary | J. Ch'ulp'o |

- _____ 1. the man who comes to buy pots for the Emperor
- _____ 2. the town where the Emperor lives
- _____ 3. the cranky, perfectionist potter for whom Tree-ear works
- _____ 4. the young orphan who wants to be a potter
- _____ 5. the name Ajima gives to Tree-ear
- _____ 6. the crippled man who takes care of Tree-ear
- _____ 7. Min's wife
- _____ 8. the place where the robbers accost Tree-ear and smash the vases
- _____ 9. the potter who creates the new technique that earns him a limited commission
- _____ 10. the town where the main characters live

Part II: True/False (20 points)

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

- _____ 1. When the novel opens, Tree-ear is delighted when he helps a passing farmer plug a hole in his rice basket and is rewarded with the rice that had fallen the ground.
- _____ 2. Min is the best potter in the entire village.
- _____ 3. Tree-ear works hard for Min because Min pays him very well and promises that in six months he will teach Tree-ear to make a vase.
- _____ 4. To Tree-ear's astonishment, Min's wife gives him warm winter clothing.
- _____ 5. Every day, Tree-ear eats all the food that Min's wife gives him because he is very hungry after working so hard all day.
- _____ 6. The emissary is not impressed with any of the pots that he sees and so does not give out any commissions. The village is very disappointed.
- _____ 7. As a parting gift, Tree-ear gives Crane-man a small monkey he had made from clay, which touches Crane-man deeply.
- _____ 8. After the vases are smashed, Tree-ear considers suicide, but Crane-man's words echo in his ears and he doesn't leap over the cliff.
- _____ 9. Tree-ear notices that the emissary has the same fierce look in his eyes as Min. This makes Tree-ear very afraid of the emissary.
- _____ 10. Crane-man falls into the river and dies.

COMPREHENSION TEST A (PAGE 2)

Part III: Motivation (30 points)

Complete each line below with a reason or explanation.

1. Tree-ear works very hard for Min because

2. Crane-man destroys his crutch because

3. Tree-ear performs small chores for Min's wife to

4. Tree-ear spies on Kang to

5. Min often smashed his vases because

6. After the emissary leaves, Min says that he will not teach Tree-ear to make vases because

7. The bandits throw the two vases over the cliff because

8. Min is award the commission because

9. Ajima gives Tree-ear a new name to

10. Min finally teaches Tree-ear to become a potter because

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences on the following page.

1. Is Crane-man a good person? Explain your answer.
2. Provide three details from the novel that make *A Single Shard* seem to be nonfiction, even though it is really fiction.
3. Compare and contrast Kang and Min. How are they the same and different?
4. What function does Ajima serve in the novel? Explain.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each of the following statements.

1. When the novel opens, twelve-year-old Tree-ear is delighted when he helps a passing farmer plug a hole in his basket and is rewarded with the **(rice, berries)** that had fallen the ground.
2. More than anything else, Tree-ear wants to learn to become a **(farmer, potter)**.
3. Back home, Crane-man had destroyed his **(boat, crutch)** in a fit of temper at being unable to catch any fish.
4. As winter comes, Crane-man weaves some new **(blankets, sandals)** for Tree-ear.
5. In the winter, Tree-ear and Crane-man live in a **(dugout, house)** to be protected from the cold.
6. Tree-ear brings Min **(some lunch to eat while he is waiting, some flowers to display in his vases)** as the art work is being judged.
7. Ajima asks Crane-man to help at the house in Tree-ear's absence, offering to pay in **(food, coins)**.
8. As a parting gift, Tree-ear gives Crane-man a small **(vase, monkey)** he had made, which touches Crane-man deeply.
9. Two bandits attack Tree-ear, stealing his **(food, money)** and flinging the vases over the cliff.
10. Tree-ear brings a single **(piece of a pot, vase)** to show the emissary.

Part II: Matching (30 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blanks provided.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Min's wife | A. Emissary Kim |
| _____ 2. the city that Tree-ear travels to | B. Min |
| _____ 3. the name that Ajima gives Tree-ear | C. Songdo |
| _____ 4. The man who buys pottery for the Emperor | D. Rock of the Falling Flowers |
| _____ 5. Place where Tree-ear is robbed | E. Tree-ear |
| _____ 6. The best potter in the village | F. Hyung-pil |
| _____ 7. The name of Min's son | G. Hyung-gu |
| _____ 8. The crippled man with whom Tree-ear lives | H. Ch'ulp'o |
| _____ 9. The town where Tree-ear lives | I. Crane-man |
| _____ 10. The novel's main character, an orphan | J. Ajima |

COMPREHENSION TEST B (PAGE 2)

Part III: Quote Identification (20 points)

Tell who said each quote and explain why each quote is important in the story.

1. "I would not steal. Stealing and begging make a man no better than a dog."
2. "These clothes I made for him, but they were never worn."
3. "Kang has been given what I will call a limited commission. He will produce work for the court for a year, to see if it pleases his Majesty."
4. "I have no gift for you beyond words. I would tell you this. Of all the problems you may meet on your journey, it will be people who are the greatest danger. But it will also be people to whom you must turn if you are ever in need of aid."
5. "A name that shared a syllable! It was a great honor bestowed on siblings"

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences on the following page.

1. Who is the novel's hero? Why?
2. Trace the novel's plot. Include the rising action, climax, and denouement
3. Analyze why Min and Ajima decide to raise Tree-ear as their son.
4. What role does the novel's setting play in the story? Why is the setting so important in this novel?

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. f | 6. h | 11. e |
| 2. i | 7. o | 12. l |
| 3. m | 8. b | 13. a |
| 4. j | 9. n | 14. k |
| 5. c | 10. g | 15. d |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

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

Part II: True/False (20 points)

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

Part III: Motivation (30 points)

1. he wants Min to teach him how to be a potter
2. he is angry that he could not catch any fish
3. thank for her feeding him and her kindness to him
4. learn what he was doing with two colors of slip
5. they did not meet his standards
6. the trade of potter goes from father to son and Tree-ear is not his son
7. they are angry that Tree-ear does not have any food or more money with him
8. the single shard shows his fine work; the emissary had been impressed with his work when he visited the village
9. show that he is part of the family
10. he is impressed by his skill and determination

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. rice | 6. some flowers to display in his vases |
| 2. potter | 7. food |
| 3. crutch | 8. monkey |
| 4. sandals | 9. money |
| 5. dugout | 10. piece of a pot |

Part II: Matching (30 points)

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

Part III: Quote Identification (20 points)

1. Tree-ear says this to Min when Min discovers him examining his pottery early in the novel. It shows that Tree-ear is both honest and proud.
2. Ajima says this to Tree-ear as she gives him the clothing that she had made for her son before he died. This gift shows her sorrow but also her generosity and good heart.
3. The emissary says this. It shows that the emissary wants Min's work but in the meantime, he must come back with something.
4. Crane-man says this to Tree-ear. It shows his deep wisdom and concern for Tree-ear.
5. Tree-ear thinks this when Ajima tells him the new name that they have chosen for him. The name shows that Min and Ajima have accepted Tree-ear as their son and that he will learn the potter's trade and someday inherit his business.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

TEACHER'S NOTES

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