



Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society

by Adeline Yen Mah

Teacher's Guide

Written By Mary Ellen Snodgrass

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Synopsis

Chapter 1: The Boy Acrobats

In the French Concession (section) of the Chinese port city of Shanghai on Thursday in February 1942, 12-year-old Ye Xian takes the streetcar from school to Big Aunt's apartment near the Du Mei Gardens. At the park, she halts to observe three boys perform gymnastic stunts and magic tricks to flute music. David "Da-wei" Black offers his business card, which names the Dragon Society of Wandering Knights, a martial arts academy. At the flat, Master C.Y. Wu, a *kung fu* expert from Los Angeles, California, visits Big Aunt to inform her that her godmother, Grandma Liu of Nan Tian Island, needs care for a broken leg. Wu names Xian CC for "Chinese Cinderella." She clings to her aunt to avoid Niang, the girlfriend of her father, Ye Jia-lin, Big Aunt's younger brother.

Chapter 2: Chinese Zodiac

During lessons in English, Big Aunt uses a brush and charcoal ink to teach CC the twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac. Wu describes how he saved the infant Mei Mei, his giant panda, from abandonment after hunters killed the mother bear. CC begs to spend the night at the flat with her aunt, who is leaving Shanghai the next day. CC's father okays the telephoned request.

Chapter 3: Abandoned and Homeless

On arrival from school on Friday afternoon, CC suffers Niang's wrath and a slap for failing to get her permission for the sleepover. CC calls Niang a slut. When Niang tries to strangle CC, the child bites her arm. To CC's claim that Niang is the father's "New Woman," the father throws his daughter out into the street without a coat or sweater. A gardener directs her to the acrobats, who work at a lending bookstall in the bazaar. Wu Nai Nai or

Grandma Wu, an elderly bookseller, allows CC to read a popular martial arts novel. David arrives and greets CC.

Chapter 4: New Friends

David introduces CC to Grandma Wu, who knows Big Aunt (Ye Jia-ming) and Grandma Liu from years past on Nan Tian Island. Grandma Wu takes CC into the academy for the night to rescue her from Niang's anger.

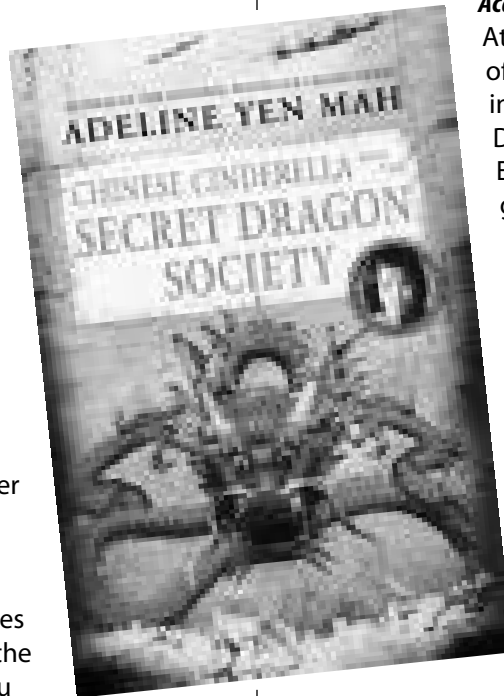
Chapter 5: Wu Shu Xue Shiao—Martial Arts Academy

At a converted warehouse, the academy offers large spaces for sleeping, cooking, gardening, and exercise. CC meets David's friends, Marat Yoshida and Sam Eisner. Grandma Wu explains how her godmother, Grandma Liu (Grandma Fish), fell from a boat and broke her leg while playing with dolphins. A dolphin saved her from drowning by ferrying her to shore. David explains that the Japanese secret police murdered his father and arrested his mother, who died in jail within days. After dinner, CC joins the evening candlelight ritual by vowing to join the Dragon Society. While gazing into the vision box, CC views her parents teaching her the character for horse, her birth sign. The boys commiserate with her loss of a

mother and with her father's criticism. When CC is ready, she will read her future in the Yi Jing (I Ching), an ancient book of wisdom and divination.

Chapter 6: Kung Fu

On Saturday morning, the four students begin house-keeping chores. The boys practice tumbling, bamboo pole climbing, balancing and running on the rim of a barrel, and making sidetracks in sand. Sam tells how the students rescued Ivanov Yoshida, Marat's older brother, from the secret police by squirting them with a water hose. Ivanov was arrested late on December 7, 1941, the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. David tells how he removed a fishhook from the dorsal fin of a dolphin named Ling Ling. Grandma Wu teaches the



foursome to sew a black jacket for concealing necessities. On Sunday morning, before an audience of students, David bests Johnny Fang in four falls of a boxing match. Grandma Wu demonstrates calisthenics.

Chapter 7: Poster from Marat's Big Brother

On Monday morning, CC goes to school and returns to the academy to find the students studying a government poster mailed by Ivanov in a tube. With a heated iron, Grandma Wu discloses a secret message explaining that Ivanov works 84 hours a week in a prison at Bridge House as a translator. She suggests that the foursome plot to break the *qi* (power) of the Japanese secret police.

Chapter 8: Letter from Big Aunt

On Tuesday, a carrier pigeon named Da Ma delivers a message at 5:15 A. M. to CC's room. A letter from Big Aunt contains a check and instructions for CC to apologize to Niang and Father. Grandma Wu sends CC to Big Aunt's apartment to retrieve an envelope of codes from the closet safe. On the way, CC reunites with her wet nurse, Ah Yee, who predicts that Father will sue Big Aunt for kidnap. CC retrieves the envelope and writes an apology note to Father and Niang.

Chapter 9: Life at the Martial Arts Academy

Grandma Wu dispatches David with the codes, which he delivers to the noodle vendor, a secret agent. During six weeks of training, CC has built strength and muscle. On April 9, 1942, Master Wu delivers more homing pigeons and knitted sweaters from Big Aunt. Master Wu and Grandma Wu are alarmed at seeing the students wearing armbands indicating foreign parentage. David tells CC how his American father died for saving a British sailor. Sam tells about the seizure of his German-Jewish father in Berlin on *Krystallnacht*, November 8, 1938, and his Chinese mother's flight to Shanghai, an open city. After his mother's death in a hospital from respiratory disease, Sam came to live at the academy as a ward of Grandma Wu.

Chapter 10: Yi Jing: The Book of Magic

At the evening ritual on April 10, 1942, Grandma Wu must hurry CC's initiation. Grandma tests CC with a cup of tea painted at the bottom with the picture of a roach. She lets CC study divination by dressing in robe, hat, and sandals and looking up her future in the I Ching manual. By manipulating fifty yarrow stalks into separate piles, CC arrives at a suggestion that she ally with like-minded people. Grandma Wu welcomes CC to the society.

Chapter 11: The Password

The next morning, the three boys embrace CC as a fellow member. Grandma Wu describes how the USS *Hornet* will depart Hawaii on April 12, launch planes on April 18 to raid Japan, and land in Chuchow the next day under the leadership of Colonel Jimmy Doolittle. She dresses the four agents in peasant clothes and sends them in disguise to translate for the American pilots.

Chapter 12: The Mission

On April 17, the four and Grandma Wu depart by train for Chuchow and arrive in the afternoon. At an American missionary's house, they sleep until 5:02 a.m., when they intercept a Japanese radio message from the *Nitto Maru* that the raid has started. The signalman on the *Hornet* orders the bombing of the *Nitto Maru*. The agents fear that Doolittle's raid on Tokyo is a suicide mission.

Chapter 13: Chuchow Airfields

Dr. Chen, a physician who heads the Chinese resistance, reports that there are no signals or flares to mark the runways and guide the American planes to a safe landing. Grandma Wu proposes a landing on the Nan Tian beach. A radio message applauds Doolittle's raid for its successful bombing of Tokyo.

Chapter 14: Nan Tian Island

That night, the agents huddle on Nan Tian island and await news. Agent Li Cha leads them to a downed American plane, where four airmen lie injured. David Thatcher, the leader, reveals the critical wounds of pilot Ted Lawson, navigator Charles McClure, bombardier Robert Clever, and copilot Dean Davenport. At a hut, Grandma Wu serves herb soup while Li Cha, Marat, and Sam try to retrieve first aid supplies. Meanwhile, the plane burns, leaving only the tail section. The airmen welcome ethnic diversity in the spunky agents. Sam reports on the Nazi murders of Jews, adults, and children. The agents express their willingness to risk capture and death to free China of the invaders.

Chapter 15: The Japanese Paratrooper

At morning, Li Cha returns with litter-bearers to carry the disabled airmen to a boat for evacuation. During the march, a Japanese patrol plane drops a parachutist. The four agents lead a diversion into the woods and encounter the armed Japanese parachutist, Kenshio Yamada. To make him holster his pistol and to create an aura of friendship, Marat breaks wind and makes the group laugh. A noise in the brush causes Sam to fear a

monster.

Chapter 16: The Monster

David spies a footprint with six toes and tells about Samnaja, the Abominable Monster of Tibet. Deep in the forest, Kenshio, a zoologist, identifies the six-toed beast as a giant panda.

Chapter 17: Master Wu's Pet

Kenshio tries to feed the panda a sweet potato. While she eats, a Japanese plane flies over. Two hours after parachuting inland, Kenshio hurries to reconnoiter with the gunboat *Isamuru*. CC reunites with Master Wu and Big Aunt, who helps the island's resistance. By a secret underground passage to a Buddhist temple, the agents reunite with Li Cha and the airmen and escort them south to a junk. All hide in a ditch from a Japanese patrol before setting sail for the mainland.

Chapter 18: Escape to the Mainland

When the junk is becalmed, David summons Ling Ling with a flute melody and harnesses her to the front with a rope and neck ring. The dolphin summons her cousin Bumby, who rocks a Japanese gunboat from below and directs the junk to port. Dr. Chen needs to get Lawson to a hospital at Linhai to treat gangrene. On the journey by sedan chairs, the group learns that three airmen died after two of Doolittle's American planes crashed into the sea. Japanese soldiers seized the five survivors. Grandma Wu sends her agents home by train.

Chapter 19: A Visitor from Home

Ah Yee arrives at the academy to ask CC to come home to save Big Aunt from unjust accusations. CC's father is relieved to see her. That afternoon at the bookstall, she learns that Lawson lost his leg to amputation and that Grandma Liu's broken leg is worse. Ivanov sent Grandma Wu a secret message that the surviving airmen are lodged at Bridge House under severe torture, filth, and malnutrition. Niang accuses CC of lying about staying at Big Aunt's apartment.

Chapter 20: Running Away

CC visits the bookstall in the afternoons and meets Grandma Wu infrequently. Marat delivers vegetables and fruit to his brother each week. David encourages the planting of a prison garden with vining plants requiring lattices and ropes. Niang confiscates a package from Big Aunt containing a silver wings badge. Father assumes that his sister helped the Americans escape. Niang reads Big Aunt's letter and threatens to send CC to an orphanage for aiding a wicked old

woman. With over 48 yuan (Chinese currency) from her piggy bank, the next morning, CC leaves home. She visits Grandma Wu to warn that Niang may betray Big Aunt. Grandma Wu sends CC into hiding at the Academy to formulate a plan to rescue the airmen from Bridge House. They both worry about Big Aunt's safety.

Chapter 21: Rescue Plans

David learns from Ah Yee that Father asked police for help in locating CC as a runaway. Meanwhile, Ivanov plants a vegetable garden for Major General Yonoshita at the prison. CC plans to drop over the garden wall enough hacksaw blades in hollow bamboo tubes for a prison breakout. Master Wu reports the death of Big Aunt and the searing of Mei Mei's legs when the Japanese set fire to the forest to smoke out American airmen. Wu returned the panda to the forest. In retaliation for helping American soldiers, the Japanese overran Nan Tian Island. They murdered Li Cha's parents by burning his father alive and drowning his mother in a well. They apparently murdered Big Aunt and Grandma Liu and torched the island. Sam recites a consoling prayer from Ecclesiasticus.

Chapter 22: Last Letters

Grandma Wu warns of reward posters picturing CC and alerts her to the danger of obsessing about vengeance. CC proposes to convince her family that she died on Nan Tian Island with Big Aunt. Ivanov reports that prison officials executed three airmen, whose final letters he translated. CC completes her plan to rescue Ivanov and the remaining airmen during the Dragon Boat Festival at 10:15 p.m.

Chapter 23: The Future Belongs to Us

While the boys dress in costumes for the parade, CC and Grandma Wu burn documents and hide the radio under a wall. They cook buns and sew Germany officers' uniforms for the airmen. A moving van carries CC, Grandma Wu, and the former prisoners to a safe house on North Szechuan Road, where the Americans burn their prison clothes. An escapee named Jake urges CC not to hate her enemies and proposes to return to Japan as a missionary. CC decides to write a letter to her father about Big Aunt's murder.

Timeline of Chinese History, 1912-1949

1912 Collapse of China's last royal dynasty, the Qing dynasty. Sun Yatsen, who has spent decades travelling the world to raise funds and

<p>campaign against the Qing, founds the Kuomintang, or KMT (Nationalist Party) and takes control of the new Republican government. In an effort to avert civil war he offers the presidency to Yuan Shikai, former head of the Qing armies and warlord in control of Northern China.</p> <p>1913 Yuan Shikai dissolves the new Republican government and sends Sun Yatsen into exile once again.</p> <p>1916 Yuan Shikai's sudden death sends Northern China into civil war; Sun Yatsen returns to take control of a Kuomintang government in South China.</p> <p>1921 The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is formed. Early members include Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Li Dazhao, a Beijing University librarian. At the behest of the Soviet Union, they join the KMT and fight the Northern warlords.</p> <p>1925 Sun Yatsen dies; Chiang Kai-Shek takes control of the KMT.</p> <p>1927 Chinese Civil War begins in April. After jointly defeating the Northern warlords, the CCP conduct a strike against Chiang and the KMT. The CCP are brutally suppressed; around 5,000 people are killed, including Yang Kaihui, Mao's second wife, and Li Dazhao, who is executed by slow strangulation.</p> <p>1932 Japan invades Manchuria (Northern China).</p> <p>1934 The Long March: encircled and outnumbered, the Communists flee over than 10,000 km (more than 6,200 miles), across more than a dozen mountain ranges, into exile. Many die, but they succeed in regrouping and establishing a base in Yan'an, Sha'anxi.</p> <p>1936 Chiang says that "The Japanese are a disease of the skin, the Communists are a disease of the heart," and wants to focus on defeating the Communists first. However, his General Zhang Xueliang disagrees, kidnapping him and forcing him to agree to a</p>	<p>United Front with the Communists against the Japanese.</p> <p>1937 The Sino-Japanese War (the largest Asian war during the Twentieth Century) starts following the Marco Polo Bridge Incident of July 7, in which Japan attacked a major entry point into Beijing. Chiang organizes Chinese troops, and the Battle of Shanghai commences. In an event known as the Rape of Nanking or the Nanking Massacre, Japanese troops rape, mutilate, torture, and kill as many as 300,000 civilians in Nanking alone, and hundreds of thousands more in the surrounding countryside.</p> <p>1937-1941 China fights Japan alone. Despite Japan's vastly superior military strength, Chinese resistance is fierce, and by 1940, China and Japan have fought to a stalemate. Also during 1940, the shaky United Front breaks down completely. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and the United States' entry into World War II, the Sino-Japanese War is incorporated into the greater war. The tide begins to turn in favor of the Chinese in 1941, when the United States begins providing aid. Chiang is named Allied Commander for China.</p> <p>1945 The Japanese surrender. At least 20 million Chinese have been killed during the more than eight years of war. The KMT has played a critical role in the defeat, but has bankrupted China in the process; the CCP, in contrast, has fought little, instead building a war chest through the opium trade and amassing a strong following in the Chinese countryside. The Chinese Civil War resumes. Mao takes Beijing and declared the foundation of the People's Republic of China. Chiang flees to Taiwan.</p> <p>1949</p> <p>1949-1956 Generally seen as the "good years" of Chinese socialism. Land is redistributed to peasants and the economy grows.</p>
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Author Sketch

A survivor of child abuse and war, Dr. Junling “Adeline” Yen Mah turned her experiences into a bestselling memoir. Born on November 30, 1937, in Tianjin, China, she is the daughter of Joseph Tsi-rung Yen, a wealthy importer/exporter and realtor, and Miss Ren Yong-ping, an accountant at the Shanghai Women’s Bank. When her mother died of puerperal fever two weeks after her birth, Mah was considered unlucky by the family. After her father’s marriage to seventeen-year-old Jeanne Virginie Prosperi, a French-Chinese trophy bride, Mah grew up under duress with older siblings Lydia, Gregory, Edgar, and James on Avenue Joffree in the French section of Shanghai. Jeanne, whom the children called “Niang” (Mother), fed the first family rice gruel and pickled vegetables while her own children, Susan and Franklin, feasted and mocked the others as ugly and unloved. Her father allowed his German shepherd Jackie to devour his daughter’s duckling, Precious Little Treasure.

For consolation, Mah retreated to *kung fu* novels and her favorite book, Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess*. She relished the care of her paternal Grandfather Ye Ye, a devout Buddhist who let her play in peace on the balcony. He taught her Chinese characters and ancient wise sayings through lessons in calligraphy. In kindergarten, she began showing evidence of scholarship that defined her life. Her father’s spinster sister, Aunt Baba, shared a room with her niece, read her short stories, and provided a small allowance to pay Mah’s way to the movies. Mah’s family sent her to the St. Joseph’s Convent academy in Hong Kong, where she received no family visits or parcels of food. Fearing abandonment, she awaited rescue when the Japanese invaded Shanghai on December 8, 1941. Before the fall of China’s empire to Communist insurgents, in 1948, the Yen family settled in Hong Kong.

Shortly after Ye Ye’s death, at age 15, Mah gained respect for her talents after winning an international playwriting contest. In 1952, she entreated her father to send her to England to study rather than force her to take a job or enter an arranged marriage like Lydia’s. With a degree from London Hospital Medical School, Mah opened an office in Hong Kong, where local people considered her a foreigner. She immigrated to the United States and settled in Huntington, California, to practice at the West Anaheim Community Hospital. In 1985, she won recognition as chief of anesthesiology.

After the failure of a first marriage, the physician wed Dr. Robert “Bob” Mah, professor emeritus of environmental microbiology at UCLA. Their children entered the professions—Ann in journalism and publishing in New York City and Roger in anesthesiology in Los Angeles. When Joseph Yen was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, Mah brought him to California for treatment. At his death in 1988, her stepmother concealed the distribution of his \$30 million estate by claiming that he died penniless. At Jeanne’s death in 1990, Mah returned to her stepmother’s apartment and located proof that her father loved her—a copy of the will allotting her one-seventh or \$4.3 million of his estate. Because Niang had stolen the money, Mah returned home with another treasure, a photo of Grandfather Ye Ye.

Critic’s Corner

Adeline Yen Mah first gained international attention at the age of 56, in 1999, with the publication of *Falling Leaves: the Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*, a tale of triumph over a miserable childhood at the hands of her abusive father and stepfather; the book prompted lawsuit threats from her angry siblings but was a New York Times bestseller for Mah and was translated into eighteen languages. *Falling Leaves* was followed in 2001 by *Chinese Cinderella: the True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*, a young-adult version of the earlier autobiography. *Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society* (2004) incorporates many autobiographical elements from the previous books into a novel about a young girl working in the resistance during the World War II Japanese occupation of Shanghai. Like the first two books, *Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society* has made an impact on readers, particularly in its depictions of child abuse.

Chinese Cinderella earned two the Children’s Literature Council of Southern California Award for Compelling Autobiography and Lamplighter’s Award from the National Christian School Association for contribution to Exceptional Children’s Literature. She founded a charity, the Falling Leaves Foundation, and funded the Falling Leaves prize for poetry at the UCLA.

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- Official Website, <http://www.adelineyenmah.com/>
Chinese History Timeline, <http://www.beijing-madeeasy.com/beijing-history/20th-century-chinese-history-timeline>
"Second Sino-Japanese War," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Sino-Japanese_War
"Chiang Kai-Shek," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiang_Kai-shek

Other Works by Adeline Yen Mah

- Falling Leaves* (1997)
Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter (1999)
Watching the Tree: A Chinese Daughter Reflects on Happiness, Traditions, and Spiritual Wisdom (2000)
A Thousand Pieces of Gold: A Memoir of China's Past through its Proverbs (2002)
Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society (2005)
China: Land of Dragons and Emperors (2008)

The Importance of Setting

The setting of *Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon*

Society in a war zone in early 1942 heightens the realism of CC's involvement in spying, rescue of enemy airmen from Colonel Jimmy Doolittle's raiders, and jail breaking from Bridge House, a Japanese interrogation center. By depriving CC of family and residence, the author reduces her to a homeless street person desperate for shelter and protection in February. The impersonal warehouse offers warmth, food, privacy, and limited comforts while introducing CC to three orphans in similar parentless circumstances. By uniting with the Secret Dragon Society and developing her strength, mind, and agility, she prepares to serve China during the occupation of Shanghai by Japanese invasion troops. The mixing of vendors and stall keepers in the bazaar with Kempeitei officers introduces CC to the dangers of early World War II, when even children remained on high alert on the way to and from school, the park, and the market.

Adeline Yen Mah increases intimacy among Grandma Wu's agents by enclosing them in train compartments, in a ditch and a Buddhist temple, and in the hut on Nan Tian beach. In close quarters, the children gain first-hand knowledge of American airmen and of the crash that caused serious wounds within sight of Japanese gunboats, planes, and shore patrols. In the forest, the text stresses openness and camaraderie with Kenshio Yamada, a Japanese parachutist who holsters his pistol to help the children locate the six-toed monster. In the conclusion, CC chooses to live with the secret society rather than return to Big Aunt's apartment or to her home with Father and Niang. The choice indicates that luxury and comfort mean less to CC than a true sense of community.

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Adeline Yen Mah's style, present the following terms and applications to his graphic novel:

Historical or chronicle novel: a fictional work that immerses the reader in historical events. Through newspaper headlines, radio transmissions, and eyewitness reports, CC learns about Colonel Jimmy Doolittle, Admiral Halsey, and the American air strike on Tokyo from the U. S. S. *Hornet*. Although the characters never view major clashes, particularly the crash of two American planes and the Japanese retaliation against Nan Tian Island citizens by burning their homes and bodies and by dropping anthrax and bubonic plague pathogens from the air, CC is well aware of the terrors of war and the price extracted from people like Grandma

Liu, Ted Lawson, the three American airmen executed at Bridge House, David Black's parents, Big Aunt, and Grandma Wu.

Suspense: anticipation of the outcome of an action or the solution to a mystery, puzzle, or uncertainty. The narrative builds reader curiosity about the division of the 50 yarrow stalks and the location of a prophecy from the *Yi Jing*. The results produce such certainty in CC that she sheds doubts and immediately accepts the Secret Dragon Society as a new home and a life's purpose.

Universality: a quality or theme that applies to all people at all times. The intertwined motifs of pride, alienation, and loyalty generate admiration for CC and her friends and for the adult agents, Grandma Wu and her son, Master C.Y. Wu, as well as the numbered agents in the field. The predations of Japanese patrols and Kempeitei secret police increase support for the Secret Dragon Society and boost hope that the war will return China and its allies to independence.

Related Reading

William Armstrong, *Souder*
 Joseph Bruchac, *Bowman's Store*
 Pearl Buck, *The Good Earth*
 Forrest Carter, *The Education of Little Tree*
 Chris Crutcher, *Whale Talk*
 Michael Dorris, *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*
 Robin Lee Graham, *Dove*
 Esther Hautzig, *The Endless Steppe*
 Gish Jen, *Who's Irish?* and "Fish Cheeks"
 Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John*
 Joseph Krumgold, *And Now Miguel*
 Gus Lee, *China Boy*
 Adeline Yen Mah, *Chinese Cinderella*
 James Vance Marshall, *Walkabout*
 Ben Mikhaelsen, *Touching Spirit Bear*
 Walter Dean Myers, *The Glory Field*
 Ann Petry, *Tituba of Salem Village*
 Conrad Richter, *The Light in the Forest*
 Art Spiegelman, *Maus*
 Jane Wagner, *J. T.*
 Yoko Kawashima Watkins, *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*
 Lawrence Yep, *Dragon's Gate*
 Jane Yolen, *The Devil's Arithmetic*

Cross-Curricular Sources

For related reading and more information about Adeline Yen Mah, historical novels, World War II, Shanghai, dolphins, carrier pigeons, Japanese invaders, *Yi Jing*, Lao-Tzu, Jimmy Doolittle, espionage, and the *tao*,

consult these sources:

Articles

Blume, Mary. "The Hallowed History of the Carrier Pigeon," *International Herald Tribune* (24 January 2004).
 Leeper, Angela. "I Spy: Books about Espionage," *Book Links* 17, no. 2 (November 2007): 56-60.

Audiocassette

The Light in the Forest, Listening Library

Audio CD

A Yellow Raft in Blue Water, Audio Bookshelf

Autobiography

Annie John
Bowman's Store
China Boy
Chinese Cinderella
Dove
The Endless Steppe
Farewell to Manzanar
So Far from the Bamboo Grove

Biography

Anna and the King of Siam

Fable

"Arion and the Dolphin," Herodotus

Fairy tale

Cinderella Tales from around the World, Ila Lane Gross
 "Ye Xian," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ye_Xian.

Historical novels

The Devil's Arithmetic
The Glory Field
The Light in the Forest
No Promises in the Wind
Tituba of Salem Village

Internet

"The Carrier Pigeon—A World War II Saga," <http://www.indianhill.org/History/Hist022.htm>.
 "Chinese Herbalism in America," <http://www.planetherbs.com/articles/chinese.html>.
 "I Ching," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Ching.

Legends and myths

Animals in the Stars: Chinese Astrology for Children
Legend of Mu Lan

Novels

The Bean Trees
Dragon Gate
The Good Earth
Walkabout
Plays
J.T.
The King and I

Poetry

“The Ballad of East and West,” Rudyard Kipling

Reference works

Asian Americans: An Interpretive History
Encyclopedia of World Scripture
On Lao Tzu

Short story

“Fish Cheeks,” Gish Jen

Videos

Anna and the King
The Good Earth
The Joy Luck Club
Pearl Harbor
South Pacific
Thirty Seconds over Tokyo

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Adeline Yen Mah’s *Chinese Cinderella* and *the Secret Dragon Society* should include these aspects:

Themes

- rejection
- homelessness
- tolerance
- discipline
- danger
- secrecy
- disorder
- racism
- friendship
- rescue
- compassion
- grief
- challenge

Motifs

- making friends with the homeless
- surveying values

- trying to fit in
- bicultural assimilation
- overcoming faults and weaknesses
- recovering from loss and grief

General Objectives

1. To identify standard values and behaviors
2. To characterize the effects of war on civilians
3. To discuss the nature of war story, autobiography, prophecy, and fairy tale
4. To outline the antipathies between residents and invaders
5. To contrast types of logic and planning
6. To note the value of meditation and reflection
7. To read aloud examples of tradition and wisdom
8. To study the conventions of espionage fiction
9. To enumerate incidents of social rejection and humiliation
10. To explain the impact of unforeseen terrorism and death

Specific Objectives

1. To describe the problems of bicultural academy members
2. To recount how and why David Black’s parents die
3. To discuss the different achievements of Grandma Wu, David Black, Ivanov, and Master C.Y. Wu
4. To summarize the rescue of American airmen from Nan Tian Island
5. To account for the success of Jimmy Doolittle’s raid on Tokyo
6. To characterize conditions in the Bridge House interrogation center
7. To list academy events involving student cooperation
8. To evaluate changes in CC
9. To justify CC’s hiding, lying, wearing a disguise, and concealment
10. To describe the effects of divination in the *Yi Jing*

Meaning Study

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the historical novel. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. He and I are taking the train to Nan Tian first thing tomorrow morning. (Chapter 1, p. 5)
(Grandma Wu must hurry to the resort island of Nan Tian east of Shanghai to care for Grandma

Liu's broken leg. The island is popular for its beaches and healing hot springs.)

2. Legend has it that Buddha wanted to start a calendar to keep track of time. (Chapter 2., p. 10) *(The mythic beginnings of the Chinese zodiac present a trusting relationship between the deity and the animal kingdom. The animals control a 12-year cycle that instills in humans one of 12 personality types motivated by an "inner animal.")*

3. Panda skin and meat fetch a high price. The paws especially have medicinal value. (Chapter 2, p. 12) *(Because of the uniqueness of the six-toed paws of the giant panda and their solitude in the wild, they increased in value as curiosities. Royalty sought soft panda skins for their black-and-white fur. Around 1368, people believed that the skins prevented cancer and bubonic plague. Bear urine was an antidote to body pollutants. Another curiosity, panda bile and gall bladder, fetched a high price for use in throat lozenges, wine, and shampoo. During the famines of World War II, hunters killed pandas for meat.)*

4. On the streets of Shanghai, Japanese soldiers were everywhere. (Chapter 3, p. 18) *(After the battle of Shanghai in August 1937, Japan sent troops to occupy the international city and to prevent the return of Chinese republicans led by Chiang Kai-shek. For the next eight years, Japan controlled the city and, under Nazi influence, repressed Jewish refugees into a ghetto. American, British, and Dutch aliens wore armbands marked with their nationalities. Brutal Kempeitei officers rounded up 382 prominent civilians on November 5, 1942, and interrogated them at Bridge House before lodging them in prisoner-of-war camps.)*

5. Milk, orange juice, lemon juice, onion juice or even urine. (Chapter 7, p. 63) *(When Grandma Wu reveals the hidden message from Ivanov by heating the back of the poster with an iron, she explains, "All organic substances contain carbon, and carbon turns brownish black when it is heated." Other such substances include honey, apple juice, soapy water, sugar water, vinegar and wine.)*

6. But how do we take away their Qi? (Chapter 7, p. 65) *(Qi is the Chinese term for the life force, the energy flow that accounts for human action, illness, and death. To increase health and stamina, traditional Chinese doctors adjust Qi imbalance with herbs, diet, exercise, massage, acupuncture, and moxibustion, the burning of herbs directly on the skin. Another positive factor, feng shui, involves the arrangement of colors, shapes, and juxtaposition of furnishings to improve a sense of well being in homes, schools, and offices.)*

7. Chiang Kai-shek escaped to Chungking soon after the Japanese invasion. (Chapter 9, p. 88) *(The general who governed the republic of China, Chiang Kai-shek unified the nation until the Communist takeover. In 1937, he sent forces to defend Shanghai from Japanese invaders, but lost over a third of his 600,000 men. In 1941, he joined the Allies in fighting the Axis powers of Germany and Italy. After World War II, he presided over the island of Taiwan, all that was left of the republic of China.)*

8. Sam looked grim. "Krystallnacht," he said. (Chapter 9, p. 92) *(On November 9, 1938, the Nazis organized their most destructive pogrom against Austrian and German Jews, killing 91 and seizing around 30,000 for incarceration in concentration camps. Hitler's anti-Semites crushed civil rights and vandalized and burned schools and temples.)*

9. The Yi Jing states that yin and yang are the tao. (Chapter 10, p. 100) *(The interplay of opposing forces form God's "way," a religious term describing the function and order of the universe.)*

10. "Doolittle?" David said. "I've heard of him." (Chapter 11, p. 116). *(Air Force Colonel James Harold Doolittle trained pilots and gunners for service and tested new planes. He planned America's first raid on Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. The raid, led by 16 stripped-down B-25's dispatched from the U. S. S. Hornet on April 18, 1942, retaliated against Japan's destruction of Hickam Airfield.)*

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important. Be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the historical novel.

Character Interaction

1. Why does CC feel awkward about making friends with Kenshio Yamada?
(An encounter in the woods with the Japanese parachutist requires deception from the four society members, who pretend to be naive children rather than special agents. He explains that he was drafted into the Japanese army to fight a war he doesn't support. CC realizes that, under other circumstances, Kenshio might be a friend. The group talks and laughs with the soldier and pretends to need his help in identifying a six-toed monster. Because of his interest in zoology, he teaches them about the habits of panda bears. After spending two hours in the woods with the foursome, Kenshio realizes he must reconnoiter with the army. CC is relieved that the encounter produced no violence against a man she was beginning to like.)

Action

2. How does CC get Ivanov out of Bridge House?
(While in hiding at the martial arts academy, CC masterminds the plot to get the translator and some American airmen out of the interrogation and execution center of the Kempeitei, the Japanese secret police. Because Ivanov cooks for General Yonoshita and wins his confidence, the translator is able to plant a garden and receive supplies for trellises. CC proposes sending hacksaw blades into the compound in hollow bamboo. After the airmen saw through bars to free themselves, they and Ivanov arrive at the moving van outside the prison garden at the appointed time during the Dragon Boat Festival. The quick flight from prison guards takes CC, Grandma Wu, and the American airman to a safe house for a reunion with the boy agents. This part of the novel attests to Adeline Yen Mah's skill at plotting mystery and suspense.)

Exposition

3. What does the novel indicate about CC's family situation?
(On arrival at Big Aunt's apartment, CC unloads before a stranger, Master C.Y. Wu, the misery of living at home. For three years, she has been

wretched with Father's "New Woman," whom CC must call Niang (mother). The unhappiness for a 12-year-old arrives as CC is entering womanhood and learning about marriage and family trust. Her only retreats are to the kitchen with Ah Yee, her former wet nurse whom Niang has already intimidated, and with Big Aunt, a spinster and member of the resistance who moves out of the house to live alone in an apartment. Ironically, CC develops happier daily connections with total strangers—Grandma Wu, David Black, Sam Eisner, and Marat Yoshida—than with blood kin. Key to the shift in residence is CC's introduction to meditation, cooking, household chores, exercise, Yi Jing, and the tao, an ancient Chinese philosophy that promotes harmony and contentment.)

History

4. How does the action ally with the history of 1941-1942?
(CC quickly becomes aware of the shift in World War II after the early morning bomb run on December 7, 1941, by Japanese MIGs over Hickam Field in Honolulu, Hawaii. Experiences with arrests later that night by the Japanese Kempeitei indicate how rapidly war situations can worsen. The virulence of Japanese retaliation prepares for the falling action, when agents and guerrillas transport Ted Lawson and his fellow airmen out of reach of shore patrols and gunboats. The Japanese follow their previous pattern of vengeance against collaborators by shooting residents at Nan Tian Island and burning the bodies and buildings. CC learns that, in espionage, actions have consequences. The all-or-nothing approach readies her for more work for the Secret Dragon Society and steadies her for additional losses and deaths, including the three American airmen executed at the Bridge House interrogation center in Shanghai.)

Setting

5. How does the island enhance the novel's appeal?
(By removing CC and her fellow agents from urban Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah explores some of the Chinese coastline and the lifestyles of shore people, junk sailors, and fishers. The stark view of a tail section of a B-25 and a burned fuselage contrasts the cleanliness and welcome of salt air and sea. The cooking of sim-

ple meals and the drinking of boiled water introduce Ted Lawson and his fellow airmen to the gratitude of humble peasants, who give what they have in thanks to Allies. Although Li Cha's parents' hut is cramped and poorly furnished, the evening is fun and enlightening. The islanders are willing to ferry the men along the beach to the junk by litter, even though the group must cower in a ditch to avoid a Japanese gunboat. At an emotional moment, the Americans board transport to safety and medical care in Chungking and offer American cash to their rescuers. The refusal of reward endears the islanders to the reader and prepares for the injustice of the Japanese scorched earth policy. Whether members of the resistance or innocent citizens, most of Nan Tian succumb to machine-gunning and the burning of buildings and forest.)

Interpretation

6. What causes CC the most grief?

(CC loses her moorings from family too soon in her life to be alone and homeless. Betrayal by the "New Woman" causes CC anguish and disillusion about the definition of family and the need for trust. Taking Big Aunt as a second family, CC is unprepared for the sudden departure and subsequent death of a beloved relative who models female independence and personal skill. By locating Grandma Wu and receiving motherly attention and training as well as support from Ah Yee, CC realizes that an outsider can fill in for a deceased mother and for a father who is more interested in a "slut" than a second wife and mother for CC. When the weeping for Big Aunt ends, CC is ready to offer loyalty to the Secret Dragon Society, which promises more stability and self-esteem than home life with Father and Niang.)

Literary Foils

7. How does Grandma Wu contrast with Father?

(CC discovers through risk taking that Father is willing to toss his 12-year-old into the street at a dangerous time in Shanghai history if it assures his contentment with a trophy girlfriend. Upon meeting Grandma Wu at the bookstall, CC receives encouragement for reading adventure literature and an invitation to accept an offbeat type of shelter and protection. Unlike Father, who discounts the dangers that await a lone girl in Shanghai, Grandma Wu understands the threat

of Japanese secret police and of random violence generated by invasion and world war. Although Father redeems himself somewhat by advertising for the runaway with reward posters, it is Grandma Wu who treasures CC and who wants to see her choose a life path that will build her self-esteem after the loss of mother and aunt, two female bastions in her young life.)

Theme

8. What does the novel reveal about ethnicity?

(The world war that accelerates on December 7, 1941, thrusts into global view the question of which people, races, and religions have worth. The obvious differences in religion at the academy and the mixed ethnicities—German-Jewish-Chinese, American-Chinese, Russian-Japanese—produces interesting people who bring to the mix their individual strengths. Grandma Wu conducts evening sessions in traditional Chinese philosophy, but she evaluates each young agent by what each has to share with the society. When the agents encounter Ted Lawson and his fellow airmen, the youths voice their grievances about surface judgments concerning human dignity. Because the boys know about Nazi death camps and street executions, they look inside CC's personality for more intrinsic traits, particularly loyalty, truth, and courage. By novel's end, the children form an ad hoc family comprised of non-blood kin who share a love of China and its former liberties. The relative unimportance of ethnicity, race, and religion sinks from view as the children do their part to win the war for the Allies.)

Tone

9. Why is generosity integral to the novel's tone?

(CC and her friends risk capture, imprisonment, torture, and execution by supporting Colonel Jimmy Doolittle and his American raiders. By giving of self to the ending of Japanese occupation in China, the children strengthen self-regard. CC learns that giving is a more effective method of mourning Big Aunt and Grandma Liu than hating and seeking vengeance against Japanese tormentors. The expression of concern for the American airmen and her communication with her father indicate that she is maturing and that her progress in the future should be positive.)

Style

10. How does the author incorporate history in a

mystery-suspense novel?
(Adeline Yen Mah dots the text with frequent historical time markers, particularly comments on the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the destruction of Austrian and German Jews during Krystallnacht, and the headlines from the China Daily announcing the collapse of British resistance to Japanese invaders. The reference points indicate that the time span is mid-February to April 1942, an uncertain point in World War II for the Allies. Blended into terrifying possibilities for the Chinese and for German Jews are stabilizing references to the Chinese Cinderella, Confucius, Yi Jing, kung fu novels, Lao Tzu, and the tao. By reminding the academy students of China's ancient history and philosophy, Grandma Wu implies that wars and invasions are temporal and that better days await. The Historical Note at the end summarizes for the reader the extent of world sufferings during the war during the author's youth.)

How Language Works

Adeline Yen Mah permeates the text with brief statements of wisdom that emerge from ordinary dialogue.

1. Big Aunt chastises her niece with a wise conundrum, "More haste, less speed!" The comment indicates that controlled study is more effective than rushing through the English lesson on the Chinese zodiac.
2. Grandma Wu introduces the concepts of the Yi Jing with a simple statement: "There are times when we're uncertain as to what we should do, knowing that our fate hangs in the balance."
3. The four members of the Secret Dragon Society join left hands into a giant fist as Grandma Wu proclaims, "In unity there is strength."
4. David Thatcher dispels fears of prejudice by describing American citizens: "Diversity is what makes our country great."
5. Kenshio Yamada, a draftee into the army, combats the Chinese stereotypes of evil Japanese invaders by remarking, "Everyone is different. There are many honorable people in my country."
6. Jake sets the tone for CC's recovery: "Hate is not erased by hate."

Across the Curriculum

Social Studies

1. Explain in a theme how the author portrays bicultural problems in particular situations. Choose from wearing an armband coded by nationality, emigrating from Berlin after Krystallnacht, meeting American airmen, translating at Bridge House interrogation center, choosing a religion, and telling life stories to CC.
2. Compose a brief timeline of Chinese history that summarizes the "Historical Note." How did China change after giving up its empire and becoming a Communist nation? How did World War II alter the Japanese Empire?
3. Discuss CC's response to the sale of Luo Ying. Why would a father sell his daughter? How might the sale rescue the child from hunger or danger? What other choices might the father have to keep Luo Ying safe?

Research

1. Create a bulletin board listing places to visit at historic World War II sites, including the U. S. S. Hornet, Chungking, Shanghai, Nan Tian Island, Yong Quan Port, Burma, India, Berlin, Auschwitz, Vladivostok, Tokyo, Lidice, Czechoslovakia, and Honolulu, Hawaii. Include historical routes, sites, museums, and monuments.
2. Divide the class into small groups to contrast the influence of Confucius and Lao-Tzu on Chinese culture and beliefs. Who encouraged reverence for the tao? for the Yi Jing? for character building? for patience? for understanding yin and yang?
3. Using stick figures, create a series of moves common to kung fu and tai chi movies and posters. Including sparring, meditating, hand-to-hand conflict, grappling, kickboxing, leaping, crouching, rolling, jump kicking, climbing, balancing, deflecting a blow, and brandishing different types of weapons.

Language

1. Place these vocabulary terms into categories: Mark either abstract or concrete under the topics descriptions, places, objects, actions, people, writings, vehicles, knowledge, historical terms, and geographic terms. List reasons for your choices. Place a star by all proper terms.

Russia	interminable
mah-jong	scrutinized

trepidation	cynical
capering	Huang-pu River
grapevine	guerrillas
demurred	chasm
promontory	anthrax
Yangtze River	beriberi
fen	Vladivostok
dysentery	drone
gangrene	double jeopardy
sandalwood	Tibet
Burma	Mount Liang
incinerated	India
knight-errant	jujube
Yong Quan Port	estuary
fetus	Linhai
fervent	ransom
latticed	puppet troops
Lao Tzu	priority
Nazis	Chuchow
yuan	defensive
diversity	Zohar
surname	Niu Zhou Shan
baleful	Mandarin
Zhejiang Province	spore
Lidice	Czechoslovakia
allegiance	Qi
rattan	Auschwitz
zoology	ken
Wulong	resolute
East China Sea	Chiang Kai-shek, Harbin
coifed	Admiral Halsey
cruiser	nautical mile
congee	picket boat
soya	mongrel
sampan	Henan Province
intuitive	Shaolin Monastery
<i>Yi Jing</i>	tram
monk	squid
martial	<i>kung fu</i>
pith	Confucian
elite	dorsal
U.S.S. <i>Hornet</i>	gruel
pedicab	initiation
Nan Tian Island	wistful
rickshaw	bazaar
guttural	fastidious
morose	anise
zodiac	synchronize
dire	Chungking
yarrow	Shanghai
coriander	Tang dynasty
Zen	Zhejiang Province

Berlin	embryo
alcove	Buddha
Honolulu	Hawaii
Hong Kong	Bodhidharma
Sichuan Province	<i>yin/yang</i>
concession	<i>tao</i>
battleship	castanets
interspersed	sauté
Tokyo	

Science

1. Give a brief talk on the terrorism method of dropping anthrax spores or bubonic plague bacteria from a plane. Explain why the targeting of a single community with anthrax or bubonic plague pathogens could spread epidemic disease across Asia. Did Japan succeed in launching epidemics?
2. Explain with a chart the combustion of incense as a token of honor in Chinese ancestor worship. Contrast the burning of candles in baskets with the lighting of incense sticks as forms of reverence. How do these meditation aids help CC focus on her future?
3. Appoint a panel to discuss scapegoating of Nan Tian islanders for the rescue of American airmen. Why did Japanese atrocities galvanize world opinion about their cruelties? Why did President Harry Truman feel justified to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atomic weapons?

Journalism

1. Compose newspaper or online headlines about these events:
 - a. Translator escapes interrogation center.
 - b. American raider is an international hero.
 - c. Spinster aids resistance.
 - d. Gangrene sets into airman's wound.
 - e. Homeless girl needs a family.
 - f. A woman humiliates her lover's daughter.
 - g. A wet nurse advises a runaway.
 - h. A pet panda returns to the wild.
 - i. The international school decrees that aliens wear armbands.
 - j. A fortune-telling guide helps a girl make a decision.
 - k. Parents of a resistance leader suffer horrible deaths.
 - l. Martial arts master wins a boxing match.
2. Outline a cartoon strip featuring a week's adven-

tures of one of these trios:

- a. David/Sam/Marat
- b. CC/David/Grandma Wu
- c. Master C.Y. Wu/Grandma Wu/Big Aunt
- d. Li Cha/guerrillas/American airmen
- e. Ah Yee/Big Aunt/CC
- f. Niang/Ye Jia-lin/Ye Xian
- g. Jimmy Doolittle/Admiral Halsey/pilots
- h. Kenshio/gunboat crew/Japanese pilots

Religion

1. Act out the differences between a god, monk, missionary, philosopher, and demon. Why do the four agents fear that the six-toed monster is a demon?
2. Comment in a paragraph on the prayer from Ecclesiasticus and on Sam's view of heaven. Why do thoughts of heaven comfort CC after her aunt's death?
3. Using posters or readings from scripture, explain why no one at the academy claims that a single religion supercedes Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, or Islam.

Reading

1. Read aloud other literary descriptions of racial or cultural misunderstanding. Include Jane Yolen's *The Devil's Arithmetic*; Joseph Krumgold's *And Now, Miguel*; Adeline Yen Mah's *Chinese Cinderella*; Gary Soto's *Taking Sides*; Sheila Gordon's *Waiting for the Rain*; Joseph Bruchac's *The Warriors*; Yoko Kawashima Watkins's *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*; Laurence Yep's *Dragon's Gate*; Jane Wagner's *J.T.*; Chris Crutcher's *Whale Talk*; Mildred Taylor's *The Land*; Walter Dean Myers's *Monster*; Forrest Carter's *The Education of Little Tree*; Jean Craighead George's *Julie of the Wolves*; Theodore Taylor's *The Cay*; Ann Petry's *Tituba of Salem Village*; Ben Mikaelson's *Touching Spirit Bear*; Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*; Michael Dorris's *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*; Jamaica Kincaid's *Annie John*; William H. Armstrong's *Southerner*; James Vance Marshall's *Walkabout*; Art Spiegelman's *Maus*; and Gish Jen's *Who's Irish?* and "Fish Cheeks." List behaviors that welcome outsiders, such as cooking, exercising, celebrating a holiday, sharing housekeeping chores, applying first aid, reading aloud, planning events, telling life stories, buying breakfast items, plotting an adventure, and singing

"Happy Birthday."

Literature

1. With a group, discuss the importance of these minor characters: guerrillas, Sam's mother, 0211 the noodle vendor, Grandma Wang, Jake, David Thatcher, Colonel Jimmy Doolittle, Sunday audience at the academy, Johnny's mother, Nazis, Kenshio, Mei Mei, Bumby, Chiang Kai-shek, Ling Ling, Admiral Halsey, Dr. Hungate, Agent 0108, Wu Chun-mei, Ah Yee, American missionary, Lao Tzu, Kempeitei, Miss Chen, island, fishermen, Luo Ying, and guards at Bridge House.
2. Write a paragraph in which you explain the purpose of a minor incident in the action. Choose from these: boiling water to drink, sending messages by carrier pigeon, hanging ropes behind the vegetable lattices, reading a kung fu novel, breaking a piggy bank, reading old report cards, cleaning toilets, apologizing for passing gas, dropping a woman down a well, playing a flute for a dolphin, making dumplings, identifying a painted roach, taking a rickshaw to school, looking at a picture of a horse, and distributing reward posters around Shanghai.
3. Discuss a favorite scene from the novel that requires reader imagination, such as opening a safe in a coat hanger, singing "Happy Birthday," escaping Berlin and traveling to Shanghai, sawing through bars on a train window, beating Johnny in a boxing match, sending a dolphin after a Japanese gunboat, letting Da Ma in through the window, burning an entire island, finding a roach in a tea cup, hiding codes in a book bag, and biting Niang on the arm.

Math

1. Draw a list of *Yi Jing* characters, beginning with the one that predicts CC's future. Explain the geometric and mathematical changes in each set of characters.
2. Using a scale of miles, determine how far the junk sails from southern Nan Tian Island upriver to Chungking, how far Da Ma flies from Big Aunt at Grandma Liu's house to deliver a check and two letters, how far Colonel Jimmy Doolittle's pilots must fly to be safe from crashing into the China Sea, how far Master C.Y. Wu journeyed from Los Angeles,

California, to reach Big Aunt's house in Shanghai, and how far the Yen family traveled from Shanghai to reach Hong Kong safely.

Geography

1. On the map at <http://www.mapofshanghai.com/>, locate the park on Henshan Lu where CC meets the three acrobats.
2. Using <http://www.fallingrain.com/world/CH/16/Songshan3.html>, determine how far the Shaolin Monastery is from the *kung fu* academy in Shanghai.

Computer Art

1. Draw cels for an animated cartoon on the subject of emigrating from Berlin to Shanghai, from Hong Kong to London Hospital Medical School, or from Hong Kong to Huntington, California. Show the process of getting a passport, entering a foreign country, and securing a visa. Why does Shanghai not require travel papers?

Psychology

1. Compare the four academy students before and after they find a home at the warehouse with Grandma Wu and Master C.Y. Wu. What do they learn by sharing household chores? by making dumplings and cooking meals? by exercising together? by meditating? by traveling in disguise? by describing bad memories? by accepting CC's plot as the best way to save Ivanov from Bridge House?
2. Describe character interaction by simplifying the events and meaning of a single scene. For example, what raises emotions when CC reunites with Niang? with Big Aunt? with Ah Yee? with Father? with Grandma Wu? with David Black?
3. Select events from the adventure novel that depict the following emotions: vengeance, friendship, loyalty, fear, curiosity, introspection, pride, and grief. In which events are logic and self-control more important than feelings?

Cinema

1. Draw movie settings for the overnight encounter with American airmen from the *Ruptured Duck*. Indicate how characters apply

first aid, cook and serve dinner, and boil water for drinking.

2. Describe parts of the novel that are suited to radio, film, tableau, poster, stage, puppetry, and pageant, for example, performing acrobatics in the park, rescuing Ivanov from Bridge House, squirted Japanese police with a water hose, carrying injured airmen by litter along the beach, passing a coded message to the noodle vendor, retrieving a message from Da Ma, offering Mei Mei a sweet potato, and playing flute music for Ling Ling.
3. View various films featuring Asian culture, e. g. *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Good Earth*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Empire of the Sun*, *The Painted Veil*, *The Kite Runner*, *Madame Butterfly*, *The Last Emperor*, *A Passage to India*, and *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Discuss how filmmakers reveal qualities shared by all races, particularly loyalty, courtesy, skill, risk-taking, hospitality, and courage.

Art, Costume Design, and Music

1. Using desktop publishing or other media, design several of these projects: a yellow star or armband identifying nationality, the shape of a junk or a gunboat, a report card for CC in kindergarten or primary school, a map in lemon juice of the route from Nan Tian Island to Chungking or from Shanghai to Hong Kong, a menu for the academy featuring soya milk and fried dough on a stick, letterhead stationery for the international school or for the Japanese secret police, an advertisement for rental of a kung fu novel or a copy of the *Yi Jing*, apartment rules about overnight guests, printed warnings about fraternizing with American airmen or taking equipment from downed aircraft, and a list of instructions for beginning training in *kung fu* or *tai chi*.
2. Create a bulletin board or mural illustrating scenes featuring female characters, for example, Grandma Wu distributing red candles in baskets, Niang throttling CC for biting her, David Black locating Ah Yee at the morning market, Li Cha's mother being seized by the Japanese patrol, Ling Ling and Bumby responding to flute music, Grandma Wang staffing the bookstall, CC's mother displaying a picture of a horse, Sam's mother departing from Berlin, Master C.Y. Wu visiting Grandma Liu, Mei Mei eating a sweet potato and mark-

ing a tree with her scent, and CC explaining the escape plan from Bridge House.

Drama and Speech

1. Write a conversation in which the main characters plan a presentation for the Sunday academy audience on divination with the *Yi Jing*. Use CC's experience as a model of forecasting. Demonstrate the use of 50 yarrow stalks.
2. Describe aloud the multiple purposes of blending the genres of psychological novel, historical novel, and action/suspense novel. Explain how the three narrative styles incorporate humor, action, dialogue, suspense, mystery, facts, war heroes, scripture, and Chinese wisdom. How would the novel change if the author omitted prophecy from the *Yi Jing*? the names of American airmen? the burning of Nan Tian Island? the boxing match? the prayer from Ecclesiasticus?
3. Discuss your reaction to encounters with Mei Mei, Ling Ling, and Bumby. How does the author indicate intelligent thought in animals? Predict how Mei Mei will heal from her burns and survive at Wulong forest.
4. Read aloud the words of the Japanese national anthem or of Langston Hughes's poem "Black Like Me." Explain how the narratives build self-confidence by taking stock of strengths rather than complaining about losses and weaknesses.

Composition

1. Make an oral report on the purpose of a martial arts academy for orphaned or homeless children. Cite examples of cooperation as a form of family, particularly the boys' welcoming CC into the Secret Dragon Society, tricking Kenshio Yamada with reports of a monster in the forest, dressing in peasant clothes for the train ride, and CC's retreat to a darkened room to prevent capture and return to her father.
2. Compose a first person account of the junk voyage from the southern tip of Nan Tian Island upriver to Chungking. Choose your role as a sailor, fisher, lookout, cook, resistance leader, flute player, doctor, or American airman.
3. Compose an extended definition of cultural pride in which you compare the attitudes and behaviors of David Black, Sam Eisner, David Thatcher, Marat and Ivanov Yoshida, and

Master C.Y. Wu.

4. Compose an informal paragraph on writing autobiographical novels. Determine the best way to write about family members and friends without revealing painful personal episodes.

Alternate Assessment

1. List in chronological order and describe these significant events: ironing a message, opening a closet safe, giving CC English lessons, hiding in a ditch, receiving silver wings, planting vining vegetables, returning Mei Mei to Wulong, apologizing to Kenshio, passing information to 0211, harnessing Ling Ling, talking with Jake about hate, putting curtains over the bed, lighting a red candle in the basket, separating 50 yarrow stalks, spraying police with a water hose, wearing costumes to the Dragon Boat Festival, sipping from a cup with the shape of a roach painted in the bottom, receiving Master C.Y. Wu late at night, parking a moving van, listening to radio reports of a raid, escaping Berlin, and getting clean clothes from Big Aunt's apartment.
2. List events from the historical novel that express strong attitudes toward ridicule, homelessness, welcome, sharing household chores, remaining silent, toughening the body, learning languages, and putting oneself in danger to rescue American airmen. Indicate Adeline Yen Mah's opinion on each subject.
3. Compose brief definitions of divination, occupation troops, and tao as they apply to *Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society*. What changes in the text would demand more Chinese folklore? more information about guerrillas? more facts about Bridge House? another visit to the Buddhist temple? more information about Big Aunt's death?
4. Summarize scenes that depict conflict, particularly animosity toward mixed blood children, suspicion of Jews, lying to Kenshio, rescuing Mei Mei, rocking a Japanese gunboat, avoiding prison guards, dressing like peasants, disagreements with the "New Woman," pretending to be dead, and weeping in Grandma Wu's lap.

Vocabulary Test

Match each term from the novel with a synonym from the list that follows it.

- _____ 1. studied: interminable, scrutinized, trepidation, cynical, capering
- _____ 2. Chinese currency: fetus, jujube, fen, yuan, surname
- _____ 3. gruff: elite, dorsal, wistful, guttural, morose
- _____ 4. mixed: interspersed, concession, fastidious, coifed, resolute
- _____ 5. hum: spore, drone, beriberi, chasm, embryo
- _____ 6. Chinese language: Zohar, Zhejiang, Shaolin, Sichuan, Mandarin
- _____ 7. royalty: mongrel, synchronize, dynasty, gruel, knight-errant
- _____ 8. port city: estuary, Huang-pu, Vladivostok, Tang, Bodhidharma
- _____ 9. mall: bazaar, yarrow, zen, alcove, Auschwitz
- _____ 10. deadly: sauté, dysentery, baleful, dire, diversity

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions to the names or places each refers to:

- _____ 1. friend of Yonoshita
- _____ 2. guerrilla leader
- _____ 3. parachutist
- _____ 4. Ye Jia-lin's sister
- _____ 5. wet nurse
- _____ 6. airman
- _____ 7. 0211
- _____ 8. burn victim
- _____ 9. New Woman
- _____ 10. Jew
- _____ 11. alien from Berlin
- _____ 12. attacker of a gunboat
- _____ 13. amputee
- _____ 14. loser of a match
- _____ 15. victim of arson or murder

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| A. Ah Yee | F. Ivanov | K. Ted |
| B. Bumby | G. Li Cha | L. Kempeitei |
| C. Niang | H. Johnny | M. Kenshio |
| D. Big Aunt | I. Mei Mei | N. C.Y. Wu |
| E. Sam | J. Ling Ling | O. noodle vendor |

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Name the following characters.

- _____ 1. Black Whirlwind
- _____ 2. prison gardener
- _____ 3. traveler to Wulong forest
- _____ 4. describe a horse to CC
- _____ 5. navigator
- _____ 6. "Charlie"
- _____ 7. finds Ah Yee at the market
- _____ 8. conceals cash
- _____ 9. writes in invisible ink
- _____ 10. sends an apology

Part III: Settings (20 points)

Identify where these events take place.

- 1. harnessing of Ling Ling _____
- 2. lattices and ropes await agents _____
- 3. planes crash in water _____
- 4. Ivanov strays from the section _____
- 5. agents arrive from underground _____
- 6. a tap sounds at 5:15 A. M. _____
- 7. students track sand _____
- 8. wreckage burns _____
- 9. agents await news of a raid _____
- 10. a safe holds report cards _____

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. Account for anger at American questions about ethnicity.
2. Summarize the author's attitude toward vengeance.
3. Compare Ivanov before and after his imprisonment.
4. Cite examples of Japanese savagery.
5. Describe the author's depiction of homelessness.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: True/False (30 points)

Mark each statement either T for true or F if any part is false:

- _____ 1. CC's plan frees all American prisoners.
- _____ 2. Grandma Wu admits CC to the society without testing her.
- _____ 3. The train takes Dr. Chen to Li Cha's hut.
- _____ 4. Sam's mother is Chinese.
- _____ 5. Grandma Wu is alarmed at the armbands.
- _____ 6. The junk reaches Chungking.
- _____ 7. A plane overhead reminds Kenshio to search the hut.
- _____ 8. Niang regrets choking Ye Xian.
- _____ 9. Ah Yee's child dies around 1930.
- _____ 10. Radio signals reach Vladivostok from the U.S.S. Hornet.
- _____ 11. Divination with the *Yi Jing* requires use of yarrow stalks.
- _____ 12. Posters offer a reward for a runaway girl.
- _____ 13. David dresses in costume for the Dragon Boat Festival.
- _____ 14. CC carries the codes in her book bag until the train leaves.
- _____ 15. The roundup of aliens begins late on December 7, 1941.

Part II: Fill in the Blanks (20 points)

Fill in the blanks with terms that make a true statement:

- 1. CC and Grandma Wu burn documents and hide the _____ under a _____.
- 2. The plan requires cooked buns and Germany officers' _____ for the American _____.
- 3. A moving _____ carries CC, Grandma Wu, and the former prisoners to a safe house on North Szechuan Road, where the Americans burn their prison _____.
- 4. An escapee named _____ urges CC not to hate her enemies and proposes to return to Japan as a _____.
- 5. CC pretends to be _____, but decides to write a letter to her father about _____'s murder.

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Choose the correct answer to complete each statement below:

- _____ 1. Bumby scares off
 - A. his cousin.
 - B. a gunboat.
 - C. a shore patrol.
 - D. guerrillas.
- _____ 2. Grandma Wu scolds the agents for
 - A. singing.
 - B. complaining.
 - C. leaving Mei Mei.
 - D. talking out of turn.
- _____ 3. Dr. Chen suspects
 - A. the execution of three airmen.
 - B. the authenticity of the codes.
 - C. Japanese soldiers of burning the wreckage.
 - D. gangrene.
- _____ 4. Grandma Wang greets CC at
 - A. the Buddhist temple.
 - B. Du Mei gardens.

C. the bookstall.

D. the Nan Tian train station.

_____ 5. Before traveling, the agents

A. light red candles in the baskets.

B. receive handmade sweaters.

C. put on peasant clothes.

D. pack dumplings and herbs for tea.

_____ 6. Ivanov wins the trust of

A. agent 0211.

B. Yonoshita.

C. Ted.

D. the van driver.

_____ 7. CC dreads the

A. drowning of Japanese crews.

B. amputation of Grandma Liu's leg.

C. return of Ah Yee to Niang's kitchen.

D. radio report from Admiral Halsey.

_____ 8. Li Cha survives

A. the plane crash.

B. a night without first aid.

C. imprisonment at Bridge House.

D. the burning of Nan Tian.

_____ 9. Ye Xian shares

A. Ah Yee's fears for Grandma Liu.

B. the name of the Chinese Cinderella.

C. the check with Grandma Wu.

D. a copy of a classic kung fu novel.

_____ 10. Hot soya milk is

A. a new experience for CC.

B. a treatment for dysentery.

C. safer than cold water for drinking.

D. Ted's only food on the way to Chungking.

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. Explain how the agents rescue the American airmen.
2. Account for meditation as training for the Secret Dragon Society.
3. Describe the duties of guerrillas.
4. Explain how CC remains in hiding.
5. Discuss the uniqueness of Shanghai during World War II.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. scrutinized | 6. Mandarin |
| 2. yuan | 7. dynasty |
| 3. guttural | 8. Vladivostok |
| 4. interspersed | 9. bazaar |
| 5. drone | 10. dire |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. K | 11. E |
| 2. G | 7. O | 12. B |
| 3. M | 8. I | 13. K |
| 4. D | 9. C | 14. H |
| 5. A | 10. E | 15. D |

Part II: Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. David Black | 6. Li Cha |
| 2. Ivanov | 7. David Black |
| 3. C.Y. Wu | 8. CC |
| 4. CC's parents | 9. Ivanov |
| 5. Charles McClure | 10. CC |

Part III: Settings (20 points)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. junk | 6. CC's window |
| 2. prison garden | 7. academy |
| 3. East China Sea | 8. Nan Tian beach |
| 4. Japanese sector | 9. missionary's house |
| 5. Buddhist temple | 10. Big Aunt's closet |

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T | 11. T |
| 2. F | 7. F | 12. T |
| 3. F | 8. F | 13. T |
| 4. T | 9. T | 14. F |
| 5. T | 10. F | 15. T |

Part II: Fill in the Blank (20 points)

- radio, wall
- uniforms, airmen
- van, clothes
- Jake, missionary
- dead, Big Aunt

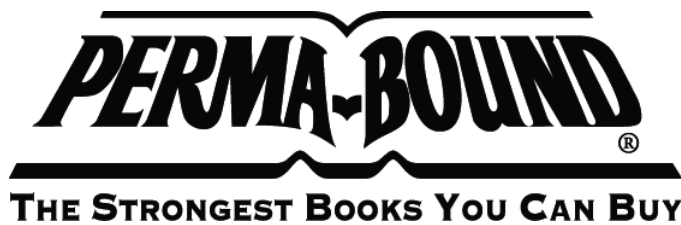
Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. B | 6. B |
| 2. A | 7. A |

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 3. D | 8. D |
| 4. C | 9. B |
| 5. C | 10. A |

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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