

Chapter Three

1. What does the little seamstress look like? Why is she described as the princess of Phoenix Mountain?
2. Why does the narrator start describing the seamstress at her feet? What does this accomplish? What does this tell you about the seamstress? What does this tell you about the narrator?
3. Why is the tailor treated like a king? What separates him from the other people on the mountain?
4. Why is the seamstress drawn to the boys? What does the story say that makes you think that?
5. Is this narrator interested in the seamstress? Why isn't Luo interested in the seamstress? What kind of girl would Luo be interested in? Which of the two boys might the seamstress prefer? What does the story say that makes you think that?

| Vocabulary | Definition |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. Capricious | |
| 2. Unabashed | |

Chapter Four (pg. 28)

1. Where were Luo and the narrator working?
2. What would some of the effects of working in the mines be? Why would it affect them many years later?
3. Why was Luo crying? What was upsetting him besides working in the poor conditions of the mine?
4. Why did the seamstress write a letter to Luo? Why was she drawn to the two boys? .
5. What has caused Lou to fall ill? What are the diseases side effects?

| Vocabulary | Definition |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Reverberated | |
| 2. Anthracite | |
| 3. Dispensation | |
| 4. Infernal | |
| 5. Macabre | |

Chapter Five (pg. 35)

1. Who was the better story teller between Luo and the narrator? What evidence from the story makes you think that?
2. Who came to heal Lou while at the little seamstresses' home?
3. How does the narrator keep them awake?

| Vocabulary | Definition |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Grandiose | |
| 2. Precipice | |
| 3. Stupor | |

Short Response Question:

Consider this phrase from *The Little Flower Seller*:

“A sincere heart can make even a stone blossom. So tell me, was the flower girl’s heart lacking in sincerity?”

What does this saying mean? What does it mean for a stone to blossom? Why were the villagers so moved by this line? How does this apply to the boys’ interaction with the seamstress? (Comprehension, Analysis, Evaluation/Synthesis?)

Part Two:

Chapter Six (pg. 45)

1. How was Four Eyes' situation different from Luo and the narrators'? Was he at more of a risk? What in the story makes you think that?
2. Why would eating meat be considered a bourgeois "crime?" What would a more appropriate meal be?
3. Look at the definition of sadistic. How were the buffalo's actions sadistic? What are some other sadistic actions the boys have encountered?
4. How do you think Luo was able to deduct that books were in the suitcase? What evidence from the story, and your understanding of Four Eyes, would suggest that Four Eyes was hiding books?
5. What books were the boys expected Four Eyes to be hiding? Why? What evidence from the story makes you believe that?
6. What happened to the aunt's Western books?
7. What author did the narrator receive from Four Eyes?

| Vocabulary | Definition |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Contraband | |
| 2. Sadistic | |
| 3. Substantiate | |
| 4. Myopia | |