

Chapter Seven (pg. 56)

Vocabulary	Definition
1. Decrepit	
2. Ulterior	
3. Fathom	
4. Somnambulant	

1. Who is Four Eyes to the narrator and Lou? What is their relationship? Who are his parents?
2. What book did Four Eyes give the boys? What was the book about? Why would he select this book?
3. How is *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* similar to the book Four Eyes gave the boys? What from your understanding of both stories would make you believe this?
4. Why did the narrator want to be like Ursule? What similarities do the two characters share?
5. Why was the narrator jealous of Luo? Is this jealousy justified? How should he have felt, if his reaction was inappropriate?
6. What transpires between Luo and the seamstress? How do you think the narrator feels after hearing this news? What in the story supports your description of the narrator's reaction?
7. How did they feel when they began to read the book? Be descriptive and use the text to support your answer.
8. What did the narrator do to keep part of the book with him?

Chapter Eight (pg. 61)

Vocabulary	Definition
1. Pious	
2. Precarious	

1. Why was Four Eyes cooking his clothes?
2. What did Four Eyes' mother want him to do What would he get in return?
3. What is "jade dumplings with miller sauce"? How did Four Eyes offend the old man?
4. What deal does Luo make with Four Eyes?
5. What did Luo want to do to make the seamstress more refined? How is this different than what Luo felt in the first few chapters? Is what Luo intended to do a benevolent or self-serving act? What evidence from the story supports your analysis?
6. Consider the following:

"This Balzac fellow is a wizard. He touched the head of this mountain girl with an invisible finger, and she was transformed, carried away in a dream. It took a while for her to come down to earth...She said having Balzac's words next to her skin made her feel good, and also more intelligent."

How the seamstress' reaction to the story different than the boys' reaction? Why does it affect her so greatly? Does it affect her on a different level? What inherent differences between the seamstress and the boys inform her reaction to the story?

Chapter Nine (pg. 66)

Vocabulary	Definition
1. Incognito	
2. Viol	
3. Calabash	
4. Incessantly	
5. Genial	
6. Eddied	
7. Paroxysm	
8. Provincial	

1. Describe the outfits Luo and the narrator were wearing. Why were they wearing this clothing? What did they hope to accomplish by dressing in such a fashion?
2. Look at the definition for provincial. In what way does the old miller exemplify the word provincial? What specific things does he say or do that illustrates a provincial lifestyle?
3. What does the miller's song let you know about the lives of those who lived in his area? Is this what Four Eyes wanted? Will Four Eyes be pleased with the songs they bring him?
4. What feature on the old man has Luo and the narrator transfixed?

Chapter Ten (pg. 76)

Vocabulary	Definition
1. Drivel	

1. What was Four Eyes' reaction to the songs? Was this expected? Was his reaction justified? What evidence from the text informs your prediction? What should Four Eyes' reaction should have been like?

2. Consider the following:

"I hadn't suspected that a tiny glimmer of hope for the future could transform someone so utterly." (pg. 77)
What changes does the narrator note about Four Eyes? What does he suspect caused them?

3. What alterations does Four Eyes make? Why does he change the songs the way he did? What is the narrator's reaction? Why did he react like this? Was his anger justified? How should he have reacted?

Chapter Eleven (pg. 80)

Vocabulary	Definition
1. Bestowed	
2. Phosphorus	
3. Perturbed	
4. Prostrate	

1. How big was the town of Yong Jing? What does the story say that makes you think that? What descriptive language does the narrator use to describe the town? Why does he describe it this way? What does his description accomplish?
2. Why does the narrator suspect the headman of sending them to see the film again? Who is traveling with the narrator and Luo?
3. Who is being released? Why is he being released? What is he doing, upon being released? Is he deserving of being released? Should the boys be released also?
4. Near the grave site, who does the narrator meet? What name does he give? Was this a wise decision? Explain.
5. Why is the narrator grieving for Balzac? Is his grief justified?
6. What does the seamstress suggest? Is this in character or out of character for her? Is her suggestion a good idea? Why or why not? Should the boys do what she suggests?

Chapter Twelve (pg. 90)

Vocabulary	Definition
1. Sonorous	
2. Superannuated	
3. Belligerent	
4. Incantation	
5. Loath	

1. Why were the villagers of Yong Jing planning a celebration? Were the boys invited? What were they planning to do? How were the boys preparing to execute their plan?
2. Who is right, Four Eyes, who's keeping his books, or the boys, who plan to take the books before he leaves?
3. What does Four Eyes drink? Why? What is this supposedly a remedy for?
4. Would Luo and the narrator do this to earn their freedom? What wouldn't the boys do to return to their families?
5. What authors did the boys find in Four Eyes' suitcase? How does this compare to their initial prediction of the type of books Four Eyes was keeping hidden?
6. Look at the definition for loathe. Why do the boys feel loathing? Who are they loathing? Is their loathing justified?
7. What does Luo plan to do with the books?

8. Describe how Luo and the narrator's plan is almost ruined? How do they escape with the suitcase?

Short Response Question:

Consider the following excerpt and address the following questions in a short paragraph:

“Picture, if you will, a boy of nineteen, still slumbering in the limbo of adolescence, having heard nothing but revolutionary blather about patriotism, Communism, ideology and propaganda all his life, falling headlong into a story of awakening desire, passion, impulsive action, love, of all the subject that had, until then, been hidden from me.” (57)

With the definition of limbo in mind, pick two characters (the narrator, Luo, the Little Seamstress, Four Eyes) to describe how limbo is an appropriate term to describe their existence in the camp, in life, and in their academic development. Be sure to reference specific evidence from the text to support discussion.