

OPTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

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Student Name _____

NOTES SECTION

1. How many surnames are Chinese? _____
2. Do Chinese women change their names when they marry? _____

FORWARD by David Hwang

3. In 1949, who led the Communist Party to power in China? _____
4. When the Communist takeover of China occurred, where did Hwang’s relatives move?

5. What positive things did the Communists in China accomplish?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
6. In 1966 Mao became frustrated with some of the changes he was attempting to create in China, so he called for a “perpetual revolution.” What did this mean for China? P. XVI-XVII

7. Who was the “lost generation” in China?

PROLOGUE

8. What does the name Ji-li mean in Chinese language? _____
9. What was the emblem of the Chinese Young Pioneers? _____
10. How old was Ji-li when the Cultural Revolution started in China? _____

The Liberation Army Dancer p. 3

11. What special skill is Ji-li tested on at her school? _____
12. Comrade Li from the Central Liberation Army Arts Academy was recruiting students to audition for

13. Why doesn’t Ji-li’s father want her to audition?

14. How does Ji-li react to her Father's request that she not audition?

15. Describe Ji-li's father's appearance, background and character.

16. Describe Ji-li's mother's background and current job.

17. Describe Ji-li's grandmother's background and title of respect.

18. List Ji-li's siblings and describe them:

- a. _____
- b. _____

19. Who was Song Po-po?

20. What did Song Po-po explain to the children about their living circumstances in Shaighai?

21. How does Ji-li's apartment home compare to the homes of many of her classmates?

22. The family had interesting friends that visited Ji-li's father's "Jiang Salon." Why were they special people?

23. How does Ji-li's behavior change after the disappointment over the audition?

Destroy the Four Olds p. 19

24. How has the Jiang's brownstone neighborhood changed in the last several years?

25. At Grandpa Hong's bookstall the children could experience reading more books for the money if they

26. What are Chairman Mao's "Four Olds?"

- 1. _____

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

27. Why were the signs on old shops being destroyed?

28. The children notice a photographer's store front called the Good Fortune Photo Studio. What did they suggest the name should be changed to as a gesture of support for the Four Olds movement?

29. What is meant by the term *an auspicious date*?

30. What did Ji-li explain to her grandmother about superstition concerning dates?

31. What was the symbolism of the Red Scarves the children wore?

32. Who were the student inspectors on the street?

33. What did the student inspectors do to the handsomely dressed young man they found getting off a public bus?

34. What did Du Hai explain about respect for teachers?

35. Why does Du Hai say that Jiang Ji-li is a capitalist?

Writing Da-Zi-Bao p.38

36. What is a da-zi-bao? _____

37. Define the following words:

1. Proletariat _____

2. Revisionist _____

38. Why does Ji-li find writing a da-zi-bao so difficult to do?

39. Why were teachers considered revisionists and dangerously damaging to Chinese youths?

40. Why was Ji-li assigned to go with the group that would challenge Jiang Xi-wen? _____

41. What had Jiang Xi-wen done to gain attention from the students? _____

42. Du Hai and Yin Lan-lan wrote a da-zi-bao about Ji-li. What was the accusation made against her? _____

43. An Yi, her close friend confesses that some da-zi-bao were written against her mother. What did the students write about her mother? _____

The Red Successors p.52

44. Why did Ji-li stay home from school? _____

45. The Red Guards were made up of which groups? _____

46. Which group made up the Red Successors? _____

47. Why wasn't Ji-li elected one of the ten Red Successors from her class at school? _____

Graduation p.72

48. What wonderful news did Teacher Ga give Ji-li? _____

49. How were the school placements decided? _____

50. What did the reassignment mean for Ji-li and her friend? _____

The Sound of Drums and Gongs p.80

51. Why did the Jiang family finally release Song Po-po from her job of housekeeper with the family? _____

52. Why was shopping for food so difficult for Ji-li?

53. Why were the four trunks so special to the Jiang family?

54. What did the Jiang family do with the silk clothing of their ancestors?

The Propaganda Wall p. 100

55. What was **Morning Repentance** and **Evening Report** at the Propaganda Wall?

56. Old Qian defied the Red Guard over a bicycle. What did the Red Guard do?

57. Describe An Yi's grandmother:

58. How and why did she die?

59. Why was suicide a crime in China according to Chairman Mao?

60. How was the funeral different for a person who committed suicide?

A Search in Passing p. 118

61. Why do the Jiangs go through the picture albums and burn selected pictures in the bathroom at night?

62. Why did the Red Guard search Fourth Aunt's apartment? _____

63. What prized possession of Ji-li's did the Red Guard take away with them after the search in passing?

Fate p.140

64. How did Shan-shan behave when he saw his mother collapsed in the street and unable to get back on her feet?

65. What happened to Du Hai's mother when Xu A-san returned from Xinjiang?

66. How was Xiao-cheng's father treated by the Red Guard?

67. What was An Yi's mother forced to do by authorities?

68. How did Ji-li and An Yi try to foretell the future?

Junior High School at Last p. 156

69. How long was the start of Junior High School delayed by the Cultural Revolution?

70. What was Ji-li learning in English class?

71. Ji-li's father was sent to political study class. What was the purpose of this class?

72. Why did Ji-li decide to avoid Teacher Zhang and the opportunity to work on the blackboard newspaper?

Locked Up p.173

73. Uncle Fan, a close friend of Ji-li's father from the theatre arrived at the Jiang apartment late one night. Why did he come to see them?

74. What had the Red Guard forced him to falsely confess?

75. Why did Uncle Fan confess to something he had not done?

76. What terrible event happened on Chinese New Year?

77. This particular Chinese New Year was another personal milestone for Ji-li. What was special about this day? _____

78. What happened to Ji-li's mother when she was ordered to come in to work and meet with officials of the Communist Party there at the office?

79. What was the ruling of the party officials during this meeting?

80. Why was Ji-li sent by her family to The Children's Art Theatre?

81. Describe what she saw when the official at the theatre (former scene shop foreman) took her to the window to see her father?

82. How did the Communist official explain the activity Ji-li's father was forced to perform?

83. What did this evil Communist Party official want Ji-li to do?

An Educable Child p. 191

84. What did Ji-li teach herself to do by reading books of instruction?

85. What was the purpose of the Class Education Exhibit Ji-li was nominated to help design and produce for the Communist Party Birthday Celebration on July 1?

86. Why was Ji-li selected for this important assignment?

87. Teacher Zhang said to Ji-li, "We cannot choose our families or our class status. But we can choose _____."
88. Chang Hong seemed to dislike one member of the Communist Party Birthday project committee. Whom did she dislike and why?
- _____

Half-City Jiangs p.206

89. What did Uncle Zhu do that caused trouble for the Jiang family?
- _____
- _____
- _____
90. When Ji-li's father finally came home, what did he do?
- _____
- _____
91. What did the article on the front page of the Worker's Revolt paper disclose about the Jiang family?
- _____
- _____
92. Ji-li went into the police station to ask about _____.
93. Why did she run out of the station when the policeman left to get papers to fill out?
- _____
94. Song Po-po continued to _____
95. What self-realization did Ji-li experience as a result of hard times and the kindness of others?
- _____
- _____

The Class Education Exhibition p.218

96. What narration part did Ji-li perform in the class education exhibit?
- _____
97. Why did the scene foreman from the theatre show up at Ji-li's school and ask to speak with her?
- _____
- _____
98. What threat did he make about Ji-li's family?
- _____
- _____
99. How did Ji-li feel after she left this meeting?
- _____
100. Why did Bai Shan stop her outside the door of the exhibition hall the next day?
- _____
101. What did Chairman Jin tell Ji-li when she entered the building to perform her part of the exhibit? _____

The Rice Harvest p.230

102. What did Chang Hong's office at the Red Guard headquarters look like?

103. Why did Chang Hong want to meet with Ji-li in her office?

104. Why had Ji-li requested a different work location for the summer?

105. What was the "double rush" for farmers in the countryside?

106. What was the work-day like in the country?

107. How did Ji-li injure herself in the rice field?

108. Why did Ji-li cry in front of Bai Shan?

109. Why is Ji-li returning to Shanghai?

The Incriminating Letter p. 244

110. What was in the letter Ji-li's mother had written to the Municipal Party Committee?

111. Why was this letter so dangerous?

112. What did the foreman from the theatre use as an excuse to search the Jiang house again?

113. Where was the incriminating letter hidden?

114. Which family member goes to warn Uncle Tian about the discovery of the letter and the danger he is in when he reports to work?

115. How had Ji-li's mother's status changed as a result of the letter and the raid on the apartment?

116. What is left in the Jiang apartment after the raid?

Sweeping p.260

117. What were Ji-li's worries of tomorrow and the day after?

118. What major promise did Ji-li make to her mother as she washed her hair?

119. Ji-li once had defined her life by her goals, now she defined her life by her

Epilogue p.265

120. According to Ji-li how was she brainwashed?

121. When Chairman Mao died in 1976 what did the people of China finally realize about the Cultural Revolution?

122. After Ji-li's father was finally released what job was he assigned?

123. In what year was Ji-li's father finally cleared of wrongdoing? _____

124. How did this ruling change his life?

125. Where does the Jiang family live now?

126. How did the "reeducation" of the Chinese youth out in the countryside fail to produce Chairman Mao's goals?

127. When did Ji-li move to America? _____

128. Why was she willing to move here and start all over at the bottom of society?

129. Where did Ji-li attend college? _____

130. What was amazing to her about our American society?

Essay Questions

Consider world history and compare the events during the Cultural Revolution in China to events in some other country in the world. Be sure to explain how the two events are alike and how they differ.

How is the story of Jiang Ji-li during the Cultural Revolution inspirational to today's teens?

Background information to read and more questions below to answer

The Cultural Revolution had a massive impact on [China](#) from 1965 to 1968. The Cultural Revolution is the name given to [Mao's](#) attempt to reassert his beliefs in [China](#). Mao had been less than a dynamic leader from the late 1950s on, and feared others in the party might be taking on a leading role that weakened his power within the party and the country. This probably explains the Cultural Revolution – it was an attempt by [Mao](#) to re-impose his authority on the party and therefore the country.

The movement began in September 1965 with a speech by Lin Piao who urged pupils in schools and colleges to return to the basic principles of the revolutionary movement. Chinese youths were also encouraged to openly criticize the liberals in the Chinese Communist Party and those apparently influenced by Nikita Khrushchev of the USSR. Educational establishments were considered to be too academic and, therefore, too elitist.

Mao believed that the progress China had made since 1949 had lead to a privileged class developing – engineers, scientists, factory managers etc. Mao also believed that these people were acquiring too much power at his expense. Mao was concerned that a new class of mandarins was emerging in China who had no idea about the lifestyle of the normal person in China.

Red Guards (groups of youths who banded themselves together) encouraged all the youth in China to criticize those who Mao deemed untrustworthy with regards to the direction he wanted China to take. No-one was safe from criticism: writers, economists and anyone associated with the man Mao considered his main rival – Liu Shao-chi. Anyone who was deemed to have developed a superior attitude was considered an enemy of the party and people.

Mao deliberately set out to create a cult for himself and to purge the Chinese Communist Party of anyone who did not fully support Mao. His main selling point was a desire to create a China which had peasants, workers and educated people working together – no-one was better than anyone else and all working for the good of China – a classless society.

However, the enthusiasm of the Red Guards nearly pushed China into social turmoil. Schools and colleges were closed and the economy started to suffer. Groups of Red Guards fought Red Guards as each separate unit believed that it knew best how China should proceed. In some areas the activities of the Red Guard got out of hand. They turned their anger on foreigners and foreign embassies got attacked. The British Embassy was burned down completely.

The looming chaos was only checked when Zhou Enlai urged for a return to normality. He had been one of the leading members of the Chinese Communist Party to encourage all party members to submit themselves to criticism but he quickly realized that the experiment that was the Cultural Revolution had gotten out of hand and was spiraling out of control.

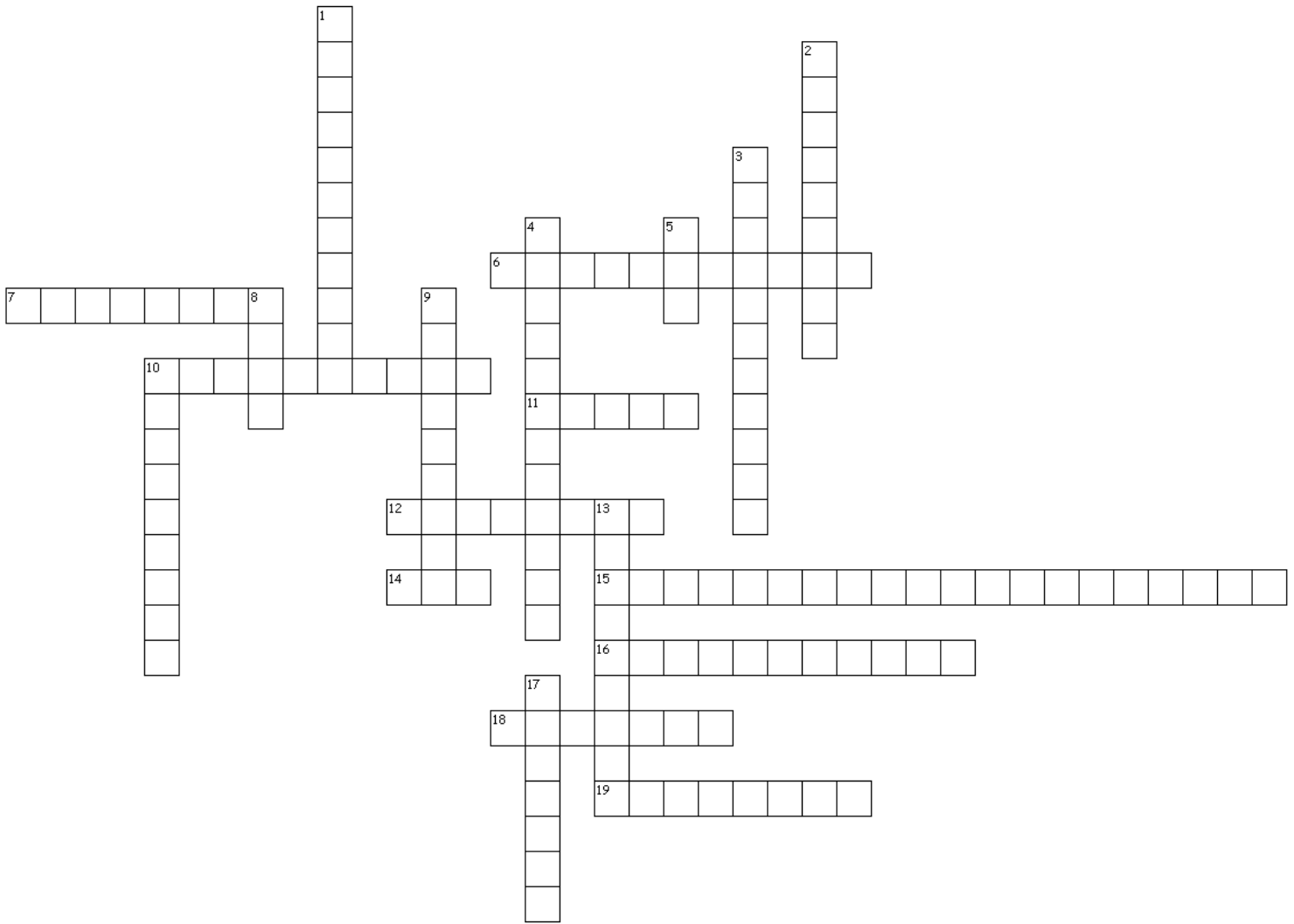
In October 1968, Liu Shao-chi was expelled from the party and this is generally seen by historians as the end of the Cultural Revolution. Mao had witnessed the removal of a potential rival in the party and therefore saw no need for the Cultural Revolution to continue.

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/cultural_revolution.htm

Jiang Ji-li's parents burned pictures of the family, painted the beautiful red trunks and ripped antique silk clothing belonging to relatives to reuse in other ways because these items were associated with Mandarin lifestyle. Why were these items so dangerous to the Jiang family?

Use the glossary in the back of Red Scarf Girl to complete the crossword puzzle.

Red Scarf Girl



Across

6. middle class member; derogatory term in China
7. system of beliefs
10. illegal arrest; confinement
11. fighter for political change
12. one who opposed Communist Party; member of a conservative party
14. symbolic color of Communist Revolution
15. fights against Communist Party, seen as a public enemy in China
16. ancient Chinese medical practice
18. 3 wheeled vehicle to pedal similar to a rickshaw
19. official language in China used to communicate by all groups

Down

1. member of working class such as a farmer
2. economic system with all production owned by the community
3. Communist Party member who tries to change Communist Party ideals
4. one who resists political change
5. Chinese penny
8. Chinese dollar; value at the time about 1/3 of American dollar
9. one who loves foreign things; considered disloyal
10. propaganda posters created by students
13. government ownership of land
17. capital of China; formerly spelled Peking

20 of 20 words were placed into the puzzle.

Created by [Puzzlemaker](#) at [DiscoveryEducation.com](#)

