

HKIS LA Grade 8 ~ Reading: Summative Assessment

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Reading Response and Comprehension Questions

Chinese Cinderella

By

Adeline Yen Mah

Answer all 4 questions in full and complete sentences in the space provided.

Stay within the text box, and write a one paragraph answer for each question.

Make sure that you include specific details from the story to support your responses.

1) What can you tell about Adeline's family and how they live?

you answered this well.
did you answer this?

From this passage I think Adeline's family has some sort of a leadership system. And the eldest which is her dad is the bossy and strict leader of the family which makes Adeline scared of him. For example, in the story the father says, "Writer!" he scoffed. "You are going to starve! What language are you going to write in and who is going to read writing? Though you may think you're an expert in both Chinese and English, your Chinese is actually rather elementary. As for your English, don't you think that the native English speakers can write better than you?....you will go to Medical school....You will learn to deliver babies." So this tells me the father is the leader of the family and everything that he says goes with no refusals. They live in a kind of a tyranny with their father as the leader. And with the help of her step mother rejecting her, as said in the intro, this tells me the father is the leader or tyrannical leader of the family!

2) What sort of character does Adeline have? What kind of relationship does Adeline have with her family, especially with her father? How do you know this?

Adeline is a brave and confident character that acts boldly to whatever she does. "Please, father." I asked boldly, thinking it was now or never. "May I go to university in England too, just like my brothers?" In front of her dad, who she describes as the leader of the family, she talks boldly and confidently without think about the repercussions of what he might say. Adeline has a one-sided relationship with her family especially with her father. That she is only recognized when she does something amazing. "See me in his room?" I was overwhelmed by the thought that I had been summoned by father to enter the Holy of Holies - a place to which I had never been invited. Why?" This quote tells me that only because of the the award she was given, she was allowed to enter her father's room to talk and this is the only time this has happened. So she is only being recognized when she does something amazing. I know this she is thinks twice about being relieved of her father "...why he was being so nice, thinking, Is this a ruse on his part to trick me? Dare I let my guard down?" So she thinks this time is very confusing because her father letting her in to his room is very unnerving and something that should have never happened if it wasn't for the award.

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3) What do you think was Adeline Yen Mah's purpose in writing about this incident? What effect do you think she wants to have on her readers?

I think the purpose of of the incident is to show how her father acts. He father is the kind of father that everyone does not want to have, he is strict and only takes "Yes, father!" for and answer. "You are going to starve! What language are you going to write in and who is going to read writing? Though you may think you're an expert in both Chinese and English, your Chinese is actually rather elementary. As for your English, don't you think that the native English speakers can write better than you?.....you will go to Medical school.....You will learn to deliver babies." Based on this quote this tells me that her father is a very strict father who will demand you to do something without any refusal. And this

is the main event that happens in the passage so her father is the main topic of this incident. The effect she wants to have on her readers is the fear that she has of her father. For example, after he has the tangent about going to medical school she says, "I waited in silence. I did not wish to contradict him" This part of the story tells me that she is very afraid of her father and everything leading to it helps me think this. "During the short drive home, my heart was full of dread and I wondered what I had done wrong." This passage to me expresses her fear of her father very well, only thinking that nothing good will happen when talking to her father.

4) Think carefully about the title, "Chinese Cinderella" and the incident the author writes about. ~ With reference to the extract, clearly explain why you think it is or is not an appropriate title.

I think the title "Chinese Cinderella" is an appropriate to the story because like "Cinderella" Adeline is an underappreciated character that is being treated like a peasant by her family and everyone around her. For example, "Don't you know anything?" the chauffeur replied rudely. "This is your new home. Your parents moved here a few months ago." Adeline is being acted as if she was a peasant even by a person who worked for her father. This makes me think that she is treated like trash by everyone around her and is just waiting for her comeback or big moment that she has been waiting for. The quote "I thought, "Is this the big moment I have been waiting for?" My whole being vibrated with all the joy in the world. I only had to stretch out my hand to reach the stars." But like Cinderella she is still once again downed by her father, "Writer!" he scoffed. "You are going to starve! What language are you going to write in and who is going to read writing? Though you may think you're an expert in both Chinese and English, your Chinese is actually rather elementary. As for your English, don't you think that the native English speakers can write better than you?" After waiting for her big moment she is once again downed by her father by rejecting her once again. "Chinese Cinderella" is an appropriate title for this story because she has the same story and attributes that Cinderella has.