

HKIS LA Grade 8 ~ Reading: Summative Assessment

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Reading Response and Comprehension Questions

Chinese Cinderella

By

Adeline Yen Mah

ME-

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?

Did you answer this part of the question?

In the prologue, it explains that Adeline was not fully accepted into her family, "Adeline should have had an enviable childhood, but she was rejected by her dominating stepmother and despised by her brothers and sisters. She was sent to a boarding school in Hong Kong and left there." This shows that her family did not appreciate her at all and sent her away. Also, her father does not approve of her dreams of becoming a writer, instead, he wants her to become a doctor; but Adeline is too excited to study in England that she doesn't mind not fulfilling her dream. Her family lives in an "elegant villa at mid-level, halfway up the hill between The Peak and the harbour." From this part of the story, we know that her family is quite rich. ✓

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 14-year-old girl who is about to graduate high school, but she does not want to leave, she said, "As I played, the thought of leaving school throbbed at the back of my mind like a persistent toothache..." This shows that she will really miss school and doesn't want to leave. Adeline and her father's relationship is quite interesting, he said "'Writer!' he scoffed, 'You are going to starve! What language are you going to write in and who is going to read your 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

But what personality about her

the native English speakers can write better than you?" This particular part of the story tells the readers that Adeline's father cares for her but doesn't want her to starve and become poor, but doesn't like the thought of her becoming a writer. On the other hand, he is very proud of her, he said, "...So I was quite pleased to tell him you are my daughter. Well done!" This tells us that he is very proud of her winning the "international Play-writing Competition". I know this because you can clearly see that her father is caring but strict and only wants her to become a doctor, "You will go to England with Third Brother this summer and you will go to medical school." Her father really wants her to become a female doctor.

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 this story is to tell readers to follow their dreams, and don't let anyone say you can't do what you want. When Adeline asked her father to let her study in England, he said "I do believe you have potential. Tell me, what would you study?" This tells us that her father wants her to go to university in England, too. In the text, her father agrees to let her go to university in England but only to become a doctor; this shows that her father is fine with her studying in England, but does not want her to become a writer. The effect I think she wants her readers to have is to not give up and don't let others tell you what to do. In this inspiring story, part of it explains how she got her father to allow her to study in England and how excited she was, "My heart gave a giant lurch as it dawned on me that he was agreeing to let me go. How marvelous it was simply to be alive! Study? I thought. Going to England is like entering heaven. Does it matter what you do after you go to heaven?" She was so excited and blissful when her father said she could go to study at a university in England.

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 this title, "Chinese Cinderella", is a very appropriate title, because this story is about achieving your goal and not giving up. Even when things seem bad (for example rude private drivers, horrible stepmothers, and hateful siblings),