Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

Ling's Questions
Throughout the novel, Ling asks herself many questions. She does this to help make sense of the changes happening in her life, and the lives of those around her. Some of her questions are easily answered in the moment. Some answers appear later in the novel. Others have no real answer.

Create a little booklet called Ling’s Questions. As you read the novel, try to answer her questions.

**Part One: Little Flower**

Page 10: How could anyone be more dear than my father? Would Chairman Mao let me put ponytails on him?

Page 21: If Mother didn’t want them to touch our things, why didn’t she stop them?

Page 21: So Comrade Li was a teacher? Would Father have to take lessons from him? But how could anyone be smarter than Father?

Page 24: Why would anyone want to open our letters? Did they hope to find money? If they knew that Father’s friends never sent us money, would they stop?

Page 24: Comrade Li couldn’t be the one opening our letters, could he?

Page 29: How could anyone like me if they heard my mother scold me all the time?

Page 51: Were they going to torture her, like the evil people did to communist revolutionary heroes? Would she be as brave as the heroes were in the movies and not tell her secrets?

Page 61: Laughter and the noise of dribbling basketballs came through the windows. Why were they so happy? How stupid I was to look forward to this all summer. How was I going to survive the rest of the school year?

Page 62: The rabbit-faced boy sniffed at me as I passed. Others laughed and made sniffing sounds. My back was instantly soaked with sweat. My knees trembled under my desk until class started. Why were they picking on me for no reason?

Page 64: What happened to Dr. Wong? Did it have to do with his brother in Hong Kong? Was it because he was Dr. Smith’s student? If so, what might happen to Father?
Page 65: I was shocked that he called Dr. Wong an enemy. Why would he criticize Chairman Mao? Was Comrade Li angry with Father he was Dr. Wong’s best friend?

Page 67: Why wasn’t she helping Mrs. Wong? Why didn’t she call Father home to protect us? Would the Red Guards take our things next?

Page 75: We were told every day that he [Chairman Mao] loved us and was our savior. Would he help me to get a flower outfit for my birthday?

Page 78: But if my parents worked on a farm, who would treat their patients?

Page 86: But Mrs. Wong wasn’t old and evil. She was the nicest person I knew. How could she be an example of the bourgeois?

Page 96: Why did Comrade Li bring these Red Guards to our home? Did he want to chase us out so he could have our entire apartment to himself? Had he found out we were hiding coffee and chocolate from him? Or was he angry with us for being friends with the Wong’s?

Page 97: With a big grin, Comrade Li stepped forward and said, “Dear comrades, when the enemy hates us, that’s when we are doing a good job. Work harder!” He waved his hand. When had we become his enemies? What had we done?

Page 99: Was Comrade Li going to crush us like he did the banana peel? Did Chairman Mao order him to do this? If so, why were we told Chairman Mao was our savior?

Page 100: I had always believed Father could make good thing happen, but how could that be possible?
Part Two – Bamboo in the Wind

Page 123 / 124: What did “draw a class line” mean? Would Niu keep the secrets we shared? Would they have hurt him if he hadn't drawn a class line?

Page 131: How could they just leave him to die? Father almost lost his life to save him. Would they come back to arrest the man?

Page 137: The winter months seemed endless. Cold and hungry, days and nights mixed together. Father didn’t get his wish to return to surgery. To keep warm, he dressed in layers of old jackets under his long blue hospital coat. What would it take to end this misery?

Page 150: My sobs echoed in the apartment. How could she trade my blouse without asking?

Page 152: What did Mother mean by “in case I am gone”? Were they going to take her away too? Or was she going to try to kill herself by walking into the river like Mr. Ji?

Page 153: What crime could the baby doctor have committed? I’d always seen her either holding a baby or walking with a pregnant woman. Were they afraid she would turn babies into antirevolutionaries?

Page 153: An awful thought filled me. Would Mother be strong enough to endure a public criticism meeting? Did she tell me “in case I am gone” because she believed something was going to happen to her?

Page 157: Why would the doctor kill herself? Did she do it because they cut her hair and tore her clothes? Could she have done something to save her?

Page 160: Would the baby doctor still have killed herself if she had known what would happen to her family?

Page 162: I had grown tall and skinny. Would Father recognize me if he saw me in my patched-up Mao jacket?

Page 167: My coat became damp and heavier. How had Aunt Wu stayed out in this cold all night with out becoming a block of ice?

Page 170: I held my breath and nodded. My face burned with shame. If Father could see how Mother hopelessly fought in the crowd, would he forgive me for lying?

Page 171: Would they still laugh if they knew I was the daughter of their class enemy?
Part Three: Bridge Behind Mao

Mother’s worried face came to mind. What would happen to us after Gao told his father about today?

I had never seen a metal buckle crack open a head. How many stitches would it take to sew him up? Maybe he would die.

Where was Father? Was it painful to drown oneself? When a person dies, does the spirit go to paradise? If so, was the Golden Gate Bridge along the way? … But was he still alive?

What would they do to Mother and me if I refused to apologize?

Had I really injured Gao? If so, why hadn’t I heard from his father?

One chubby woman with a sour face came often. She talked about how Chairman Mao had made her life a thousand times better. – Had she lost her father? Did she fight in the marked for food or shop at the back door like Comrade Sin?

Father had always told me that knowledge was the most important thing in life. Was class struggle an excuse to punish good people?

Were the police here because of Father?

Was that why Gao hadn’t been in school, because of his sick father?

They were going to put Father back in jail after he saved Gao’s father’s life. Wouldn’t they be thankful?

Why did the police let Comrade Li boss them around? Was it because he was a friend of Jiang Qing? Would Mao let Barefoot Doctors treat him?

The pain on [Nu’s] face and the image of his bleeding leg made me feel sorry for him. Did he regret what he had done to us?

Were we going to a labor camp?

Digging my nails into my thighs, I fixed my eyes on Mao’s smiling portrait. Are you happy that I’m suffering?
Would my enemies at school be surprised to see my shaved head after I fought with them over cutting my braids?

Why would someone help me? Was this a trap?

Tears from Father? My throat tightened. Had father given Niu the shirt while he was treating him in the hospital? If so, how did Father know he could trust him?

I thought of the hidden calligraphy of the Physician’s Creed. Did the person who wrote it ever have to go to jail? If so, would he still think a great physician should treat his enemy with compassion?

Had Comrade Li expected Comrade Sin to punish us? With Comrade Sin still sick, had he decided to act on his own? Would he send us away or hold a public criticism meeting?

Why should I apologize to [Gao]?
Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

Part 1: Little Flower
Chapter Title Summaries

Ying Chang Compestine purposefully named each of her chapters. Each title represents an important moment or event in Ling’s life. For each chapter, explain why the title is appropriate. Use at least one quote from the chapter to support your answer. Then illustrate the scene that best represents the chapter title.

Written Example:

Chapter 1: Father’s Ponytails

Chapter one is titled “Father’s Ponytails”. This is a good title, because in this chapter we meet Ling and her family. Ling clearly loves her father and enjoys the time they spend together when he lets her put ponytails in his hair. At first it was so that she could practice, but now it had become a way to spend time together: “Though I had mastered ponytails last year, Father still let me practice on him in the evenings when he was home for dinner.”

Complete a Chapter Title Summary for each of the following chapters:

Chapter 2: Waste is a Great Crime
Chapter 3: Bartering with Comrade Li
Chapter 4: Homemade Ice Cream and German Chocolate
Chapter 5: “Bloodsucking Landlord”
Chapter 6: Will Butterflies Land on Me
Chapter 7: The Terrifying Birthday
Chapter 8: Crushed under the Heel
“Daddy, why do people want to go to America?” . . .
"They want to enjoy freedom,” Father whispered.
“What’s freedom?” I whispered back.
Father led me to my bedroom. “Freedom is being able to read what you want and say what you think.”
I saw the sadness in his eyes. I wanted to ask him if people disappeared in America, but I didn’t. Talking about Mr. Wong made Father unhappy.

What do you think freedom means?

What does the dictionary define freedom as?

The Universal Declarations of Human Rights states “everyone has the right to live in freedom and safety.” What do you think this means?

Do you think Ling and her family feel free and safe, why or Why not?
**Freedom Part 2 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

In 1948, the United Nations created a list of what rights they felt all people in the world should have. They then developed The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Below are some of the things they believe all people have the right to. As you read the novel, complete the chart below, indicating times when the rights of Ling, her family, or others they know were not respected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Rights</th>
<th>How Comrade Li and the Red Guards did not honor this basic human right</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everyone has the right to:</td>
<td>Example of disrespecting this right is on Page 67 when the Red Guards take Mrs. Wong’s sewing machine and fridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live in freedom and safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move within their countries and visit other countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own things that others cannot take from them</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow their beliefs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express their opinions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have some time for fun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comrade Li

Since Father had asked about Dr. Wong, Comrade Li no longer knocked on the little door. He ignored me when we met in the hallway. It was as if a bad magic trick had changed him from a funny monkey into a poisonous snake.

Comrade Li – “the funny monkey”

At the beginning of the novel, Ling likes Comrade Li and wonders why her parents do not like him. What does Comrade Li do, say and give Ling to make her like him?

Comrade Li – “a poisonous snake”

What happens that allows Ling to see Comrade Li’s true personality?
The Importance of Food

Food is VERY important to Ling. She often mentions what she has to eat and wishes she had.

As you read though the first part of the novel, fill in the chart. Often when she talks about food, there are memories attached to the food. Include these in the last column. A few examples are done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Food</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Like or Dislike (or don’t know)</th>
<th>Any memories or stories?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soup with tofu, spinach, and seaweed</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Does not like it</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pan-fried dumplings, egg-fried rice, steamed fish, black bean sauce</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Does like, especially the nasty bean sauce</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jellyfish</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Taste horrible</td>
<td>Mother says it will get rid of freckles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Food</td>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Like or Dislike (or don't know)</td>
<td>Any memories or stories?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

Part 1: "Little Flower"
What is Bourgeois?

1. What do you think bourgeois means?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. What items did Comrade Li and the Red Guard consider 'bourgeois'?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. At first Ling thinks that bourgeois means "evil things from the old days" and doesn't understand why her doll, long hair, or flowered blouse were thought of as evil. Chairman Mao taught his followers that bourgeois were the people who owned most of the wealth and took advantage of the working class. Ling's parents were not what you could consider wealthy and her father believed in treating all patients equally, so why did the Red Guard target them as being bourgeois?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. When Dr. Chang begins burning all the things he believes might be considered bourgeois why can't he bring himself to burn the picture of the Golden Gate Bridge? Why does he hide it even though doing so puts him and his family in danger? What does the picture represent?
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
Throughout the novel, *Revolution is Not a Dinner Party*, the author uses many powerful similes. A simile is a literary device in which two different things are compared to each other using the words like or as.
Ex. He is a slow as a turtle.

Part A: For each of the similes below, describe what two things are being compared, explain why it is a good comparison.

1. “Our city is like a human heart – all the body's blood travels through it.”
   (Page 5/6)
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. When Mother and I came out of the kitchen, Comrade Li had stretched his head through the little door into our living room, like a turtle coming out of its shell.
   (Page 30)
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. Whenever Mother and Mrs. Wong were together they reminded me of flowers in our courtyard garden. Mother was like a proud white rose, which stood alone. I was afraid to touch her because of her thorns. Mrs. Wong was fragrant and worm like a red peony, which always welcomed visitors. I wanted to be close to her.
   (Page 40)
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
4. My fear for Dr Wong and Father tore at me like rats tearing at a rice sack. (page 65)

5. Wisps of burned paper bumped around inside the fireplace like frightened black butterflies. (page 82)

6. I saw Father throw a stack of pictures onto the fireplace. The flames swallowed them like hungry monsters. (page 93)

Part B: Choose two of the above similes. Illustrate each one. Complete this on a separate piece of blank paper.
Additional Discussion Questions

1. How is Ling’s relationship with her father different than her relationship with her mother?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Comrade Li wrote one of Chairman Mao’s teachings “WASTE IS A GREAST CRIME. SAVE RESOURCES TO BUILD A NEW CHINA” on a big poster and pasted it to the side of the building. What happened the day after the poster was put up? How did this impact Ling’s life? How did she react?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________

3. On page 25 Comrade Li says, “You need to grow outside your greenhouse, little flower!” Why does he say this? What does he mean?

________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________
4. On page 35, Ling is very excited to get one of Mao's buttons from Comrade Li, and she couldn't wait to trade it. Have you ever traded things like baseball or hockey cards with your friends? Would it be just as exciting to trade cards if they were just one person? How excited would you be to trade buttons with only pictures of Prime Minister Steven Harper on them. How would you feel if you had to wear a button with his face on it each day?

5. On page 60, one boy says, “I bet she can crow like a rooster.” Why does he say this about Ling? How does she feel about this statement? How do you think you would feel? Why?

6. On page 67, why do the Red Guards confiscate Mrs. Wong’s sewing machine and refrigerator?
7. On page 70, Ling’s mother comes home and announces that food and other items are now rationed. What does rationed mean? How does this impact Ling’s life?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

8. On page 74, Ling and her mother go to the fabric store, only to discover there is no flower fabric. Why does the store no longer sell flower fabrics?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

9. What happened to Mrs. Wong on the afternoon of December 14? Why?
   (Page 90)

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

10. How old do you think members of the Red Guard were? Did you realize that the Red Guard was made up of young people not much older than high school students? Why do you think such young boys were chosen to become members of the Red Guard?

___________________________________________________________________________

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___________________________________________________________________________
Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

Part 2: Bamboo in the Wind
Chapter Title Summaries

Ying Chang Compestine purposefully named each of her chapters. Each title represents an important moment or event in Ling’s life. For each chapter, explain why the title is appropriate. Use at least one quote from the chapter to support your answer. Then illustrate the scene that best represents the chapter title.

Complete a Chapter Title Summary for each of the following chapters:

Chapter 9: Revolution is Not a Dinner Party
Chapter 10: Drawing a Class Line
Chapter 11: Dark Clouds
Chapter 12: Would I Ever See Him Again?
Chapter 13: The Long White Rope
Chapter 14: Shopping with Mother
Analyzing Chairman Mao’s Teachings

On page 104, Ling shares a passage from Chairman Mao’s teaching about class struggle. In school, she had been required to study it and write it from memory.

“A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle, so temperate, kind, courteous, restrained, and magnanimous. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.”

Ling reflects on the passage and thinks, “I didn't understand what “class” and “revolution” had to do with a dinner party.” She then wishes she could have a dinner party again.

Part 1: Vocabulary
Use a dictionary and define the following words from the passage. Be sure your definition is related to the context in which the word is used.

a) refined: ____________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

b) temperate:__________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

c) courteous: __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

d) restrained: __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

e) magnanimous: _______________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
f) revolution: __________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

g) insurrection: _______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

h) class: _____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

i) overthrow: _________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Part 2: Analyzing

1. What do dinner parties, painting, and doing embroidery have in common?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What does Chairman Mao mean when he writes that these activities are “leisurely and gentle?”
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What does Chairman Mao mean when he writes, “A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.”
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Now think of his first statement. Why is a “revolution not a dinner party?”
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Physician’s Creed

Whenever a great physician treats diseases, he has to be mentally calm and his disposition firm. He should not give way to wishes and desires but must first develop a marked attitude of compassion. He should commit himself firmly to a willingness to make an effort to save every living creature.

A great physician should not pay attention to status, wealth, or age. Nor should he question whether his patient is an enemy or friend . . . He should meet everyone on equal ground, he should always act as if he were thinking of himself, he is not to ponder over his own fortune or misfortune and should thus preserve life and have compassion for it.

Whoever acts in this manner is a great physician for the living. Whoever acts contrary to these commands is a great thief of those who still have their spirits.

Ling’s father. Dr. Chang, is a doctor. Lings says, “he used to tell the young doctors who came to visit that [the Physician’s Creed] was the best guidance for anyone who wanted to be a doctor.”

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. After the last raid, how did Dr. Chang’s job change? How do you think he felt about this? Why do you think his job changed?

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

2. According to the creed, ‘a great physician should not pay attention to status, wealth, or age.’ How is this different from Chairman Mao’s teaching ideas?

____________________________________________________________________________________________

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____________________________________________________________________________________________
Name: ___________  Date: ___________  

**Drawing a Class-line**

One of the tactics that Comrade Li and the Red Guard use is to force children to draw a class-line between their family and themselves. After trying to escape, Nui is interrogated by five Red Guards and then draws a class line and denounces his parents and the Chang's as his enemies.

1. What does it mean to “draw a class line?”
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. What does ‘denounce’ mean?
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. Why do you think Niu Wong draws a class line and denounces his parents and Ling's family?
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. Is Ling right to hate him?
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

5. What do you think would have happened to him if he didn’t draw a class line?
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
Fighting for Food

One of the last chores Ling's Mother teaches to her is going to the market. This is because she feels that Ling is “too young to fight for food.” Finally one cold Sunday morning, she takes Ling to the market. Answer the following questions about this event.

1. When they arrive at the store, Ling meets Aunt Wu. Who is Aunt Wu and what is her relationship with Ling’s Mother?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

2. At the market, there is a front door and a back door. Who gets served at the back door? Do you think this is fair? Why or Why not?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

3. At the back door, Ling sees Gao’s father, who had come to her school the previous week to announce Chairman Mao’s new instructions, “cut down on consuming and be hungry heroes for the sake of the Cultural Revolution.” He walks away from the back door with a large box of food including meat and eggs. Why does he not have to be a hungry hero?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

4. On page 172, Ling’s mother says, “you are growing up, my dear”, and she has tears in her eyes. Why does she say this?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
Figurative and Descriptive Language

1. After the Red Guard raids the Chang’s apartment for the first time, Ling asks her mother why the family has to paste so many small portraits of Chairman Mao in every room. Her mother replies, “It’s like the incense we burn in the summer to keep the mosquitoes away.” What does Ling’s Mother mean? (page 104)

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Why does Ling’s Mother say, “you are two melons on the same vine” to Ling and her Father? (page 136)

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. The night of the second raid, Nui is among them. Ling says, “Nui roamed around like a hungry dog sniffing out a bone.” Why do you think the author used this simile to describe Nui’s actions? How is this in contrast to the Nui who used to laugh and joke with Ling? (page 140)

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Illustrate one of the following ‘descriptive scenes’.
   a) Page 110: “The apartment smelled of sandalwood. Broken dishes, torn clothes, and paper were spread around crippled furniture. Someone had sliced the painting of the French girl with braids pinned around her head. Now her face was cut in half.”
   b) Page 119 / 120: “Rumbling thunder followed slashes of lightning. The chilly wind whipped the electric wires around the courtyard. Shivering in my raincoat, I tried hard to keep my eyes open in the cold rain.”
   c) Page 148: I kept it hidden between layers of my bed’s cotton batting. The streetlight threw tree branch shadows on my bed, as if spreading long ghost fingers. Peeling the top two layers back, I was shocked to find the blouse missing.”
   d) Page 170: “The salesman wrapped a piece of meat in a dried lotus leaf and dropped it into my basket. The meat felt as heavy as a rock. I tried to move my feet, but they didn’t feel like they belonged to me.”
Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the novel, Ling was a very picky eater. As the Chang family has less and less food available, how has her relationship with food changed?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. On page 112, Nui shows Ling a letter with a map. Why does he say: “It’s our only hope?”
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. On page 113, why would Ling like to go to America?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. What is the “three piece treasure” everyone had to show at the school gates each morning? What happened to Ling’s old math teacher when he forgot his button at home?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
5. What is Ling’s reaction when she sees “DEAR MOTHER, DEAR FATHER, BUT NOBODY IS AS DEAR AS CHAIRMAN MAO,” on a huge poster outside of the hospital? (page 124)

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Why did the three janitors no longer need to do their work? What did they do instead? (page 125)

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

7. Ling’s father saved a drowning man from the river. Why do all the workers walk away after they see his face? (page 131)

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

8. On page 135, Mr. Ji says to father, “they can kill me, but not the truth, dark clouds have concealed the sun for too long.” What does he mean?

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
9. “Nui looked around our living room and took a step toward the portrait of Chairman Mao, which hid the Golden Gate Bridge.” (page 142) What does Ling do in this moment? Nui, still had an opportunity to expose the picture, why do you think Nui does not reveal the picture after all?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

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10. On page 147, why does Ling envy the baby mice she hears?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

11. On page 149, Ling realizes that her Mother had been taking their belonging to the black market to trade. What was she trading for?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

12. On page 157, what happened to the boy who refused to draw a class line between himself and his dead mother? What did his grandmother than do?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________
Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

Part 1: Bridge Behind Mao
Chapter Title Summaries

Ying Chang Compestine purposefully named each of her chapters. Each title represents an important moment or event in Ling’s life. For each chapter, explain why the title is appropriate. Use at least one quote from the chapter to support your answer. Then illustrate the scene that best represents the chapter title.

Complete a Chapter Title Summary for each of the following chapters:

Chapter 15: Angry Tiger
Chapter 16: Too Proud to Bend
Chapter 17: Waiting for Daddy
Chapter 18: Howling Wolf
Chapter 19: Pig Fat
Chapter 20: Golden Gate Bridge
Name: ___________ Date: ___________

**Reader’s Theatre – Angry Tiger**

*(Arranged by N. Keyworth for classroom use only)*

**Characters:**

- Ling
- Gao
- Yu
- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2
- Gang

---

**Narrator 1:** One rainy morning, Ling walked into her classroom with her clothes half soaked. Gao was standing behind Teacher Hui’s desk.

**Gao:** Everyone look at the poster! Chase out the bourgeois teacher! Get educated by the working class!

**Narrator 2:** Yu blocked Ling’s way to her desk with her leg. Ling jumped over it and ignored it, then she saw a big green gob of spit on her seat.

**Narrator 1:** Trying hard not to show her fear and anger, Ling took a deep breath and reached into her bag for a piece of paper to wipe the spit off. Suddenly someone punched her in the back. Two paper balls hit her head, and she turned to look at Yu, Gao, and their gang laughing. She stood between her desk and the bench, she had nowhere to escape.

**Gao:** You! Daughter of the American Spy! Cut your hair, or we will do it for you!”

**Narrator 2:** Punches landed on Ling, sending sharp pain all over. She was pushed and hit from all sides.

**Gang:** Cut it now, now, now!

**Narrator 1:** Ling swallowed to catch her breath and remained firm against the desk, blood rushing to her head.

**Ling:** Get away from me, you stupid pigs!

**Narrator 2:** Gao spat at Ling and hit her in the face.

**Gao:** How dare you call us stupid pigs. I'M GOING TO TELL MY FATHER!
Yu: Kill the bourgeois bug now!

Narrator 1: Within seconds, more punches landed on Ling’s shoulders and head. They pulled at her jacket so hard the buttons tore off. She tried to shield her head. Yu grabbed one of her braids violently, and Gao opened and closed the scissors in the air.

Gao: Let’s cut her bourgeois hair now!

Narrator 2: Ling swung her schoolbag fiercely against Gao’s head. Her abacus hit him and he fell backward, knocking down the row of benches and desks behind him.

Ling: I WILL KILL YOU IF YOU DARE TOUCH MY HAIR!

Gao: HELP! HELP! LING IS KILLING ME! I AM BLEEDING.

Narrator 1: Gao thrashed around, blood dripped from his nose. The scissors were knocked two rows away. Ling wiped the spit off her face and resisted an urge to spit on him. Yu and the others stood frozen as Ling walked out of the classroom holding her head high.
Reader's Theatre – Final Scene

(Arranged by N. Keyworth for classroom use only)

Characters: Ling  Comrade Li  Gao
Narrator 1  Narrator 2  Pimple Face
Belly  Chopstick  Father
Mother

Narrator 1: As Ling stirred the dark brown medicine became lighter. The mixture turned sticky as the oil cooled. Ling’s arm grew tired, but she did not stop, she liked that she was doing something for her Father.

Narrator 2: Once they were finished, it was time for Ling to go to her afternoon crying session. Before she left, her mother mixed some of the rendered pig fat with some rice and place a pinch of salt on top.

Ling: Thank you, Mom!

Narrator 1: Ling favoured every spoonful before rushing out the door. As she ran past Comrade Li’s apartment, the door swung open. Suddenly he was standing there, smelling like a liquor jar.

Comrade Li: BOURGEOIS SPROUT WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING TO?

Ling: School.

Comrade Li: I smell meat cooking in your home. What are you celebrating? It’s about time I took care of you two.

Narrator 2: Ling ran down to the courtyard. All afternoon she felt anxious and fearful of what Comrade Li would do to her and her mother.

Narrator 1: As Ling walked home from school, Ling decided that Comrade Li would send her and Mother away. When she arrived at the courtyard, she saw a stage made out of old tables. Ling instantly broke into a sweat, sitting on the stage was Comrade Li, and Pimple Face, Short Legs, and Mouse Eyes were gathered around him.

Comrade Li: There’s the enemy. Go get her!
Narrator 2: Gao and Yu jumped up. When Ling’s eyes met Gao’s he hesitated. Pimple face then pushed Gao out of the way.

Pimple Face: Go! We are here to protect you

Narrator 1: Ling reached for her belt.

Gao: She is going to hit me!

Narrator 2: Short Legs and Mouse Eyes rushed to Ling and grabbed her arms and twisted them back. Ling kicked and cursed, and Yu pushed Gao forward. Gao took Lings belt, but did not make eye contact with her. Short Legs and Mouse Eyes then pushed Ling in front of Comrade Li. Comrade Li took a puff of his cigarette and blew smoke in Ling’s face.

Comrade Li: TAKE HER ONSTAGE! TIME FOR A MEETING! EVERYONE! REPORT TO THE COURTYARD!

Narrator 1: Ling looked towards her apartment windows, hoping her mother was not home. Short Legs and Yu revealed the writing on the chalkboard behind her: LING APOLOGIZES TO GAO!

Comrade Li: Quiet! Quiet! You are here today to witness a public apology. Ling, apologize to Gao now!

Ling: No! NEVER!

Comrade Li: APOLOGIZE!

Ling: NO!

Narrator 2: Comrade Li struck Ling across the face three times. Ling started to bleed from the mouth.

Comrade Li: Gao, bring the board here.

Narrator 1: At that moment, Ling saw her mother and knew she must prevent them from turning on her too.

Ling: I apologize to Gao. (quietly)

Comrade Li: WHAT!
Ling: I apologize to Gao! (raising her voice) I will announce my apology to the whole hospital! (loudly)

Narrator 2: Ling jumps off stage and picks up a wok and spatula and starts to rap the wok with the spatula. Bang, Bang!

Ling: I apologize to Gao! I apologize to Gao! I apologize to Gao!

Gao: LOUDER!

Ling: I apologize to Gao!

Narrator 1: The rain began to fall, and Ling continue to mark around the courtyard and onto Victory Road. She stopped chanting briefly, embarrassed by the all the people on the street looking at her.

Gao: DON’T STOP! APOLOGIZE TO ME!

Ling: I apologize to Gao!

Narrator 2: Ling marched to hospital gate. Outside of the hospital, a larch arm truck was parked by a group of nurses and doctors.

Comrade Li: They have arrived for you at a good time! After they haul you away, it will be your mother’s turn. She will have to confess that she ordered you to kill this loyal Young Pioneer.

Narrator 1: Despair overcame Ling. She thought about hitting Comrade Li with her spatula. As if reading her mind, Pimple Face took the wok and spatula away from Ling.

Comrade Li: Hello, comrades! Here is your little bourgeois prisoner.

Belly: No. We are here for you! You are under arrest for being in Jiang Qing’s gang.

Chopstick: You think you are untouchable?

Comrade Li: I am a real Maoist. You can’t treat me like this!

Chopstick: You are not a Maoist. You’re just a rotten shrimp in Jiang Qing’s gang.

Narrator 2: The two policemen twisted Comrade Li’s arms behind his back and handcuffed his wrists.
Comrade Li: You can’t treat me like this! I love Chairman Mao!

Chopstick: Shut up! We have put Jiang Qing in jail, and now we can treat you any way we want!

Narrator 1: Ling felt relief as she watched the crowd turn on Comrade Li. It was over, she say Father and Mother. She had dreamt of this moment. It was over!

Father: Come here my beautiful girl

Mother: The new party secretary in the hospital decided you father has completed his reeducation. He will be working as a doctor again

Father: I would have been home earlier. But the police wanted to make only one trip. I had to wait until they were ready to arrest Comrade Li and Comrade Sin. Oh, we can’t call them Comrade anymore, can we?

Narrator 2: They all laughed and Ling looked up at a portrait of Mao’s smiling face and vowed to herself that someday she would find her way to the Golden Gate Bridge.
Angry Tiger

1. When one of Ling’s classmates threatens to cut off her long hair, Ling threatens to kill the boy. When Ling’s mother wants her to apologize to the boy to avoid trouble, she refuses. Do you think Ling should have followed her mother’s wish to bend like “bamboo in the wind” or was staying an “angry tiger” the right thing to do?

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2. When Ling stands up to her classmates she is acting very much like her father who often stood up for what he believed. Still, what do you think Ling’s father would have wanted Ling to do if he had been home? Do you think he would have wanted her to apologize? Why or Why not?

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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. What would you have done if you had been pushed around and threatened like Ling?

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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
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**“Little Flower” to “Angry Tiger”**

Just as Comrade Li suggests, Ling does spend four years growing outside her “greenhouse.” By the end of the four years she is definitely not a “little flower” but in what ways do you think she has grown and maybe even blossomed? Use the chart below to help organize your thoughts, and then write a paragraph to answer the question. An example has been completed for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At first Ling . . .</th>
<th>But by the end of the novel she . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- was picky about what she ate and would complain about food her mother served</td>
<td>- realized what it was like to have very little food and appreciated what she had</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing Powerful Questions

As you read each section, write your own powerful questions. Try to write questions that you need to ‘think’ about in order to answer. After writing your questions for each chapter, swap with a friend and answer each other’s questions!

Chapter 15: Angry Tiger

Question #1: __________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
Answer: ______________________________________________
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______________________________________________________

Question #2: __________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
Answer: ______________________________________________
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Question #3: __________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
Answer: ______________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
Chapter 16: Too Proud to Bend

Question #1: ____________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
Answer: __________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Question #2: ____________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
Answer: __________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Question #3: ____________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
Answer: __________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Chapter 17: Waiting for Daddy

Question #1: ____________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
Answer: __________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Question #2: ____________________________________________

Answer: _____________________________________________

Question #3: ____________________________________________

Answer: _____________________________________________

Chapter 18: Howling Wolf

Question #1: ____________________________________________

Answer: _____________________________________________

Question #2: ____________________________________________

Answer: _____________________________________________
Question #3: ________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Answer: ________________________________________________________________

_______________________________

Chapter 19: Pig Fat

Question #1: ________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Answer: ________________________________________________________________

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Question #2: ________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Answer: ________________________________________________________________

_______________________________

Question #3: ________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Answer: ________________________________________________________________

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Chapter 20: Golden Gate Bridge

Question #1: ____________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________
Answer: ____________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________
Question #2: ____________________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________________
Answer: ____________________________________________________________
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Question #3: ____________________________________________________________
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Answer: ____________________________________________________________
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Final Questions for the Teacher:

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Treating Comrade Sin

1. What were barefoot doctors?

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

2. Why do you think Comrade Sin and other members of the Red Guard would not want to have a barefoot doctor operate on them?

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

3. After throwing Dr. Chang in jail, why did the Red Guard keep him close to a hospital instead of sending him to a labour camp?

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

4. The Red Guard treated Ling’s Father very poorly, yet he still willingly operated on Comrade Sin. In part two of the novel, Ling recalls the Physician’s Creed. Dr. Chang used “to tell the young doctors who came to visit that [the Physician’s Creed] was the best guidance for anyone who wanted to be a doctor.” Referring back to the physician’s creed, why do you think Dr. Chang operated on Comrade Sin?

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

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____________________________________________________________________________
5. Dr. Chang also operated on Nui, who had betrayed him and his family. How did Nui react to this?

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

6. Do you think Dr. Chang made the right choice? Why or why not?

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Art Box: Draw a Picture of Dr. Chang operating on Comrade Sin
Name: ______________  Date: ____________

Figurative and Descriptive Language

In Part Three, find 4 examples of figurative and descriptive language. Write the phrases you choose in the banner, and then draw a picture.
Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

After the Book
After the Novel: Research Ideas

As you read Revolution is Not a Dinner Party, you were introduced to several aspects of Chinese Culture. Choose one of the following topics and research it in more depth. Then create an oral presentation. Use the rubric provided by your teacher to ensure that you fully meet criteria.

Possible Research Topics:

- Cultural Revolution
- Mao Zedong
- The Red Guard
- Traditional Foods of China
- Chinese New Year
- The Communist Part of China
- The Yangtze River
- Propaganda Films (Chinese)
- Labour Camps
- Human Rights
- The Rights of a Child (UN)
- Geography of China

Do you have a great idea? Ask your Teacher.
Other Post Novel Ideas

1. **Create a Stop Motion Animation Movie.** Assign each student an episode in the novel. Have them draw the scene, without Ling. Then have Ling travel through the episodes. Stitch them together, and the class has created their own movie!

2. **Make a CD: The Greatest Hits of Revolution is Not a Dinner Party.** Have students create a mock CD and a CD cover. They should include the songs from the novel, and then add their own songs related to the novel. Example of an original song could be “I am a Tiger, I am a Fighter”.

3. **Make a Time Line.** Create an illustrated time line to show the significant events in Ling’s life. This could easily be done in groups or as an entire class.

4. **TV Interview.** With a partner, create a TV interview. One student is a character from the novel and another student is the interviewer. Be sure that the questions and responses provide insight into the characters. Be sure to assign a variety of characters, including a few of the minor characters. Possible choices include Ling, Mr. Chang, Mrs. Chang, Nui, Comrade Li, Mrs. Wong, and Gao.

5. **Propaganda Posters.** Research propaganda posters and look at examples of posters made by Mao and his followers. Then have the students create their own propaganda posters. They should make one from the novel and then try to make a modern propaganda poster about an idea they think everyone should agree with!