

Summer Assignment
8th Grade History
Mr. Spear

Directions: Your summer assignment for History 8 is to read:

Red Scarf Girl
by Ji-Li Jiang
(ISBN # - 978-0064462082)

In preparation for class discussion, answer the following questions in type-written responses. This assignment will be collected on the first day of class.

The Cultural Revolution and its Implementation

- What was the Cultural Revolution? What were its objectives?
- What were the Four Olds? What methods did the Cultural Revolution use to eliminate the Four Olds? Provide examples.
- What were some of the statements written on *da-zi-bao*'s? How do they reflect the mission of the Cultural Revolution?

Impact on Relationships

- Do the events of the Cultural Revolution strengthen the bonds between Ji-Li's family or weaken them? Does she ever place country before family? What are some examples when she is forced to choose between the two? What does she choose?
- What impact does the Cultural Revolution have on other families in the book? Be able to provide several examples.
- How does the Cultural Revolution influence the relationships that Ji-Li has with her classmates? How does it unify them? How does it divide them? Provide examples.

Evolution of Ji-Li

- How does Ji-Li's feeling toward Chairman Mao evolve during the story? Are there specific events that cause her feelings toward Mao to change?

Historical Impact of the Cultural Revolution on China

- How did the revolution impact education? What was Ji-Li taught? What skills and content were neglected? How might this curriculum have affected China's economic development? How does this contribute to the 'Lost Generation' mentioned in the David Henry Hwang's *Forward*?

- The Cultural Revolution attempted to unify China's citizens around a common objective? Did it succeed? Why/why not?

Historical Connections

- Is Ji-Li's story similar to any other historical time periods that you have studied? Explain.