Selection Review #1

Dragonwings

Chapters 1 and 2

1. Why has Moon Shadow never met his father? Windrider left his home in China before his son was born. He went to work in America to make money to send home to his wife and son. Moon Shadow’s mother has stayed in China because her husband does not have enough money to bring her to America. Also, her Chinese clan members do not want her to go, because the money her husband sends her helps support the local economy.

2. How does this change when Moon Shadow is eight? Why? When Moon Shadow is eight, his father sends for him. His father says that Moon Shadow will learn English faster while he is young. Perhaps he also wants his son to become a man under his father’s guidance. Moon Shadow’s mother does not think he is old enough to leave yet. However, Moon Shadow decides that he wants to be with his father, so his mother has to let him go.

3. Contrast the houses of the white people with those of the Tang people in America. The houses of the white people seem drab, boring, and box-like to Moon Shadow. They all look alike and are painted in dull colors. The Tang houses, on the other hand, are brightly colored. They have arched roofs, courtyards, and other Chinese features. Most of the white people’s buildings that Moon Shadow sees are saloons, brothels, or gambling houses. They smell like sweat, cheap liquor, and vomit, while the Company house smells like soap, food, and sweat.

4. What problems do the Chinese immigrants have with the white people? How does this affect Moon Shadow? The white people in California often mistreat the Chinese. The Chinese live in fear of mob violence, lynching, and beatings. They have learned to survive by being meek and quiet, even when they are mistreated. We can tell that Moon Shadow’s arrival in America will not be easy. Because life in America has been difficult for the Chinese men, some, like Lefty, have made serious mistakes. Others, like Black Dog, have become evil. We can already guess that Black Dog is going to be a troublemaker in the story.

5. Describe the relationship between Black Dog and his father. In the Chinese tradition, Black Dog should respect and obey his father, even as an adult. Black Dog resents his father but does respect him to some degree. For example, when his father asks why he did not come to welcome Moon Shadow earlier, Black Dog offers a lame excuse instead of openly defying his father. Like the other Company members, Black Dog offers Moon Shadow a gift, but it is an inappropriate one. Black Dog is involved with gambling and drugs and has become an opium addict. He is a disgrace to his family, and his father is deeply ashamed of him.
Selection Review #2

Dragonwings

Chapters 3 and 4

1. **What did Windrider experience with the Dragon King? How has this affected him?** Windrider believes he met the Dragon King. The Dragon King told him that he was a great healer and flier in his past life as a dragon. He healed the Dragon King’s wound and flew with him all over the world. The Dragon King told him he could become a dragon again at the end of his life as a man if he passed the tests he would be given. This makes Windrider want to fly even more.

2. **How are Uncle and Windrider different?** Windrider is more idealistic than Uncle. He dreams of being able to fly. Uncle is more down to earth and says this is foolish. Windrider also wanted to bring his wife to America. Uncle disagrees and thinks this is too idealistic. Windrider is more compassionate than Uncle and does not want to give up on anyone. Uncle, on the other hand, is so proud that he does not like to ask for help or admit his mistakes.

3. **Why is chapter four called “Tests”? What tests does Windrider face?** Windrider faces tests of bravery, kindness, and skill with machines. Moon Shadow thinks the meeting with Mr. Alger was a test. Windrider fixes Mr. Alger’s car even though he never handled a car before. He also refuses to accept a reward for his service. Windrider’s bravery and loyalty to the Company are tested when he goes to search for Black Dog. He risks his own life to save Black Dog.

4. **What dreams does Windrider have? How does he pursue them?** Windrider once dreamed of bringing his wife and son to America. He has been able to bring his son to America but is not yet able to bring his wife. He also dreams of flying as dragons do. He studies American newspapers and magazines to learn about the Wright brothers and other early fliers. He would like to build an airplane. Meanwhile, he learns about new inventions such as the electric light bulb, the radio, and the auto. Windrider has many small models of such machines in his room.

5. **What role do brotherhoods like the Company play for the Chinese immigrants?** The Company and other brotherhoods serve as extended families. The members help each other financially and emotionally. They also protect each other and help keep order within the Tang community. They try to make sure the members follow rules and act responsibly.
Selection Review #3

*Dragonwings*

Chapters 5 and 6

1. **How do Uncle, Windrider, and the others feel when Black Dog robs and beats Moon Shadow? Why do they disagree about the way to respond?** Windrider wants to take revenge on Black Dog for his crime. However, in Chinese tradition, he should go through Black Dog’s brotherhood to obtain justice. Windrider is tired of dealing with the brotherhoods. He knows that some of their leaders are involved with drugs and crime. He suggests going to the American police. Uncle is ready to disown Black Dog. Still, he thinks the Tang people should take care of their own affairs and not go to the police. Windrider finally decides to take his revenge the Chinese way.

2. **What happens between Windrider and Black Dog?** Windrider goes to see Black Dog at his brotherhood to punish him. Windrider and Black Dog are going to fight man to man with short swords. However, another man from the brotherhood tries to shoot Windrider. When Moon Shadow stops the gunman, he tries to shoot Moon Shadow. Windrider kills him to protect his son.

3. **Why does Windrider decide to live outside the Tang section of town? How do Uncle and the other men feel about this?** Windrider decides to live among the white people for several reasons. First, he has killed a man. Someone in the dead man’s brotherhood may want to avenge that death. Second, he is tired of submitting to the brotherhoods, which he feels are corrupt. Finally, he hopes to have a better chance at fulfilling his dreams by living on his own among the white people. However, Uncle and the other men are afraid for Windrider. They wonder whether he is ready to live on his own.

4. **How does Moon Shadow feel about moving to the demon section of town?** Moon Shadow wants to be with his father but is terrified to live among the demons. There are many new, unfamiliar things that frighten him.

5. **Describe what happens when Moon Shadow and Windrider visit Miss Whitlaw.** When Moon Shadow and his father visit Miss Whitlaw, she is friendly, hospitable, and kind. She has obviously prepared for their visit and enjoys their company. She introduces them to her niece, Robin, who is the same age as Moon Shadow.

6. **What does Miss Whitlaw think about dragons? Why does this bother Moon Shadow?** Miss Whitlaw thinks of dragons as huge scary monsters that should be killed. This bothers Moon Shadow because the Chinese have great respect for dragons. Moon Shadow thinks of dragons as powerful, magical creatures that are almost godlike. He knows that his father, Windrider, thinks he was a dragon in his past life. Moon Shadow is very upset when Miss Whitlaw says dragons are bad. This goes against everything he believes.
Selection Review #4

Dragonwings

Chapters 7 and 8

1. How does the friendship between Moon Shadow and Robin grow in these chapters? At the beginning of Chapter 7, Robin is curious about Moon Shadow. She follows him around, but he is aloof and a little scared of her. She thinks he is afraid of the water pump and tells him this is crazy. She and Moon Shadow begin to spend time together and learn to trust each other. Robin tags along when Moon Shadow and Windrider go out to fly their gliders. Moon Shadow shows Robin his father’s books about flight. She shares her novels with him and teaches him how to read better. Robin also lets Moon Shadow know how he can stand up to Jack, the neighborhood bully.

2. How does the friendship between the Lees and Miss Whitlaw develop? Miss Whitlaw encourages Moon Shadow to have tea with her. She helps him with his English and reads his stories about dragons. She helps him write a letter to the Wright brothers. When Windrider reacts in anger, Miss Whitlaw gives Moon Shadow good advice. She encourages Mr. Lee’s dreams of flying and goes on outings with the Lees to fly his gliders.

3. How does the correspondence with the Wrights begin? How does Mr. Lee feel about this? When Moon Shadow writes the Wright brothers to ask for advice about flying, Mr. Lee is angry at first. He thinks this is like begging. He relents when he considers their gracious reply. In their letter, they treat him as a fellow flight pioneer. He feels better when he is able to give a gift to the Wrights in thanks for their help.

4. The theme of personal pride and respect for others comes up several times. List incidents in these chapters in which characters respect others and choose not to embarrass them. There are several examples of respect for others. Miss Whitlaw shows great respect to the Lees. She accepts their small gifts. She does not laugh at the way they speak English or their beliefs about dragons. She also does not scoff at Windrider’s desire to fly. Mr. Lee does not tell Miss Whitlaw that she is wrong about dragons. He also welcomes Robin when she wants to take part in his glider tests. Robin and Moon Shadow are not quite as polite as their elders. Still, Robin does not tease Moon Shadow for being afraid of Jack. Instead, she helps him by telling him what Jack is afraid of. Also, she does not make fun of Moon Shadow because he cannot speak or read English well. Instead, she shares her books with him and helps him learn to read.
Selection Review #5

*Dragonwings*

Chapters 9 and 10

1. **Tell how Windrider and Uncle make up their quarrel.** Windrider and Uncle make up their quarrel at a holiday called the Feast of Pure Brightness. This is a day when the Chinese visit the graveyard to honor their dead friends and relatives. Uncle sends Old Deerfoot to offer Windrider and Moon Shadow a ride to the graveyard. Windrider knows that this is Uncle’s way of offering to make up, so he agrees. When the men of the Company come, Moon Shadow and Windrider are glad to see them and spend the day with them.

2. **How does the earthquake bring out the best and worst in people? Give examples.** The earthquake brings out both the best and worst in the survivors. Some, like Miss Whitlaw, work very hard to rescue and help others. Miss Whitlaw gathers a large team to rescue those trapped in the rubble. Many of these workers are reluctant to help at first, but Miss Whitlaw convinces them. Mr. Lee and Moon Shadow risk their own lives to help dig people out of the rubble near buildings that are about to fall down. Miss Whitlaw and the Chinese men of the Company get to know each other in the refugee camp. They visit each other and share meals and stories. However, other people seize the chance to rob and loot. Miss Whitlaw’s tenants scurry away, thinking only of themselves. A man tries to rob Miss Whitlaw. Even some soldiers loot and steal. The white officials force the Chinese to leave the tent city. They move them from one place to another for several weeks. They also try to prevent the Chinese from rebuilding on their own land.

3. **What strong values of the Chinese community do we see in these chapters? How do these values help them after the earthquake?** The Chinese place a high value on helping one another, loyalty to family, and loyalty to the group. These values are very helpful to them after the earthquake. Uncle’s old “classmate” helps him move the Company’s possessions to a safe place. The men of the Company refuse to let Uncle stay behind alone; they stay with him until he agrees to go with them to the camp. When the soldiers force the Chinese to leave the tent city, the Chinese leaders work together to resolve the problems. They threaten to move out of San Francisco. The city leaders know that San Francisco needs the Chinese workers and shopkeepers. They are forced to respect the rights of the Chinese community. Chinese people come from all over America to help the Chinese community in San Francisco rebuild. Even those who cannot come send gifts and money for the rebuilding.

*continued...*
4. How does the quake affect Windrider’s dream of flying? How does Moon Shadow feel about this? How do his feelings change? Windrider puts off his dream of flying to help the Company rebuild. However, he soon becomes restless. After four months, he decides to leave to build his airplane and become a pilot. At first Moon Shadow is sad and frightened. He feels that his father’s dream is more important to him than his family and son. He senses that the dream of flying is taking his father away from him. When Windrider announces that he is leaving to pursue his dream of building a flying machine, he is going against cultural expectations, and Uncle is shocked. He says that Windrider must put his family first. Moon Shadow sees how much it hurts his father to give up this dream. He realizes Windrider does need him in order to pursue the dream. He tells Windrider that he will come with him to build and fly the airplane.
Selection Review #6

Dragonwings

Chapters 11 and 12 and Afterword

1. How has Moon Shadow’s view of life in America changed since he first arrived? When Moon Shadow first came to America, he expected to see a Golden Mountain. He was disappointed to learn that this mountain did not exist. He was afraid of white people and called them “demons.” Moon Shadow thought all white people were evil and very different from the Chinese. He expected them to beat, rob, or lynch Tang people. Some white people have in fact treated Moon Shadow badly. However, one of his relatives, Black Dog, has also hurt him very much. He learns that no one ethnic group is always evil or always good. Moon Shadow’s friendship with Miss Whitlaw and Robin teaches him that white people can be kind and thoughtful. By the end of the book, he sees his friendship with Miss Whitlaw, Robin, and the men of the Company as a true treasure. He knows that these friendships are better than any Golden Mountain.

2. Describe Moon Shadow’s life during the three years that his father works on the airplane. Why does he say that he was “uncomfortable, but not unhappy” during this time? During these three years, Windrider and Moon Shadow live in a big, drafty empty barn that smells of horses. Moon Shadow works very hard. He earns money and does the cooking and house-keeping. This allows his father to spend most of his time on the airplane. Moon Shadow is often cold or hungry and usually tired. Moon Shadow says he was uncomfortable because of these physical hardships. Still, he was not unhappy, because he and his father were working toward a dream that they both believed in.

3. What does Black Dog do? What are Moon Shadow’s feelings toward him? Black Dog wants the money Moon Shadow and Windrider have saved. He attacks Moon Shadow and threatens to kill him. Windrider gives Black Dog the money to save Moon Shadow from harm. Moon Shadow is angry with Black Dog for taking the little money that he and his father had left. Now they have no many to pay the rent or hire a wagon to move the airplane. However, he also feels sorry for Black Dog. He sees that Black Dog is a pitiful person who has no hope and no dreams. Moon Shadow realizes Black Dog is jealous of the hope that he and Windrider have.

continued...
4. How did the men of the Company feel about Windrider's dream in the beginning of the book? How do they feel about it at the end? At the beginning of the story, the men of the Company did not understand Windrider's dream. Uncle thought it was foolish, and that his nephew would never fly. However, in the final chapter, the men of the Company come to Windrider's rescue. They encourage him, pay his rent, and help him haul Dragonwings up the hill. Uncle also loans Windrider a large amount of money so that he can become a partner in the Company. In this way, Windrider can fulfill his other dream: to bring his wife to America.

5. How do Windrider's dreams change in this book? As the story opens, Windrider has two dreams. One is to bring his wife and son to America. The other is to prove his "dragon-ness" by building and flying an airplane. Windrider brings his son to America. However, he spends so much time, money, and energy on his dream of flying that he cannot bring his wife to America. When he finally fulfills his dream of flight, he realizes his family is really more important to him than the airplane. He decides to focus on bringing his wife to America instead of building another airplane.
Literature Test #1

Dragonwings

Chapters 1 and 2

1. Describe Moon Shadow's family situation, and explain why he travels to America when he is eight years old.

2. List and describe at least three members of the “Company” that Moon Shadow's father belongs to.
3. How are the Tang people’s houses in America different from those of the white people?

4. How do most white Americans in San Francisco treat the Chinese immigrants? How do the Chinese respond to this treatment? Give an example.
1. Describe Windrider’s encounter with the Dragon King. Explain why this is important for him.

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2. Tell how Windrider and Uncle’s personalities differ. Give examples.

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continued...
3. Moon Shadow thinks the challenges Windrider faces in everyday life are tests sent by the Dragon King. Tell about two “tests” that Windrider passes.

4. Describe Windrider’s dreams. Tell how he goes about making them come true.
Literature Test #3

Dragonwings

Chapters 5 and 6

1. Why does Windrider want to punish Black Dog? What happens when he goes to find Black Dog?

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2. Give at least two reasons why Windrider wants to live outside the Chinese (Tang) section of town. How do the other members of the Company respond to his plan?

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continued...
3. What kind of person is Miss Whitlaw? How does she treat Windrider and Moon Shadow?


4. List several things that Moon Shadow finds surprising or shocking when he visits Miss Whitlaw.


Literature Test #4

Dragonwings

Chapters 7 and 8

1. In what ways is Robin similar to and different from her aunt? How does she develop a friendship with Moon Shadow?

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2. Why does Moon Shadow send a letter to the Wrights? How does his father respond when they write back?

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continued...
3. What does Robin realize about Moon Shadow’s fears? How does she help him find his “dragon-ness”?

4. The theme of pride and respect for others is important in these chapters. Describe two cases in which characters show respect for others.
Literature Test #5

Dragonwings

Chapters 9 and 10

1. The earthquake brings out both the best and the worst in people. In the T-chart below, list two examples of ways some people act as heroes in this time of crisis, and two examples of selfish, dishonest, or irresponsible reactions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Best: Ways People Act as Heroes</th>
<th>The Worst: Ways People Act Wrongly</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. Strong Chinese cultural values are very important during and after the earthquake and fire. Give examples of these values, and list some ways they help the Chinese people in this time of crisis.

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continued...
3. How is the friendship between Miss Whitlaw, Robin, Moon Shadow, and Windrider expressed in these chapters? Give some examples. Why do the other people living in the tent city find this friendship surprising?

4. How does the earthquake affect Windrider’s plan to build an airplane? How do Moon Shadow’s feelings about this change?
Literature Test #6

Dragonwings

Chapters 11 and 12 and Afterword

1. How has Moon Shadow's view of the people in America changed since he first arrived? What does he see as his real treasure in America?

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2. What is hard about Moon Shadow's life while his father works on the airplane? Why does Moon Shadow feel that it is a good life anyway?

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continued...
3. How does Black Dog spoil Windrider’s plan? Why does Moon Shadow feel sorry for Black Dog?

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4. What important decision does Windrider make after the airplane crashes?

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Vocabulary Test #1

*Dragonwings*

Chapters 1 and 2

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

reckoning immigrants nimbly

testimony amiably prosperity

unperturbed conventional unintelligible
Vocabulary Test #2

*Dragonwings*

Chapters 3 and 4

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

- fragile
- meticulous
- mournful
- malicious
- vast
- precaution
- retain
- obligations
- intuitive
Vocabulary Test #3

Dragonwings

Chapters 5 and 6

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>moderation</th>
<th>prudent</th>
<th>vigorously</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reluctantly</td>
<td>methodical</td>
<td>exasperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compensation</td>
<td>illusion</td>
<td>benevolent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary Test #4

Dragonwings

Chapters 7 and 8

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

preliminary
tentatively
sullenly
skeptical
vehemently
exhilarating
correspondence
Vocabulary Test #5

Dragonwings

Chapters 9 and 10

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

boisterous  adversity  improvised
omiously  contemptuously  perpetual
Vocabulary Test #6

Dragonwings

Chapters 11 and 12 and Afterword

WRITE SENTENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

lofty    perspective    immense
shrewd    auspicious    petty
tact      spontaneously