

The Jade Dragonball
by Scott Lauder and David Ross
Reading activities

A. Pre-reading questions

Having read the title and information on the book cover, what do you think this book is about? What genre is it?

1. What are hares? How are they different from rabbits?	
2. Which of the following are true? a) A rabbit is one of the animals in the Chinese zodiac b) In Chinese mythology, the Moon Rabbit has a mortar and pestle, which it uses to grind the Elixir of Life c) Hares are the fastest land animal in Britain d) In India, it is considered unlucky to meet a hare.	
3. What is jade? Where is it found?	
4. How many colours of jade are there? Choose the correct answer. a) only green b) red and green c) numerous colours	
5. In Book 1, The Jade Dragonball, the story takes place in Scotland and China. Are the following places in Scotland (S) or China (C)? a) The Palace Museum b) The Glenfinnan viaduct c) The Eastern Prosperity Gate d) The River Clyde f) Fort William g) The Forbidden City h) Ben Nevis i) Bianjing	
6. In Book 1, The Jade Dragonball, Sara's mother is from China and her father is from Scotland, but Sara only speaks English at home. Can you guess why?	
7. What do you think is inside the jade dragonball? (Take a guess!)	

8. Shan Mu is a boy who lived in the Song Dynasty in ancient China. What do you think is the connection he has with Sara, who lives in modern day Beijing? (Take a guess!)	
9. When Sara visits ancient China, she is given an object of great importance. What do you think it might be? (Take a guess!)	
10. At the end of the story, Sara tries to get a job. What kind of job do you think she wants? (Take a guess!)	

B. Chapter activities

	Factual (according to the text)	Opinion	Personal experience	Mini-projects	Culture/history
PART ONE Chapter 1 Page 2	1. What happened in Sara’s Physics class? 2. Sara likes learning new words. Which new word does she learn in this chapter?	1. After Sara sees the first vision, she doesn’t tell her mother or father about it. Why not?	1. Has your stomach ever made a loud, embarrassing noise? 2. Have you ever NOT kept a secret?	1. Using three adjectives, describe Sara in this chapter. 2. Write as many words as you can in one minute that mean the same as ‘frightening’.	1. In Chinese culture, why are dragons important? What do they control? What do they symbolise? Look at this site: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_dragon
Chapter 2 Page 5	1. How long do cicadas stay underground? 2. Who does Sara sit beside in the school bus?	1. In this chapter, Sara thinks she sees a giant book with her name in it. What do you think this means?	1. Sara has to take the bus to school. How do you travel to your school? Is it boring? 2. What’s the most interesting thing you do at school?	1. How loud are cicadas? 2. What are some of the loudest natural sounds on Earth?	1. <i>The Thirty-Six Stratagems</i> also recommends that a general should: “sacrifice a plum tree to preserve the peach tree” What do you think this means?
Chapter 3 Page 8	1. What is Sara’s favourite subject at school? 2. Whose birthday party is it tonight?	1. Why do the Ferdinand brothers pick on Sara? 2. Why do you think the bridge in the scroll is called the Rainbow Bridge?	1. Have you ever had a birthday party in a restaurant or a mall?	1. Write what you think Ms Ling should say to the Ferdinand brothers. 2. Make a short play about a teacher talking to a bully. What does the teacher say? What does the bully say? 3. Can you build a strong bridge using only paper and sellotape?	1. Look at a picture of the Qingming scroll and find the ship that is under the Rainbow Bridge. How will it escape? See: http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/song-scroll/song.html 2. Look at this website to see a reconstruction of the Rainbow Bridge https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempire/china/builds.html

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Chapter 4 Page 13	1. Where is Joaquin going in the summer holidays? 2. In which volcano is fingerite found?	1. Why does Sara laugh when she hears the name 'fingerite'? 2. What does Joaquin mean when he says 'every journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step'?	1. Joaquin and Lily are interested in the environment. What are you interested in? 2. Lily and Joaquin are Sara's best friends. Who are yours and why?	1. Chose someone in this chapter and make a short poem about them. 2. Make a graph of Sara's heartbeat throughout this chapter. On the (horizontal) X-axis use 'Time' and on the (vertical) Y-axis use Heartbeats per Minute'	1. Lily wants to visit the Colosseum in Italy. When was it built? what was it used for? 2. Laozi was a famous Chinese philosopher. Choose the Laozi quote that you like best. https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/lao_tzu
Chapter 5 Page 18	1. How old is the person who owns Bai Lu? 2. Why does Chan look much older than he really is?	1. What do you think Sara saw on Shan Wu's arm when he reached out to touch her? 2. Why does Sara not feel confident about applying for the job in the school magazine?	1. Have you ever felt you couldn't do something but then succeeded in doing it? 2. If you could choose to write about anything for a school magazine, what would it be?	1. What is the difference between zooplankton and phytoplankton? 2. In pairs, write a scene about an interview for a job - one person is the interviewer and the other the interviewee.	1. What is the Silk Road and what were its greatest years? See: http://www.thesilkroadchina.com/fact-v11-the-silk-road-history.html
PART TWO Chapter 6 Page 24	1. How old was Shan Mu? 2. Why did Baojun's retainers come to the village?	1. Why do you think Shan Tuo looked much older than Shan Wu? 2. Why did Shan Tuo keep a cricket? 3. Who do you think was more afraid of Baojun's retainers, Shan Mu or Shan Tuo?	1. What does it mean to be brave? Have you ever been brave?	1. In your class, conduct a survey. Ask these questions: In your opinion: What is the most frightening animal? Who is the most frightening person? What is the most frightening movie or book?	There are two basic types of swords in ancient China. 1. What are they? See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_swords 2. The Sword of Goujian is a famous Chinese artefact. How old is it? What is it made of? See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sword_of_Goujian
Chapter 7 Page 28	1. What does Shan Mu's father have on his arm? 2. What does the tattoo say?	1. Why does the retainer kill Shan Mu's father? 2. Why do the retainers not care about the villagers?	1. Do you know someone with a tattoo? If you do, describe or draw it.	1. What does 'hegemon' mean? Write three synonyms (words with a similar meaning). 2. Write a summary of this chapter using no more than 50 words.	1. What kind of punishment was Ci Pei? See: http://en.chinaculture.org/2014-12/30/content_589505.htm 2. The mother of a famous Chinese general called Yueh Fei put a tattoo on her son's back. What did the tattoo say?

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Chapter 8 Page 31	1. How did Shan Mu catch the rat? 2. How many days had it snowed?	1. Why does Shan Mu's mother refuse to eat the rat? 2. Why does Shan Mu's World Beyond begin to change?	1. What's the worst thing you have ever eaten?	Can you re-write this chapter from Shan Tuo's point of view? What is he thinking? What does he want to say?	1. Which of these provinces in China has the most snow? a) Heilongjiang b) Guangdong c) Hainan
Chapter 9 Page 33	1. Who does Shan Mu speak to in the world beyond? 2. Who dies in this chapter and how?	1. Why does Tian Lan tell Shan Mu to return to the world of things?	1. Have you ever slept on the ground (for example, in a tent)?	1. How many calories do the following activities usually burn in an hour: a) watching TV b) walking c) running 2. Tian Lan carries a small sack containing what he needs. If you had to choose seven things to carry with you into the wilderness, what would you take?	1. What is the connection between these places? a) India, 1876-1878; b) Ireland, 1845-1849; c) China, 1958-1961; d) Russia, 1932-33
Chapter 10 Page 36	1. When did Shan Mu's fever begin? 2. What did Tian Lan give Shan Mu to eat?	1. Shan Mu says that Tian Lan's words are 'like mist'. What does he mean? 2. Why did Shan Mu decide to follow Tian Lan and leave the village? 3. Is Shan Mu justified in being angry with Tian Lan?	1. When was the last time you were angry with someone? How did you solve the problem?	1. What are five words that are synonyms for 'conflict'? 2. What are five words that are synonyms for 'friends'?	1. What is a loupan and why is it used? See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luopan
Chapter 11 Page 42	1. Which Chinese character did Tian Lan write on the rock? 2. Which book did Tian Lan carry with him? 3. How many Immortals live in the Jade palace?	1. Do you think Tian Lan respects Confucius's work? 2. Do you agree that <i>ren</i> (goodness towards other people) should be shown to everyone?	1. Shan Mu becomes better and better at calligraphy. What have you learned to do better recently?	1. Search for and write the Chinese characters for 'I', 'you', and 'this'. 2. Who was Li Gonglin and what is his connection to Confucianism? See: https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/39895	1. Where in China are the Kunlun Mountains? 2. What is calligraphy and why is it important in China? 3. Approximately how many Chinese characters are there? Choose the correct answer: a) 40,000 b) 80,000 c) 120,000

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Chapter 12 Page 47	1. Does Tian Lan want Shan Mu take take revenge? 2. What is Shan Mu's new name?	1. Why do you think Shan Mu changes his own name? 2. At the end of the chapter, Shan Wu leaves Tian Lan. Why?	1. Shan Wu enters the Taklamakan desert. Where is the hottest place you have been? What is the coldest?	1. Look for the Taklamakan desert on a map. Did merchants following the ancient Silk Road go through it? See: https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/idp_silkroad_083115.jpg	1. The Buddhist monk Xuanzang travelled across the Taklamakan desert. What is the name of the 16th Century novel his travels inspired? See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xuanzang#In_fiction Who wrote this book? Which Netflix series was inspired by the book?
PART THREE Chapter 13 Page 56	1. Where did the school bus stop to drop off Sara? 2. Where is Pizzapie?	1. When Sara's mother suggests that Granny Tang pop in, Sara quickly says there is no need. Why?	1. Granny Tang lives in the same apartment block as Sara. Do your grandparents (or uncles or aunts) live close to you?	1. This chapter is about 1,100 words long. Can you write a good summary of it using just 75 words?	1. Granny Tang says she loved The Monkey King story. Who did The Monkey King protect? See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Wukong
Chapter 14 Page 60	1. What did the logo on Sara's t-shirt say? 2. Whose birthday party did Sara attend?	1. Why did Sara pretend she was asleep when her mother came into her bedroom? 2. Why was her computer making a funny noise?	1. When was the last time you had trouble with your computer or mobile phone?	1. Write five synonyms for 'unhappy' 2. Make a chart of Sara's happiness in this chapter. On the X-axis, use 'Time', and on the Y-axis, use 'Happiness'.	1. Apart from a birthday cake, what other food do many Chinese people eat on birthdays? See: https://theculturetrip.com/asia/china/articles/chinese-people-celebrate-birthdays/
Chapter 15 Page 64	1. Which musical instrument does Sara play? 2. What kind of music does Sara's father like?	1. Skyscrapers are common in Kowloon, which is an area of Hong Kong. Why? 2. Why did Sara clap when she found out that Martin Fröst was playing in the Wigmore Hall?	1. Have you ever been in a skyscraper? 2. What kind of music do you like?	1. Which city has the greatest number of skyscrapers in the world? When and where was the first skyscraper built? 2. Look again at the chapter. Which words can you find in it that describe negative emotions?	1. Which instrument is being played in this Youtube video? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuxTywpBJNI 2. When did Shi Kuang live? See: https://www.theepochtimes.com/shi-kuang-the-deity-of-music_1478451.html

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PART FOUR Chapter 16 Page 70	1. Where did the Sara's class go in order to see the Qingming scroll? 2. Which direction is the scroll unrolled (left to right or right to left)?	1. Why does Sara think the idea of having a six-metre scroll hanging on the wall is silly? 2. Is it such a silly idea?	1. When was the last time you visited a museum? Which museum was it?	1. Who painted the Qingming scroll? 2. How famous is the picture in China? https://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/china-watch/culture/11861432/china-scroll-painting-beijing-palace-museum.html	1. The Qingming scroll is an example of Shan shui, a traditional style of Chinese painting. What does 'Shan shui' mean? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shan_shui 2. In which Imperial Chinese Dynasty was the Qingming scroll painted?
Chapter 17 Page 75	1. What vegetable does Sara land on top of? 2. Who fell off his horse and landed at Sara's feet?	1. Why does someone want to kill the old man? (take a guess!)	1. Do you like rollercoasters? If so, what is your favourite? Choose five words about rollercoasters.	1. Find out the top speed of the Extreme Rusher rollercoaster See: https://coasterpedia.net/wiki/Extreme_Rusher 2. Is it faster than the fastest rollercoaster in your country?	1. In ancient China, what were tianma? See https://www.telegraph.co.uk/china-watch/culture/tianma-chinas-heavenly-horses/ 2. Why did the Emperor Wu need warhorses? https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/ancient-medieval/silk-road/a/the-silk-road
Chapter 18 Page 80	1. What do the Gang of the White Fawn want? 2. Which member of the Gang of the White Fawn is wearing a black cloak?	1. Why didn't Sara refuse to take the old man's saddlebag? 2. Why did Sara jump in the river?	1. Have you ever ridden a horse? 2. A horse is one of the animals in the Chinese Zodiac. What is your sign?	1. What are the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac? 2. Make a list of your friends and their Chinese zodiac signs. 2. Sara's zodiac sign is a rabbit. Do you think this suits her?	1. Who was the real Wan Yi? See: https://zhang.digitalscholar.rochester.edu/china/once-upon-a-time/wan_li/ 2. How would you describe her life?
Chapter 19 Page 86	1. How did Sara injure her leg? 2. Who is Zhao Taicheng?	1. Why did the crew of the ship not notice that they were approaching the bridge? 2. Do you think Sara is a strong swimmer?	1. Have you ever been on a boat? What was it like? Did you feel seasick?	1. What is a junk? See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junk_(ship) 2. Match these words to the appropriate part in the chapter. When is Sara: a) desperate b) over-confident c) struggling d) shocked?	1. When did the Song Dynasty begin and end? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song_dynasty 2. The Song dynasty broke into two parts. What were these called?

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Chapter 20 Page 91	1. At which restaurant in Bianjing did Sara smell onions cooking? 2. What was the man outside Lord Wang's Inn selling?	1. How did Sara react when she looked inside the saddlebag and found the piece of silk? 2 Why did she react this way?	1. When was the last time you had a surprise? Was it a good one or a bad one? What happened?	1. What does the pattern of the piece of silk look like? Can you draw it? 2 Find out what Auspicious Design is. See: https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/arts/silk-design.htm	1. Where in China is the Iron Pagoda? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Pagoda 2. What is the iron pagoda made of and how many earthquakes has it survived?
Chapter 21 Page 95	1. What kind of business does Jinan Lui have?	1. Why does Sara use the word 'serendipity'? 2. Why does Sara describe Jinan Lui's shop as a Chinese Aladdin's cave?	1. What's the longest journey you've ever made? How did you travel? How long did it take? How far did you go?	1. Choose a city along the Silk Road. Give a short presentation about it. https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/silk-road-themes/cities-alongside-silk-roads 2. Make a poster with all the characters in the book so far on it. Give them a short biography.	1. Where does the word 'caravan' come from? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caravan_(travellers) 2. How long did a trip from China to Imperial Rome and back again? https://www.theglobalist.com/a-silk-road-caravan/
Chapter 22 Page 97	1. What does Sara advise Jinan Lui to do? 2. Does Jinan Lui know where Wan Yi lives? 3. Who knows where Wan Yi lives?	1. Why does Jinan Lui start talking about fish and fishing? What does it mean? 2. Did Jinan Lui act dishonestly with Sara?	1. Have you ever bought something because you saw an advert for it? What did you buy? How did the advert persuade you?	1. Use five adjectives to describe Jinan Lui's feelings during this chapter. 2. Imagine you have a shop in Bianjing. What are you selling? What will your advert for it look like? 3. Are adverts good or bad? List their advantages and disadvantages.	1. What was the rabbit in the real advert for Jinan Lui's shop holding? https://youtu.be/GIXvSO39A2E . 2. On what kind of metal was the image for the real Jinan Lui's advert engraved?
Chapter 23 Page 102	1. How many copies of the advert did Jinan Lui make? 2. What animal did Sara see on Madam Zhong's door?	1. Why did Madam Zhong say she "knew the Earth's navel"? 2. Why did Sara think about Granny Tang with "a pang of guilt"?	1. Have you ever done anything that made you feel guilty? 2. Do you believe in fortune tellers? Have you ever had your fortune read?	1. Think about your future and write a short prediction for yourself. What difficulties will you overcome? What will you achieve? 2. Make a poster for The Jade Dragonball	1. Where in China are the Kunlun mountains? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunlun_Mountains 2. Why are the Kunlun mountains important in Chinese mythology? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunlun_(mythology)

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Chapter 24 Page 107	1. How much money does Sara have? 2. Who does Madam Zhong advise Sara to go to next?	1. Why does Sara tighten her grip on the saddlebag? 2. Do you think Sara is tempted by Madam Zhong's offer to buy whatever is in the saddlebag?	1. Sara refuses to sell the contents of the saddlebag to Madam Zhong. What do you have that you would never sell?	1. Find the words in this chapter that mean: a) 'filled with shock'; b) make something stronger; c) goal; d) confused or random e) bring together	1. Watch this episode of The Imperial Physician. How does Tan Yunxian cure the patient's facial paralysis? https://youtu.be/LNu49xrBVWY 2. When did the real Tan Yunxian live? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tan_Yunxian
Chapter 25 Page 111	1. Which emperor ordered Confucius's bones to be smashed? 2. What animal ran out of Confucius's tomb?	1. Why did the children cheer when they heard what happened to the emperor in the Storyteller's tale? 2. How does Sara know that she can tell the Storyteller a story that he has never heard?	1. Who is your favourite character from a book that you have read recently? 2. Have you ever eaten Chinese food? If so, what is your favourite dish?	1. In this chapter, Sara eats qingtuan See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qingtuan This food is usually eaten during the Qingming festival. Make a list of foods that are eaten at special times of the year - in China and elsewhere.	1. In the Chinese story about Ye Xian, her father dies of plague https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ye_Xian and her step-mother treats her badly. Which spirit helps Ye Xian's?
Chapter 26 Page 117	1. What kind of stone was the gem merchant selling? 2. Who saved the gem merchant from death?	1. Why was the gem merchant being questioned by one of the Gang of the White Fawn? 2. Why did the seller of pots and pans attack the gem seller?	1. Have you ever shopped at an open-air market? 2. Have you ever tasted cardamon tea?	1. Find out more about sandalwood. Where does it grow? Is it endangered? Why has the price of sandalwood oil risen recently? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandalwood 2. Do a tasting survey. Which is more popular in your class: tea with or without cardamon?	1. Sara enters a marketplace where merchants were probably using abaci for counting. What are abaci? How does the Qingming scroll prove that merchants used abaci at this time? http://en.chinaculture.org/classics/2010-04/20/content_383263_2.htm

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Chapter 27 Page 121	1. What was the scroll painting of? 2. What was Su Song using his astronomical tower to predict?	1. Was the Doctor right to be skeptical of Sara? Why might he doubt her?	1. What home remedies do you know? How many herbs? What do you do before you go to the doctor? What superstitions do you know that relate to health and disease?	1. Astronomy has been an important science for people of the earliest civilizations. How has it influenced our understandings of time? How has astronomy been a key concern in designing cities? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FYvy3_egHw What is the layout of your home/town/city? Why?	What political role did Chinese astronomers play in assisting the Emperor? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u-6fig8DvU
Chapter 28 Page 124	1. What did Hsün Tzu believe joined Heaven and Earth in harmony, made 'the sun and the moon shine, the four seasons arrive, the stars and constellations march and the rivers flow'?	1. How important do you believe ritual to be? How do people benefit from repeating some of the rituals you see around you (e.g. saying something after someone sneezes, how food is served, how meetings end)?	Have you ever burned incense? Where? For what purpose? What rituals do you follow?	1. Make a list of you do every morning. Why do you do them in the same order? 2. Describe the different events that happen at a wedding. Why have these events been incorporated in the ritual? What (symbolic) meanings do they have? Why do we consider them necessary?	1. Can you identify rituals in your culture? Read <i>Body Ritual Among the Nacirema</i> by Horace Miner: https://www.sfu.ca/~palys/Miner-1956-BodyRitualAmongTheNacirema.pdf https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EliQNuMb6F8
Chapter 29 Page 128	1. How long had Mo Zei and his gang been following Zhang Guoloa? 2. How does Wan Yi respond to Sara's news about the old man?	1. Would you have jumped into a sedan car? What else could you have done? 2. How would you have determined whether or not to trust Wan Yi?	1. Have you ever entrusted someone with a big secret? Did that person keep it? 2. Have you ever been told to keep a secret? Was it hard to keep? Why?	1. Sedan chairs have been used across many cultures under different names (e.g. <i>litter</i> , <i>palanquin</i>). What do these have in common? How are they different? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Litter_(vehicle)	1. Sedan chairs in China were used for a number of reasons, such as for weddings. Draw a picture of a sedan chair that you would like to be carried in for your wedding. Here are some examples to base your drawing on: https://www.google.com/search?q=Chinese+sedan+chair&client=safari&rls=en&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewixmeSm15HkAhWCrVvKkHRu0DIcQ_AUIESgB&biw=1141&bih=739

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Chapter 30 Page 133	1. What makes the piece of silk Wan Yi holds so distinct? 2. When will Sara be able to make use of it?	1. How do you think Sara feels about what Wan Yi has told her? Would you ask any additional questions? What?	1. Think of a time you learned that something commonplace someone had was actually very valuable. Why are antiques so special? What about old comic books?	1. Silk in China had many uses. Write a one-page paper on why they considered it to be so valuable. See: https://www.ancient.eu/Silk/	1. Watch this video to see how Chinese used silkworms to make silk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=IFo3SxqH2-A Check out the qualities of spider silk here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMN_wQ6Zyy0 What possible uses does spider silk have?
Chapter 31 Page 135	1. What offerings were made to the ancestors at the graveyard? 2. What is the significance of the Qingming Festival?	1. Why do you think Sara decided to sweep the grave?	1. Have you ever visited a graveyard? Have you tended a grave? 2. What other ways do we commemorate those that have come before us?	1. Research the origin of Qingming festival and discuss how the story is used to show the importance of respect for elders. https://thenanyan.com/2017/04/03/tomb-sweeping-day-the-story-behind-qingming-festival/	1. Many people believe that belief in the afterlife is a giant step in our cognitive development. Why is it significant that the Neanderthal's buried their dead with flowers? https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-skeletons-of-shanidar-cave-7028477/

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Chapter 32 Page 140	<p>1. What is the Jade Rabbit? What was it supposed to have done? 2. What did shamans do?</p> <p>2. What qualities did Sara prove she had?</p> <p>3. Who will Sara have to fight next?</p> <p>4. Which of the Eight Immortals are missing? 5. What do the Immortals give Sara?</p>	<p>1. Sara thinks at first that the dangers she has been through are meant as some kind of joke. Is it funny? Are the Immortals being cruel?</p> <p>2. Do you think it was necessary for the Immortals to test Sara?</p> <p>3. Do you think she right to be angry that she wasn't asked if she wanted to participate?</p>	<p>1. Given the circumstances, which do you think you would be curious or angry? Or would you feel something different?</p>	<p>1. Where some talk of the man in the moon, Asian folklore speaks of the Moon Rabbit. What was the significance of this creature and the story behind its image? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon_rabbit What other rabbit myths do you know? Write one out in detail.</p> <p>2. Chang'e is the main character in a number of Chinese legends. Read about how she is connected both to the moon and the elixir of life here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chang%27e</p>	<p>1. The Eight Immortals come from all walks of life; they are rich and poor, young and old, of both high and low status. Map out their differences and compare and contrast them to show how they are represent the diverse people in Chinese society. https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese_Customs/eight_immortals.htm</p> <p>2. Images of the Eight Immortals are found everywhere in China. They are thought to bring prosperity. Discover how they are a part of Taoist philosophy here: https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ba_Xian How do their legends offer hope to those in need?</p>
Chapter 33 Page 144	<p>1. How long has Sara been 'away'? 2. Why does she have a lump on her forehead? 3. What does she have in her pockets?</p>	<p>1. Why didn't Sara immediately tell everyone about her travel inside the scroll? Would you have? Why or why not?</p>	<p>1. When Sara returns to the museum, she wonders whether or not she has been dreaming. Do you remember your dreams? Have you ever had a dream that seemed so real that you weren't sure? Share a dream with a friend.</p>	<p>1. Lucid dreaming is a dream in which you know you are dreaming. Read about it here: https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/323077.php#10</p> <p>2. Start keeping a dream journal. Using the techniques described, see if you can begin lucid dreaming. Have your dreams changed?</p>	<p>1. A Taoist philosopher named Zhuangzi, who lived around the year 300 BCE, wrote that he dreamed he was a butterfly. When he awoke, he wondered if the butterfly were real, and it were dreaming of being Zhuangzi. Check out other Chinese dream interpretations here: http://wenhousecrafts.com/dreams/dreamingofdukezhou.htm Would you interpret your dream the same way? How would your interpretation differ?</p>

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PART 5 Chapter 34 Page 154	1. Where is Shan Wu when he awakens? 2. How is Shan Wu able to visit Tian Lan?	1. What motivated Shan Wu to leave Tian Lan? Do you think he was right to do so? What would you have done?	1. What does it mean to be 'independent'? Are you? How do you rely upon others? How do they rely upon you?	1. Camels were arguably even more important than horses as a means of transportation on the Silk Road. Write 500 words to argue which animal you believe had more impact. http://factsanddetails.com/china/cat2/sub90/item1104.html	1. The Taklamakan Desert (also known as "Place of No Return") greatly affected communication and travel along the Silk Road. Research its geographic location and why it was named so here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taklamakan_Desert
Chapter 35 Page 158	1. What does Shan Wu recall of his village? 2. Where does he visit Tian Lan? 3. What does Shan Wu decide after Tian Lan's death?	1. Why is Shan Wu unable to follow Tian Lan's guidance?	1. Would you have left Tian Lan without saying anything? What would you have said to him if you thought it was the last time you would see him?	1. Despite its name, the Silk Road is now thought to have been made up of three different main routes and one by sea. Using a map, trace the caravan routes. Which countries did they pass through? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_Road	1. As much as they led to the exchange of goods, the Silk Road(s) facilitated the transmission of ideas and religions. https://asiasociety.org/education/silk-road
Chapter 36 Page 162	1. Why does Shan Wu need Ahmed's money when they first arrive at the bazaar? 2. Why do they continue to come back to the bazaar? 3. What does Shan Wu call himself when speaking to people who seek his services?	1. How do you feel about Shan Wu's use of his powers? What could he have done with it instead? 2. What do you think Shan Wu means when he says, 'I am the hegemon.'?	1. What is a caravanserai? What is near you that is similar? Have you ever stayed at one? 2. How would your life change if you were suddenly able to read other people's minds? Would you consider it a blessing or a curse?	1. Khotan was an important city on the Silk Road. Describe three things Khotan was known for. https://www.thoughtco.com/khotan-xingjiang-uygur-autonomous-region-171478	1. Due to the way it helped link cultures, the Silk Road has been compared to the internet. Do you think this comparison is accurate? Why? How does the internet facilitate the transmission of goods and ideas? https://smallbiztrends.com/2017/07/impact-the-internet-has-on-society.html

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Chapter 37 Page 169	<p>1. How does Shan Wu recognize the beggar?</p> <p>2. What does Shan Wu learn from Gong Wei about his brother Shan Tuo?</p> <p>3. How does Shan Wu hope to get in touch with his brother?</p>	<p>1. What is the tone of the meeting between Shan Wu and Gong Wei? What do you learn of Shan Wu's character from how he talks to the beggar?</p>	<p>1. Have you ever visited a friend or place after a long absence? Did they look the same? Different? Both? How did you feel?</p>	<p>1. Cities are dynamic, bustling places that excite every sense. Read up on sensory walks here: http://sensorythinktank.com/sensory-education/sensory-walks/ to discover how to activate your senses.</p> <p>2. Take a sensory walk in your own city or town and write a page describing what you experienced.</p>	<p>1. Bazaars have a long history. Read about them here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bazaar Are there any bazaars near where you are? If there aren't, what places do you have that are similar? How have these markets changed over time?</p>
Chapter 38 Page 173	<p>1. What, even more than his wealth, makes Ochlik distinctive?</p> <p>2. What happened to Ahmed?</p> <p>3. What test does Ochlik set Shan Wu?</p> <p>4. What is it that Ochlik seeks, that he is willing to pay so much for?</p>	<p>1. Does Ochlik give any proof of being trustworthy? Do you think Shan Wu is right to trust him? Why does Shan Wu listen to his offer?</p> <p>2. How does Mem's presence make this offer more dangerous?</p>	<p>1. Have you heard Middle Eastern music? Where?</p> <p>2. What do you know about belly dancing?</p>	<p>1. The music of the Middle East is very varied and has a long history. Listen to some samples and use a Venn diagram to compare it to music you listen to.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLotNezYaxOuArlb5ETCRGLtbeFmQcBX8R</p>	<p>1. What are some of the genres of music found in the Middle East? Which instruments are commonly used?</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Eastern_music</p>
Chapter 39 Page 179	<p>1. What is surprising about the Neijing Tu?</p> <p>2. Why does Shan Wu agree to Ochlik's terms? What does he hope to gain?</p>	<p>1. Do you think Shan Wu made a good bargain? Would you have refused? Would you have asked for anything different? Why?</p>	<p>1. Think about a time that you bargained with someone. Were both of you trying to make it fair so that you both came out winners? What kinds of compromises were made?</p>	<p>1. The Neijing Tu is a Taoist text that maps the inner world with the outer. Here is a modern version: http://www.rgm.hu/download/NeiJingTu.pdf Compare this with our modern mapping of the homunculus: https://www.ebmconsult.com/articles/homunculus-sensory-motor-cortex What do these images represent?</p>	<p>1. People have been seeking immortality in many forms for centuries. https://www.seeker.com/seeking-immortality-so-have-others-1767387860.html Explore Chinese approaches to the elixir of life here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_alchemical_elixir_poisoning</p>

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Chapter 40 Page 183	<p>1. What is above the main entrance? What does it look like?</p> <p>2. What are <i>shi</i>?</p> <p>3. Why does Shan Wu take off his shoes?</p>	<p>1. Do you think Shan Wu has reasons to be afraid? Of what?</p> <p>2. As righteous as Shan Wu believes himself, he is now acting as a thief. Do you think his actions are justifiable? Why or why not?</p>	<p>1. Have you ever wished you could live in a palace? What would it look like? How large would it be? Who else would live there? What would you do with all that space?</p>	<p>1. Using the text, draw a picture of the Jade Palace.</p> <p>2. Make a list of why the shape and positions of palace buildings were important</p> <p>https://www.chinahighlights.com/beijing/forbidden-city/architecture.htm</p>	<p>1. Dragons are present in many mythologies throughout the world.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon</p> <p>Chinese dragons have rich symbolic meanings. https://www.topchinatravel.com/china-guide/chinese-dragons-history.htm</p> <p>Compare and contrast ways in which dragons are thought of in China with dragons of Europe.</p>
Chapter 41 Page 186	<p>1. What does the water in the basin taste like? What are its effects?</p> <p>2. What does Li Tieguai carry? How about Han Xiang Zi?</p> <p>3. How many Immortals does Shan Wu encounter?</p> <p>4. What happens to the Neijing Tu?</p>	<p>1. What motivates Shan Wu to battle the Eight Immortals?</p> <p>2. Do you feel their sentence upon him was too harsh? Too lenient? What would you have done to punish Shan Wu?</p>	<p>1. Do you know any stories of people who have stolen things? Why did they do it? How did they feel afterwards? Why doesn't Shan Wu listen to his conscience?</p>	<p>1. The Eight Immortals have been very popular amongst the Chinese for almost a thousand years. Using the sites below, create a chart that shows their names and attributes</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eight_Immortals</p> <p>https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese_Customs/eight_immortals.htm</p>	<p>1. Prior to the 1970's the Eight Immortals was sometimes translated as the Eight Genies (also spelled as <i>djinns</i>, or <i>jinn</i>s). Do you think they are similar to genies? How so? Use the information about genies here to support your points:</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jinn</p>

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PART 6 Chapter 42 Page 194	<p>1. About how many miles long is the Silk Road?</p> <p>2. What is the name of the highest mountain in the United Kingdom?</p>	<p>1. Does Sara appear to be eager to climb the Ben? What do you think she would like to be doing?</p>	<p>1. Do you feel like you belong to a clan? Who are its members? When do you gather together with your kin?</p>	<p>1. One traditional element of Scottish culture is the importance of clans, especially as it is represented in heraldry. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_clan Once you have looked at examples here, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraldic_clan design your own coat of arms. What objects or animals will you use to represent your family?</p>	<p>1. Scotland is home to the remains of a beautiful Neolithic settlement, Skara Brae on the Orkney Islands. Check out this ancient site here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skara_Brae Read here about how Scottish culture developed in the Scottish Highlands: https://www.scotlandinfo.eu/scottish-highlands</p>
Chapter 43 Page 198	<p>1. What does Mrs Morton call Ben Nevis?</p> <p>2. What does Mrs Morton say Sara needs to give to The Ben?</p> <p>3. What is the Word of the Day? What does it mean?</p>	<p>1. Predict what you think 'sacrifice' means in this chapter.</p>	<p>1. Think of a time where you agreed to do something that turned out to be larger than you thought. Did it turn out to be a good choice? Why or why not?</p>	<p>1. Sacrifice is an important concept that has deep roots in many religions in the world. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacrifice We also make sacrifices in our daily lives. Write a one-paper on what you or others you know sacrifice (your time, effort) to assist others.</p>	<p>1. Human sacrifice has played a part in the burial of pharaohs and emperors Egypt and China, as well as in other cultures. Read about the terracotta warriors here: https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-chinas-first-emperor-built-buried-7-000-strong-terracotta-army Why was this practice followed?</p>
Chapter 44 Page 202	<p>1. Where is the Halfway Lochan and how high is it?</p> <p>2. How easy does Sara find the climb to be?</p> <p>3. Why does Sara start thinking about her clarinet practice?</p> <p>4. Who is the Lindow Man and why do people think he was killed?</p>	<p>1. How do you think the story of how the Lindow Man was treated makes Sara feel? What tone does it set for her trip?</p>	<p>1. When have you had to really push yourself to achieve something you started? Why was it so hard? Were you able to achieve what you set out to do? Even if you weren't, are you glad you made the effort? What advice would you give someone facing a big challenge?</p>	<p>1. Have you ever gone mountaineering? Ever wanted to? What gear did you/would you bring? Check this out: https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/mountaineering-summit-adventures.html Make a list of all the items you would pack for a 2-day trip.</p>	<p>1. Bog bodies have been found in different countries in Northern Europe. What can we infer about their lifestyles from their remains? Check out Denmark's Tollund Man: http://www.museumsilkeborg.dk/welcome-to-the-story-about-tollund-man</p>

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Chapter 45 Page 207	<p>1. What is at the summit of Ben Nevis? 2. What is a cairn? 3. Why does Sara draw close to the brink of the cliff?</p>	<p>1. Do you think Sara's father responded appropriately? Was he right to be furious with her?</p>	<p>1. Have you ever gone mountaineering? Ever wanted to? What do you need to know to climb safely? What advice would you give a climber?</p>	<p>1. How are mountains formed ? https://www.universetoday.com/29833/how-mountains-are-formed/ 2. Make a list of the top seven summits in the world. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Summits How does Ben Nevis compare with other peaks? Why do you suppose this is the case?</p>	<p>1. Mountain tops have long been regarded as spiritual places. Why do you suppose this is so? What do mountains symbolize? http://guxiong.ca/en/reviews/the-symbol-of-the-mountains/</p>
Chapter 46 Page 210	<p>1. What do you think a 'smirr' is? 2. What connection does Sara make between the visions she has been seeing? 3. Sara is visited again at Mrs Morton's. By whom?</p>	<p>1. Do you think it was easy for Sara to admit that she lied to avoid going to Granny Tang's? Why or why not? 2. If telling the truth made Sara feel better, why do you think she is unwilling to tell her parents about her visions of Shan Wu? Would you?</p>	<p>1. It's sometimes hard to admit we've made a mistake, especially if we've been deceitful. Think of one time you made a mistake and didn't tell. How do you think it would have turned out if you had spoken to someone about it? Can you talk about it now?</p>	<p>1. You might not be aware of how much of a role mountains play in directing weather patterns. Read here and draw a diagram of what happens: https://blog.weatherops.com/you-know-how-upslope-flow-affects-the-weather https://snowbrains.com/forecast-mountain-weather/</p>	<p>1. Did you know that there are different names for different kinds of winds? http://mentalfloss.com/article/56382/21-wonderful-words-wind Do any of these winds blow near you? 2. Which direction does the wind usually come at your house? Do you know how to name it? Find out here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_direction</p>

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Chapter 47 Page 216	<p>1. Where was Bai Lu based? What were they testing?</p> <p>2. What is fingerite? Where is it found?</p> <p>3. What was Shan Tuo's role in society? How is he connected to Chan?</p>	<p>1. Sara has uncovered what she thinks is an important connection between a modern company and an ancient crime ring. Are her sources reliable enough for her to reveal this connection to others? What should she do?</p>	<p>1. Is it important to research things you don't know? What are some of the best sources? The worst? Why? How can you determine if a source is good?</p>	<p>1. Our physical makeup is largely determined by our genes. This is true of how we look as well as how likely we are to have certain physical problems. Research how this works here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv6qUsKYodA After watching this, make a list of ways humans may benefit from genetic engineering.</p>	<p>1. Humans have been selecting plants in order to produce greater yields for centuries. Recently we have been able to genetically modify foods (GMOs). Learn more about plan breeding here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFKtYb9CG_s&list=PLDPCbe78L464TLAaAnzIYIgj2Qwxkr1hL&index=1 What implications does our control over plants have for how we treat other living creatures?</p>
PART 7 Chapter 48 Page 224	<p>1. What objects are present in Granny Tang's home? What significance to they have?</p> <p>2. What does she talk about with Granny?</p> <p>3. Where has the Three Hares triskelion been found?</p>	<p>1. Granny asks Sara, 'What are they teaching you at that school?' What do you think she means by this?</p>	<p>1. How much have you been able to find out about your grandparents and their lives? See how far back you can trace your family tree, if you know where these people lived, what they did. Ask other people in your family to fill in any gaps you have.</p>	<p>1. In addition to possible symbolic meanings, the Three Hares image has also been described as an optical illusion. Choose one of the images on this site and draw your own. https://hyperallergic.com/311482/the-mystery-of-the-three-hares-motif/ Where would you put the image? Draw a place for it.</p>	<p>1. The Three Hares symbol has an amazing history! Research its history here: https://www.webcitation.org/67AkEBAkB?url=http://www.endicott-studio.com/rdrm/rrRabbits.html Write a one-page summary.</p> <p>2. Learn one of the hare myths for retelling in front of your class.</p>

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Chapter 49 Page 230	<p>1. What happened to Joaquin? Who tells Sara about this?</p> <p>2. How does Sara respond the news?</p>	<p>1. How do you think Sara feels about Joaquin? What have you been told that makes you think so?</p>	<p>1. How often do you hear people gossiping? Do you like gossiping? Why or why not? How can gossiping cause problems?</p>	<p>1. Communication can become distorted during transmission - where the 'noise' increases in proportion to the 'signal.' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuVaie0GydE</p> <p>2. Play the Telephone Game with a group of friends: https://icebreakerideas.com/telephone-game/ How close was the final to the original? Another name for this game is 'Chinese Whispers' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmRaYlHQMqo Why do you suppose it is named this?</p>	<p>1. People in contemporary societies often hear news from sources they can't identify making comments they can't easily prove or disprove. How can this cause problems? Read this on circular reporting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSKGa_7XJkg How can you confirm the facts you rely upon are true?</p>
Chapter 50 Page 233	<p>1. What does Lily offer to do for Sara so that Sara can get in touch with Joaquin? Does Sara think this is a good idea?</p> <p>2. How does Joshua help Sara? What does she tell him about?</p> <p>3. What position will Sara fill?</p>	<p>1. Do you think Sara gave a good interview? What do you think it was about the way she presented herself that influenced Joshua's decision to hire her?</p>	<p>1. Do you like to write? Do you wish more people read your work? What can you do you put your work out there so others can see it?</p> <p>2. Are you OK with criticism? Think about a time someone commented on your work. How did you respond? Did their comments help? Why or why not?</p>	<p>1. Does your school have a school paper? If not - with a partner, come up with a name, a table of contents and a mock layout. If you do - create a new section and write the first column. (Examples: Must Reads, Movie of the Month, Non-Trivial Pursuits) https://www.makemynewspaper.com/how-to-start-a-school-newspaper</p>	<p>1. Take a guess - when and where do you think the first newspapers were made? You might be surprised - check out this animation on the origins of newspapers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBioPplnbf8 How close were you?</p>

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Chapter 51 Page 239	<p>1. What does Lily think Sara is going to show her?</p> <p>2. Lily's expression changes as she listens to Sara. Why?</p>	<p>1. Are you surprised by the way Lily responds to Sara? How do you think you would have responded?</p> <p>2. Do you think you would have asked any questions? What would you want to know more about?</p>	<p>1. Think about a time when you people didn't believe you. How did you feel? What did you need to do to have them see your point of view? Has the situation ever been reversed? How did you feel once you finally saw things from that other person's perspective?</p>	<p>1. Pretend you believe, if you don't already, that ghosts are real. What arguments would you use to support your claim? Rank these, putting the most persuasive first. Now present these to a partner. Does your partner rank them in the same order? Compare and discuss. Use the resource below to guide your research.</p>	<p>1. At first, Lily thinks that Sara is playing games with her. Then she worries if perhaps Sara is seeing things. It turns out we "see things" all the time - they are called optical illusions. Test your own abilities here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCTZs3eeM-U</p>
Chapter 52 Page 244	<p>1. How does Sara's computer go on? What appears on the screen?</p> <p>2. How long does Sara have to wait before she gets a response?</p>	<p>1. What has Sara been waiting for on her computer? Why is she so eager to get a response?</p> <p>2. Predict who Sara gets a response from!</p>	<p>1. Computers provide access to lots of data - some of it personal. Have you heard of anyone's personal data being hacked? What can you do to protect yourself from being hacked?</p>	<p>1. Because they are almost omnipresent, many people forget how recent some technological innovations are. Use the information on this site to create a timeline. When did computers become common? Cell phones? The internet? Texting? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_communication</p>	<p>1. Watch these videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxTUC5I22LU https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUovkXWe15s Why do you suppose the creators used computer voices? Is that significant?</p> <p>3. How has our culture changed as a result of faster communication?</p>