In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

by Bette Bao Lord

Family Study Guide Answer Key
by Alethea Twardus

Illuminations Year 5

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Family Study Guide

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~ Weeks 1 and 2 ~

Supplies

- *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord ISBN # 0-06-440175-8
- Materials to make paper mache. You may search the Internet to find what to use or use your own recipe.
- Information from the library, Internet, or encyclopedia on Jackie Robinson, the Brooklyn Dodgers, baseball as a sport, or Confucius
- Paper to write Chinese characters of the months
- GO A-1
- GO A-3
- GO B-1
- GO E-9
- Outline map of China
- Outline map of The United States of America

Cast of Characters

- **6th Cousin (also known as Bandit, later referred to as Shirley Temple)** – 10 year-old Chinese girl who travels to Brooklyn, New York with her family and finds a whole new way of life there
- **Mrs. Wong** – Bandit's mother, a unique woman who rises to the biggest challenge but falls apart at the slightest things
- **Mr. Wong** – Bandit's father who moves his family to America to make a new life for them
- **Grandfather Wong** – Patriarch of the family. All approval must come from him
- **Grandmother Wong** – Matriarch of the family. The only one above her would be Grandfather
- **4th Cousin** – Bandit's best friend in China
- **Mrs. Rappaport** – Shirley's teacher when she begins school in Brooklyn, NY
- **Mabel** – bully of the 5th grade class, ends up being one of Shirley's best friends
- **Emily** – a studious girl, new to the class when they enter 6th grade; she also becomes Shirley's best friend
- **Jackie Robinson** – the first African-American baseball player; he played for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947

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- **Senora Rodriguez** – landlady of the apartment where the Wong's live, she teaches piano to Shirley

Reading Schedule

Week 1

Day 1: January
Day 2: February
Day 3: March and April
Day 4: May

Week 2

Day 1: June and July
Day 2: August and September
Day 3: October and November
Day 4: December

Introduction

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson is set during 1947; it first begins in China and ends in Brooklyn, New York. It is a journey of a young girl ten thousand miles from her homeland, customs and language and describes how she adapts to her environment, the English language, and people around her. She becomes entranced by the American pastime of baseball and one player in particular, Jackie Robinson from the Brooklyn Dodgers, the first black American to play in the major leagues. This story is rich in discussion topics from the Chinese culture, to the history of baseball in America, even to the life of Jackie Robinson himself.

Hands-On Activities

There are many hands-on activities listed after each day, along with the activities that are included at the end of the book. Those activities should be saved until the entire book has been read, but I would suggest that you read through all the activities and maybe get an idea of what will work with your family. It's unlikely you would have time to complete each and every one.

Figurative Language

The author uses **similes** when describing a situation by comparing it with something using the words "like" or "as."
For example:

- The boy approached the dog as brave as a lion.
- The clouds floated by like big globs of marshmallows.

While you read the book, try to find the various similes. Have fun with your students while as you teach them the use of similes. It may even lead to a lesson on figurative speech and its many types, i.e. metaphors, similes, personification, etc.

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Week 1 - Day 1

- Read JANUARY *Chinese New Year.*

Vocabulary

- Confucian (n): *[a philosophy, founded by Confucius, who organized in their teachings the traditional Chinese principles of ethics, morals, and politics]*
- patriarch (n): *[the male head of a family or tribal line]*
- Amitabha (n): *[regarded as one of the five eternal buddhas (rather than as a savior), who manifested himself as the earthly Buddha Gautama]*
- dictum (n): *[an authoritative command]*
- matriarch (n): *[the female head of a family or tribal line]*
- irate (adj): *[angry, enraged]*
- abacus (n): *[a device for making arithmetic calculations and consists of a frame set with rods on which balls or beards are moved]*
- exile (n): *[an expulsion from one's native land by authoritative decree]*
- omen (n): *[anything perceived or happening that is believed to portend a good or evil event or circumstance in the future]*
- brocade (n): *[a fabric woven with an elaborate design, especially one having a raised overall pattern]*
- mah-jongg (n): *[a game of Chinese origin, played by four people with pieces like dominos marked in suits, counters and dice, to build a winning combination of pieces]*
- celestial (adj): *[pertaining to the sky or visible heaven, pertaining to the spiritual or invisible heaven, divine]*
- magpies (n): *[either of two corvine birds, (black-billed magpie or Eurasia and North America), or (yellow-billed magpie of California)]*
- melodious (adj): *[of the nature of or characterized by melody]*

Geography

- Using the outline map of China, find Chungking (Chongqing) and mark it with green on your outline map and label. Now find Shanghai and mark it on your outline map in orange and label.

Discussion Generators

1. What year is it considered at the beginning of the book? *[4645]*
2. What else was this year called? *[Year of the Dog]*
3. In an upright Confucian family, whom did you not ever question? *[The conduct of elders]*

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4. Why do you think everyone is being so kind to Bandit or acting strangely around her? *[Answers will vary.]*
5. After tripping on the beans and breaking an urn, Awaiting Marriage, the servant, threatens to tell on Bandit. What are a few things Bandit thinks her grandmother is going to do to her? *[Any of the following: 100 lashes, 10,000 characters to copy, 100,000 hours in her room]*
6. What did her grandmother really want? *[Bandit's father had sent for her and her mother. She hoped that they would join him in America.]*
7. Give one or more reasons why the women say "What's to become of you?" *[Possible answers include: no clan to nurture her, surrounded by strangers, cowboys & Indians, dodging bullets and arrows, she'll starve, she won't be civilized and the fact that Americans don't honor Confucius]*
8. Why was no one allowed to sleep on New Year's Eve? *[A bad dream on New Year's Eve was an omen of bad tomorrows.]*
9. Sixth cousin, known as Bandit, was allowed to rename herself before leaving for America. She wanted to choose an American name. What name did she originally choose and what name did she end up choosing? *[She originally chose Uncle Sam but ended up choosing Shirley Temple Wong as her American name.]*

Hands-On Activities

- Use GO A-1 to compare and contrast the difference between Confucius and Jesus or Confucianism and Christianity. You may research it yourself, or you can begin by visiting this website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism
  - Have fun renaming yourself:

    Imagine you move to China. In China, it is customary to go by your last name first, then your first name. For example, if your name was John Doe, you would be known as Doe John and called by both names.

    Babies would also be given a nickname, then usually change it when they began school. Ask your family what characters best describes you. That would have been your nickname until you were properly named by the elder male of the family.
- It is considered disrespectful to use the name of any relative who is older than you. It is normal to address your family member like Shirley did, and refer to them as 4th Cousin, Third Aunt, Great-great Uncle. Spend the day doing this, if you have an older sibling(s), call them by their birth order. If you have only one big brother and one big sister, that is what you would call them. Two older sisters would be big sister, 2nd sister, etc.
- Shirley and her family celebrated Chinese New Year with a huge party that lasted all night. Do research on the Chinese New Year. Write an essay on what the Chinese New Year is and how it is celebrated. Visit this website or do your own search and complete a hands-on project or activity for the Chinese New Year. http://www.kidactivities.net/category/Holidays-Chinese-New-Year.aspx

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Week 1 - Day 2

- Read FEBRUARY *A Journey of Ten Thousand Miles.*

NOTE TO PARENT

This chapter matter-of-factly discusses the use of tobacco, used by Father and his friends. I say matter-of-factly because the author does not make a big deal of the smoking, just that it is done, bringing up the smoking while the men talk and play games, giving the impression of accept-ability. It is the main purpose at the end of the chapter that finds Shirley going to the store for her father and their friends and meeting with a little adventure of her own. Depending on your views on cigarette smoking, you may want to discuss your family's views with your children before reading chapter 2.

Vocabulary

- jade (n): *[either of two minerals, jadeite or nephrite, sometimes green, highly esteemed as an ornamental stone for carvings, jewelry, etc.]*
- writhe (v): *[to twist the body about or squirm, as in pain, violent effort, etc.]*
- linger (v): *[to remain or stay on in a place longer than is usual or expected, as if from reluctance to leave]*
- falter (v): *[to hesitate or waver in action, purpose, intent, etc.]*
- unique (adj): *[existing as the only one or as the sole example, single, solitary in type or characteristics]*
- extraordinary (adj): *[beyond what is usual, ordinary, regular, or established]*
- queasy (adj): *[inclined to or feeling nausea, as the stomach, a person, etc.; nauseous; nauseated]*
- immigration (n): *[the part of a port, airport, etc where government employees examine the passports, visas, etc of foreign nationals entering the country]*
- customs (n): *[the part of a port, airport, frontier station, etc, where baggage and freight are examined for dutiable goods and contraband]*
- torrential (adj): *[pouring or flowing fast, violently, or heavily]*
- Shanghai (n): *[a port in E China, capital of Shanghai municipality (traditionally in SE Jiangsu) near the estuary of the Yangtze: the largest city in China and one of the largest ports in the world; a major cultural and industrial center, with many universities]*
- mocking (adj): *[feigned, not real, sham]*
- solemn (adj): *[characterized or marked by seriousness or sincerity]*
- mettle (n): *[courage and fortitude]*
- appreciate (v): *[to be grateful or thankful for]*
- query (v): *[to ask or inquire about]*

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- skeptical (adj): *[not convinced that something is true; doubtful]*
- emphatic (adj): *[expressed, spoken, or done with emphasis]*
- despair (v): *[to lose, give up, or be without hope]*
- nonsensical (adj): *[having little or no meaning, making little or no sense]*

Geography

- Using the outline map of the United States, find San Francisco, CA, mark with green on your outline map, and label it. Find Brooklyn, New York, mark it on your outline map in orange and label it. Research how long it would be to travel from San Francisco to Brooklyn. Have fun and see how long it would take by train, airplane, car, bike, and walking.

Discussion Generators

1. How long did it take for them to travel to San Francisco? *[One month]*
2. What makes Mother unique? *[Everyday things make her shriek; extraordinary things could not alarm her.]*
3. How long was the train ride from San Francisco to Brooklyn, New York, and how did they travel? *[Four days on the train]*
4. What does Mei Guo mean? *[Beautiful country*]
5. Where does Shirley tell her father to take them? *[Home]*
6. Discuss why you think she would be so comfortable with calling Brooklyn home already. *[Answers will vary, but the biggest reason would be because they are all together as a family.]*
7. When Shirley saw the Brooklyn Bridge, what did she wonder about it? *[How it was held up]*
8. What were the different household items that father showed Shirley? *[A stove, fridge, tub, washer*]
9. What happened when Shirley went to the store for Father? How did this happen? *[She got lost; she had gone to a different store, which caused confusion on her way home.]*

Hands-On Activities

- Draw, build, or reenact the boat ride from China to the United States.
- Look up pictures of the Brooklyn Bridge. Use any building material you may have to build your own Brooklyn Bridge, or if you are more artistic, make a pencil drawing.
- Use a GO-A1 to compare and contrast what Shirley sees in her new hometown of Brooklyn, New York, with her home in Chungking, China.

Week 1 - Day 3

- Read MARCH *China's Little Ambassador* and APRIL *A Hungry Ghost*.

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Vocabulary

- obediently (adv): *[obeying or willing to obey]*
- reputation (n): *[the estimation in which a person or thing is held, especially by the community or the public generally]*
- ambassador (n): *[a diplomatic official of the highest rank sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative]*
- escapade (n): *[a reckless adventure or wild prank]*
- revolt (v): *[to feel disgust or repulsion]*
- stanza (n): *[a number of lines of verse forming a separate unit within a poem]*
- elaborate (v): *[to give more detail about something]*
- forlorn (adj): *[lonely and miserable]*
- syllable (n): *[one or more letters in a word that roughly correspond to a syllable of spoken language]*
- illustrious (adj): *[extremely distinguished and deservedly famous]*
- hoary (adj): *[old and stale from overuse]*
- odious (adj): *[inspiring hatred, contempt, or disgust]*
- fleeting (adj): *[passing or fading quickly]*
- scales (n): *[a collection of pitches, either in ascending or descending order, which forms the basis for musical compositions]*
  gossamer (adj): *[something sheer and delicate]*

Discussion Generators

1. What does Shirley regret not learning? *[English]*
2. Shirley explains what her age would be considered in China and how she knows she is ten years old. If she calculated her age the way we do here in the United States, how old would she have been at the time? *[Going by her description, her birthday is approximately October. This would actually make her 8 years old.]*
3. Why does Mother refer to Shirley as China's little ambassador? *[She may be the only Chinese that the kids would meet. The reputation of all Chinese rests on her shoulders.]*
4. Why was Shirley afraid of losing her ambassadorship? *[She left school with some of her classmates at lunchtime, even though she knew it was wrong, because she thought they were her friends. Because of this escapade, she thought she was going to bring shame to her family.]*
5. Shirley prays to the Goddess of Mercy, Kwan Yin. What does the Bible tell us about this? Read Eph. 4:6, Mark 12:29, Matthew 6:24, Exodus 20:3. *[Answers will vary as you discuss Christian beliefs with those of the Chinese. Have your student research the beliefs of China.]*

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6. What does the author mean when she writes that Shirley started to shrink until she was no more? *[Various answers could include: language barrier, the other kids found her behavior just as strange as she found theirs. She felt she was cowardly because she didn't like leaving at lunch to go to the store with the other kids.]*
7. Why did Shirley see Joseph as the "handsomest boy in all of Brooklyn"? *[He asked her to play stoopball.]*
8. What problems did Shirley have playing the game? *[The others didn't want her on their team; she could only call out 1, 2, or 3. She couldn't remember any of the higher numbers in English, and she didn't recognize her number, which caused her team to lose.]*
9. Discuss how the kids could have helped make her feel welcome instead of kicking her off the team. *[Answers will vary.]*
10. What was wrong with the way the kids laughed during the recitation of Shirley's poem? *[They hurt her feelings because she really thought she was reciting poetry, but she was being serious.]*
11. What did Mother always remind Shirley of whenever she complained about her situation? Do you agree or disagree? *["Always be worthy, my daughter, of your good fortune. Born to an illustrious clan from the ancient civilization of China, you now live in the land of plenty and opportunity. By your conduct show that you deserve to enjoy the best of both worlds." [Answers will vary.]*
12. What did Mother want Shirley to learn that she hadn't been allowed to earlier, as her mother thought it would cheer up Shirley? *[The piano]*
13. What was Senora Rodriquez's surprise? *[A green bird named Toscanini who would recite the scales until Shirley played them]*
14. When a new Chinese girl begins school, Shirley is very excited to be able to talk about familiar things with her from China as well as to speak her native language. What were some of the things Shirley looked forward to discussing with the new girl? *[New Year's Parade with the dragon that flew on tall poles, the lion that pounced to the beat of the drums, the acrobats who whirled through the air, the monkeys dressed in gay costumes and, of course, the blind storyteller]*
15. Where was the new girl from, and what did she not know? *[She was actually from Chattanooga, TN, and did not know Chinese.]*
16. What did Shirley's father bring home for her? *[Roller skates]*
17. What did Shirley hope for after she learned to skate? *[They would not ignore her, not when she could skate like them]*
18. How did Mother react when she saw Shirley after skating? *[She wanted to take the skates.]*
19. What did Mother do instead that Shirley thought was not expected? *[She told Shirley that after her wounds healed, she could skate with her father.]*

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Hands-On Activities

- Although not really a common practice anymore, figure out how old you would be going by the Chinese belief of counting ages, on the day of your birth, you are 1 year old, and at the new year you would be 2 years old, etc.
- Play a game of stoop ball. Although a type of stickball or baseball, stoop ball was and is a popular game played by kids in cities where playing a game of baseball was not as easy due to space issues. Also, it can be played with as many players as you may have, including just one. Visit this website, http://www.lots-of-kids-games.com/stoop-ball.html or search on the internet to find out how to play. You can also use the instructions in the story on pages 53–55.
- Find some poetry or assign your student a poem that meets his/her grade and age level and have them recite it to the family.

Week 1 - Day 4

- Read MAY *Two Black Eyes and Wispy Whiskers*.

NOTE TO PARENT

This chapter focuses on Shirley standing up to the class bully. The use of bad language is implied on both sides, although words are never actually used. There is a fist fight that breaks out that involves Shirley and a discussion that details how she handles it. This is a great opportunity for your family to discuss your views on fighting and how Shirley handles the situation, right or wrong, which wins the respect of the class bully. You may also discuss what to do when you are in a situation where a fight may be unavoidable, etc. You can also focus on a biblical view and how God expects us to handle confrontation.

Also, this chapter introduces the game of stickball, or baseball. Depending on your child's knowledge of the game, you might want to take the time to discuss the basic rules and how it's played.

Vocabulary

- superior (adj): *[upper or situated higher up]*
- reverent (adj): *[feeling or expressing profound respect or awe]*
- kowtows (v): *[to touch the forehead to the ground while kneeling, as in act of worship, reverence, apology, etc.]*
- ancestor (n): *[somebody from whom somebody else is directly descended, especially somebody more distant than a grandparent]*
- devour (v): *[to eat something quickly and hungrily]*
- hoist (v): *[to raise or lift somebody or something up]*

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- interrogate (v): *[to question somebody thoroughly, often in an aggressive or threatening manner and especially as part of a formal investigation]*
- stickball (n): *[U.S. game using baseball rules and played with a rubber ball and a broomstick or other stick]*
- futile (adj): *[having no practical effect or useful result]*

Discussion Generators

1. Why couldn't Shirley get used to the American way of paying a compliment? *[The Chinese don't show public feelings, and she considered it impolite.]*
2. What did father say that made the widow in the building feel badly for mother? Why do you think he would say this? *[He said Mother was not at all lovely and was really an old rag. Answers will vary.]*
3. Orally summarize what led to the fight between Shirley and Mabel. Also, discuss the behavior of both girls and whether this behavior is acceptable. *[See page 71, beginning with paragraph 3 and through page 72, paragraph 5]*
4. What saved Shirley from a further beating? *[A teacher showed up.]*
5. Why did Shirley not want to tell her mother, father, or the police what happened? Discuss whether you think this decision was right or wrong. *[She did not want to be thought of as a tattle, She was afraid to face Mabel at school every day if she thought she had told on Mabel, Mabel followed her and her family to the police station, which caused her to not want to tell.]*
6. Why did Shirley stay home from school for two days? *[So Mable would know she hadn't told.]*
7. Discuss the events when Shirley does leave for school and Mabel is waiting for her outside her building? Discuss why Mabel may be so friendly to Shirley now. *[See page 75, paragraph 4 through page 76, paragraph 5. She shows respect, because Shirley stood up to Mabel, maybe because she didn't tattle, etc.]*
8. What happens after school? *[Mabel asks Shirley to play stickball, offers to teach her how, and sticks up for her when the others don't want her on their team.]*
9. Discuss the right or wrong aspect of Mabel's use of bully tactics, such as calling names to get the others to allow Shirley to play the game. *[Answers will vary.]*
10. When it's her turn to bat, what would Mabel do? *[Close her eyes and not hit the ball, which allowed her to get 4 balls and walk to 1st base.]*
11. What happens when Mabel hits next? *[Shirley runs to 2nd but is told keep going home, which she thinks means her home. The kids direct her and she ends up scoring a point for her team.]*
12. What does Shirley think Grandfather had foreseen when she remembers a story he told? *[Two black eyes would cause Shirley to become best friends with the strongest, fastest girl in her grade.]*

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Hands-On Activities

- If you have a favorite baseball team and/or player, look up information about them and write a report.
- If you have enough people, try to get a game of baseball going, play fair and have fun!
- Using a paper mache recipe, make a baseball and bat. After it dries, design/color it using your favorite team color(s) or your own favorite color.
- Visit this site http://chineseculture.about.com/library/extra/story/blyrh.htm. Much like the story that Shirley remembers her grandfather told, have your student pick out a fable to read. Have them share it with the class to see if they can figure out the moral or lesson of the fable.
- Use GO-B1 to write the cause and the effect (or outcome) of the fight between Mabel and Shirley.
- Use GO-A3 to compare and contrast stoopball, stickball, and baseball. Begin it now, and, as you read the book and look up information, add to it throughout the next week.

Week 2 - Day 1

- Read JUNE *I Pledge a Lesson to the Frog* and JULY *Toscanini Takes a Walk*.

Vocabulary

- crimson (adj): *[a deep rich purplish red color]*
- warring (adj): *[fighting or at war]*
- lyrical (adj): *[having or played with a light smooth nondramatic quality that suggests singing]*
- timbre (n): *[the quality of a speech sound that comes from its tone rather than its pitch or volume]*
- pauper (n): *[an impoverished person]*
- dally (v): *[to dawdle, loiter, or waste time]*
- mayhem (n): *[absolute chaos or severe disruption]*
- emanate (v): *[to come from or come out of somebody, something, or somewhere]*
- tyranny (n): *[a cruel or oppressive act]*

Discussion Generators

1. In the beginning of the chapter, the class stands to say the Pledge of Allegiance. What was wrong with the words that Shirley said when she recited the Pledge? *[She said all the words the way she thought they should be pronounced.]*
2. When the teacher asks if anyone has any questions, what does Shirley want to know? *[Who was the girl, Jackie Robinson?]*
3. What does the teacher say? *[She says Shirley asks an excellent question then points out that Jackie Robinson is a man, the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues. She also explains that it is a compliment to be called Jackie Robinson, meaning she is a good baseball player.]*

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4. What are the different things the students say about the Dodgers? *[De Bums, The best in the history of baseball, Kings of Ebbets Field, The swellest guys in the world, America's favorites, Winners]*
5. Why does Ms. Rappaport say that baseball is ideally suited to America? *[See pages 92 – 93 for the various answers your student may give.]*
6. What does this make Shirley realize? *[She understood why her father had brought her 10 thousand miles to live in a strange place. She didn't have to wait to be older to be wise, here she could question things, speak up, and here she was somebody.]*
7. What was Shirley afraid she might be losing? *[Her Chinese]*
8. What had infected Shirley? *[A severe case of Dodger fever]*
9. How did Mother and Father feel about baseball on the radio? *[As though it was a plague of locusts at harvest time.]*
10. What does Shirley want to do with Toscanini? *[She wants to take him for a walk.]*
11. Whom does Senora Rodriquez want to visit and how does it happen? *[She wants to visit her daughter, Nonnie. Shirley volunteers her parents to look after the house.]*

Hands-On Activities

- Visit this site for some fun baseball trivia. You'll find all types of categories regarding the sport. http://www.funtrivia.com/quizzes/sports/baseball.html.
- Create a diorama to incorporate what you learn about Jackie Robinson. Use your imagination to display the many aspects of his life in baseball.
- Create a collage/timeline. A collage would be pictures, drawings, anything pertins to the Robinson's time in baseball while he played for the Dodgers. Adhere it to poster board or a large piece of cardstock. Be creative with your project, as you relate the time period from when Robinson became involved in baseball to the end of his baseball career.

Week 2 - Day 2

- Read AUGUST *Monsters* and SEPTEMBER *Secrets*.

Vocabulary

- alchemy (n): *[a power supposedly like alchemy, expecially of enchantment or transformation]*
- ingenuity (n): *[cleverness and originality]*
- transmute (v): *[to change something from one form, nature, or state to another]*
- vermin (n): *[small animals or insects that harm people, livestock, property, or crops and are difficult to control]*
- callously (adv): *[showing no concern that other people are or might be hurt or upset]*

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- oust (v): *[to use force to remove somebody from a place]*
- talisman (n): *[an object believed to give magical powers to somebody who carries or wears]*
- innards (n): *[the internal organs of the body, especially the intestines]*
- barbarian (n): *[an uncivilized, uncultured, or aggressive person]*
- unbeknownst (adj): *[happening without a particular person knowing about it]*
- molt (v): *[to shed feathers, hair, or skin periodically, especially seasonally, in order to allow replacement of what is lost with new growth]*
- remedy (n): *[treatment for disease, homeopathic treatment]*
- equivalent (n): *[something that is considered to be equal to or have the same effect, value, or meaning as something else]*
- venture (n): *[a risky or daring undertaking that has no guarantee of success]*
- ado (n): *[excited activity or bother]*
- psychiatrist (n): *[a doctor trained in the treatment of people with disorders of the mind]*
- brandish (v): *[to wave something about, especially a weapon, in a menacing, theatrical, or triumphant way]*
- antics (n): *[amusing, frivolous, eccentric behavior]*
- solace (n): *[somebody or something that provides comfort]*

Discussion Generators

1. What was Shirley's surprise? *[A sofa bed big enough for her]*
2. What was meant by "the dog days of August"? *[Answers may vary, but it should refer to the hottest period of the late summer.]*
3. How do Shirley and her father each view the items in the basement? *[Shirley sees it as junk. Her father sees it as valued presents for everyone.]*
4. What were the different things he made for the tenants? *[Toaster, sewing machine, vacuum cleaner, exercise machine, a fan]*
5. What does Shirley say she can do when the lights go out when her father's away? *[She can change the fuse in the basement.]*
6. What does Shirley realize she has done after the candle goes out and everything seems scary? *[She had shown off.]*
7. Why does Shirley's father get so upset when they get the lights back on? *[When she had felt along the wall, she didn't know they had been painted, and she ruined the paint job with her finger prints.]*
8. What was wrong with Toscanini? *[He was molting due to the hot weather.]*
9. What was Shirley afraid about as she prepared to return to school? What changes was Shirley going through? *[She was afraid that all her friends might have changed as she felt she had. She didn't speak*

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as much Chinese recently or think of her family in China as often.]

10. Who was Shirley's 6th grade teacher? *[Mrs. Rappaport]*
11. What did Shirley know immediately about the new girl, Emily Levy? *[They would be friends]*
12. Whom did Emily remind Shirley of and why? [*Fourth Cousin, because they both give the impression of no nonsense]*
13. What do the girls do when Emily asks Shirley to keep a secret? *[They do a blood swear.]*
14. What word was Shirley reluctant to say and why? *[She did not want to repeat the word "death" because Grandmother had always forbidden the word.]*
15. What was the actual secret? Discuss what the girls did and the right and wrong aspect of it. *[Emily showed Shirley pictures of the inside of people in a Gray's Anatomy book. Answers will vary]*
16. What job does Shirley take? *[She baby sits triplet boys for a neighbor.]*
17. During this time, how is Shirley's baseball team, the Dodger's, doing? *[They were leading the league by four and a half games and were up against the Cardinals, the defending champions.]*
18. What was Shirley's second secret? Again, discuss the consequences of what she has done. *[She secretly substituted buttons for the coins earned while babysitting to buy candy for the triplets so she could have peace].*
19. What realization does Shirley come to one morning when her parents sleep through the alarm? *[It was because the long hours they worked, to keep a promise to the Senora, to build a new life for them in America; they work without complaint and with cheer.]*
20. Which game does Shirley miss hearing? *[The game that clinched the pennant for the Dodgers.]*

Hands-On Activities

- Look around your home and find as much "junk" as you can to see what "trash to treasure" presents you can make.
- Use GO-A1 to compare and contrast Shirley's friends, Mabel and Emily. You can continue to add to it as you read.

Week 2 - Day 3

- Read OCTOBER *The World Series* and NOVEMBER *Moon Cakes Without Grandfather.*

Discussion Generators

1. What did the Dodgers win? What did Jackie Robinson win? *[They were the champs of the National League. He was voted the "Rookie of the Year."]*
2. How was the game described? Give details. *[It was not a game; it was war. A Yankee hit was a blow to the stomach. A run was a mortal wound. A Dodger steal was a seizure of enemy territory. A score was a hero's welcome.]*

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3. What was the final outcome of the game? *[The Yankees won and became the World Champs.]*
4. What did the Wong's let slip by without realizing it? *[The Mid-Autumn Festival]*
5. Explain what the Mid-Autumn Festival is? *[The commemorating of the fullest moon of the year.]*
6. What made them remember? *[Grandfather sent moon cakes which were eaten during this festive occasion.]*
7. What was each of their excuses for forgetting? *[Mother had not been feeling well. Father had been working day and night to fix leaks sprouting up all over the building. Shirley had been moping for weeks over the loss of the World Series.]*

Hands-On Activity

- Research the Mid-Autumn Festival. Try this website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Autumn_Festival.

Week 2 - Day 4

- Read DECEMBER *A Star-Spangled Christmas.*

Vocabulary

- *Homo sapiens* (n): *[the species of human beings]*
- *Meleagris gallopavo* (n): *[a wild turkey]*
- ingenuity (n): *[cleverness and originality]*
- simulate (v): *[to reproduce the essential features of something]*
- juvenile (adj): *[immature or childish]*
- futility (n): *[lack of usefulness or effectiveness]*
- sterling (adj): *[admirable or valuable]*
- denominator (n): *[the number below the line in a simple fraction, which indicates the number of parts making up the whole]*
- dappled (adj): *[marked with spots or patches of a different color or with light and shade]*
- pessimistic (adj): *[somebody who always expects the worst to happen]*

Discussion Generators

1. Who sacrificed what to make Tom Turkey for Shirley's school play? *[Father sacrificed his favorite brown sweater, Mr. Habib donated the leather headgear and goggles worn when he was a pilot, Mr. Lee donated a red tie, Mrs. Reilly gave a boa for the feathers, The triplets lent their pillows, Widow Garibaldi bought rubber flippers for the feet, and Professor Hirshbaum taught Shirley the various movements peculiar to the breed.]*

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2. What does Shirley convince Emily to do? *[Run for representative of the 6th grade]*
3. Why did Emily think she would not win? *[She was not popular, she got all A's, never got in trouble, and seldom hung around.]*
4. Who do they get to help them with Emily's campaign? *[Mabel]*
5. By how many votes did Emily win? *[One]*
6. What honor and to whom was Emily given to present at the Christmas Assembly? *[She would present the key to P.S. 8 to Mr. Jackie Robinson.]*
7. Whom does Emily ask to present again and why? Do you agree? *[She suggests Shirley because she knows so much about Jackie Robinson. Answers will vary.]*
8. What special announcement do Mother and Father say to Shirley? *[She is expecting a baby.]*
9. What does Shirley say the baby is going to be? *[A boy]*
10. Why does Shirley think Mabel and Emily should be on the stage instead of her? *[Mabel knows more about baseball than she, and Emily represented the best mind and warmest heart than any in the sixth grade.]*
11. Why does Shirley tell Jackie Robinson she can't be the President of the United States? Whom does she say could be? *[She is not eligible because she had to have been born in the United States. Her brother could be President, though.]*

Hands-On Activities

- Get creative, find materials around your home, and make your own *Meleagris gallopavo*.
- Use GO E-9 to have your students fill out a Story Pyramid. See how much they can remember before they look back at the story.

Final Projects

- Gather material needed to do paper mache. Make a paper mache baseball and bat. Use your imagination to design your baseball anyway you would like.
- Look up the characters that represent the months or look at the story and try to write Chinese characters. Imagine how it must have been for Shirley to learn to write English letters, numbers, and characters.
- If you haven't been able, finish this book and celebrate your own Mid-Autumn Festival. Although the moon might not be big enough to view, maybe you could still go out and moon gaze and in God's beauty of the night sky and all that He has created.
- Finish any GO's or projects from the past two weeks.

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Compare and Contrast

Project _____

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Compare and Contrast

Project _____

Name _____

Date _____

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Cause and Effect

Cause	Effect

Project _____

Name _____

Date _____

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Story Pyramid

Title _____

Name _____

Date _____

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