

Interior Chinatown Reading Guide

Act VII: "Ext. Chinatown"

Act VII Summary

In the closing act of the novel, the author gives a short look into the lives of Willis and his family after *Black and White*. Willis thinks back to the Chinatown set as he watches his father play with his daughter.

Act VII Vocabulary

PURGATORY noun (265) a place or state of temporary suffering or misery

VESTIBULE noun (265) a small room or hall next to the outer door of a building

Act VII Before Reading Questions

- What lessons have you learned about being American? How do these lessons impact your life? Consider your style of dress, relationship to your parents, etc.

Act VII During Reading Questions

- Why does Willis feel like there is a "gulf between" him and his father?
- How has Chinatown changed over time in Willis's family? What is his father's relationship to Chinatown? Willis's? Phoebe's?

Act VII After Reading Questions

Yu chooses to end the novel with the line, "Testing, testing, he says, and he clears his throat, ready to sing about home" (266). What is this a reference to, and why is it significant? Why do you think Yu chose to end like this?