

Chapter 3-6

1. Olan's character is further developed in these chapters. She is now proud, independent, stubborn, and resourceful. Find the evidence from the story to prove this.

She works side by side with Wang Lung in the field, and simultaneously taking care of the house and the cooking. She is proud woman because she refuses to have any help from the House of Hwang, and although Wang Lung told her that even his mother needs help during childbirth, she refuses all kinds of assistance from anyone. Even during pregnancy she takes time to prepare food for him and his father. Additionally, she is resourceful because she makes their shoes, repairs all the broken pots, mends the clothing. She even collects wood, so her husband doesn't have to pay fuel; the land is more productive due to the droppings she collects from the horses and donkeys on the road.

2. What reasons do Chinese parents give for not wanting a girl child but a man child?

Chinese parents does not a girl child because a girl child is deemed a burden, if not a disgrace, because when she marries to the man, she will live with her husband. Therefore, Chinese parents think that it is such a waste of resource and time to bring up a girl child for the other family. However, they have sons, then the sons will take care of them.

3. Compare and contrast Wang Lung's and his uncle's family.

4. What does Wang Lung really mean by saying, 'It's ill luck to look at cakes before the New Year.' ?

5. What does the gateman's reaction, 'You are what you are wearing, doing, saying,...etc' towards Wang Lung when he and his wife bring the first son to the Great House reflect?

6. How important is the color 'red' to the Chinese?

To the Chinese, the color 'red' carries special significance and is used for in all types of ceremonies. For example, Wang Lung bought red dye to color the eggs in celebration of the birth of his first son. O-lan dressed her son in red silk before presenting him to the Old Mistress. In wedding ceremonies, the bride is always dressed in red. In Chapter 5, to celebrate the New Year, red papers are used to good luck signs, and to make new clothes for the gods. Red signs are put on the doorway and various items of furniture, and people burn two red candles in the event of New Year.

7. Find evidence in the chapters to prove that Wang Lung and his wife are superstitious.

Wang Lung and his wife are superstitious. Upon traveling towards his home from house of Hwang, Wang Lung was exulted because he had a beautiful male child whose face was seen under the open sky. Then suddenly he opened his coat to thrust the child's head into his bosom and he pretended that his child was a mere girl as the evil spirit will not be interested in a mere girl. He did this to ward off any evil spirits which might affect his rise. After Wang Lung had said his child was a mere girl, she also agreed with him because she understood what her husband had done.

8. What makes the Great House of Hwang unable to stand forever?

The Great House of Hwang unable to stand forever because five of the young lords spend money extravagantly in the foreign parts and send woman after woman home after they are tired of

them. Furthermore, Old Lord living at home adds one or two concubines each year, and the Old Mistress consumes opium daily which is very costly.

Chapter 10-11

1. How much influence does Wang Lung's little girl child have on him?

Wang Lung's little girl has a big influence on him because she was born in a drought, and he fed her with chewed beans given by Ching. Furthermore, the fact he held her close to his chest prevents him from selling her as a slave in the Southern city when he is desperate for money to return home. Because of starvation, she becomes mentally ill, yet Wang Lung takes great pleasure during her presence even after he amassed a great wealth.

2. What is Wang Lung's family like in the new land?

3. In what ways can O-lan help the family survive the starvation in the city?

O-lan contributes a great deal to the survival the starvation in the city. First, she is the one who can make a shelter out of six mats bought by Wang Lung. Also she is the one who beg and teaches her two sons how to beg properly. At the end of the day, her and her two sons' income from begging is enough for the rice from the public kitchen. However, after paying the rent of the rickshaw, Wang Lung just had enough for himself for the rice.

4. According to Wang-lung, how different the city is compared to his homeland?

- In Anhwei, where Wang Lung was born, the language is slow and deep and it wells from the throat. However, in Kiangsu city, where they now lived, people speak in syllables which splinter from their lips and from the ends of their tongues.
- In his homeland, the bearing of the fields is slow and the land is harvested twice a year of wheat and rice and a bin of corn, beans, and garlic. However, in his present home, the farms are fed with fertilizers made of human wastes to hurry the bearing of the vegetable besides the rice.
- In his homeland, people eat only a piece of white bread with a bit of garlic. However, in his present home, people eat pork balls, bamboo sprouts, and many other delicacies.

5. Why does Wang-lung's refuse to beg in the city?

Wang Lung refuses to beg in the city as he is proud of himself in owning land in the other part of the country. As his mind occupies with one proverb "hard work and frugality will pay off at the end", he can't beg because begging contradicts to his value.

Chapter 12-14

1. What makes Wang Lung feel alien in the new land?

He lived in the rich city as alien as a rat in a rich man's house that is fed on scraps thrown away, and hides here and there and is never a part of the real life of the house.

2. Study this quotation from chapter 12: But neither Wang Lung nor his wife felt that the foreign dropped silver because of any goodness of heart but rather because of ignorance and not knowing that the copper is more correct to give beggars than silver. What can be inferred from this quotation about the way people perceive too much money given to the beggars?

3. What does Wang Lung react when he learns that his second son has resorted to stealing?

When he learns that his second has resorted to stealing, he is very angry and doesn't eat the meat stolen by the boy because he can't tolerate the idea of a man who has a son as a thief.

Furthermore, he even hits the second child behind O-lan's back.

4. Compare and contrast the rich and the poor throughout these chapters.

5. Based on what evidence can we make assumption that there could be unrest in the southern city?

There are three main evidences that we can make assumption that there could be unrest in the southern city. First, there are soldiers wandering around the city searching for able-bodied to join the military. Second, there is a young man who speaks of revolution in public; he condemns the rich and would divide the wealth of the rich among the poor if the revolution succeeded. Also, there is an old man from the family in an adjoining hut who maintains that 'when the rich are too rich, there is a way, and if I am not mistaken that way will come soon.' Finally, there is uprising when the gates of the rich are broken and the poor pour into the house to pillage.

6. How much can we learn about the lives of the girl slaves in the rich families from O-lan?

According to O-lan, the lives of the girl slaves in the rich families are very difficult. If the slaves are not pretty, they are beaten every day with a leather thong which is the halter on the mules. However, if the slaves are pretty, they will be raped since they are in childhood. First, the young lords argue with each other that sleep with her first. After the young lords, the male servants will have her.

7. What opportunity does Wang Lung take so that he can get money and make a come-back-home trip?

When the gate of one of the rich man was broken, common people, including Wang Lung, went pillaging the house. Wang Lung wandered around the house, and at last he found himself in the innermost court of the house where he unexpectedly met a great fat fellow who gave Wang Lung gold because he was afraid that Wang Lung would kill him.

8. Could stealing or robbing justified?

Chapter 15-17

1. How important an ox is to a farmer like Wang Lung?

2. What had happened in the village in time of starvation?

In time of starvation, villagers had great difficulty finding something to eat. Besides this, bandits and robbers preyed upon the village and the town as they were able.

3. It is said that Wang Lung's view of the gods follows the rise and fall of his fortunes. Find evidence from the story to support this claim.

When his fortune is on the rise, he again takes notices of the condition of his gods. He passes them and sees that the rain has washed away their clay faces and their clothes in tatter. He mildly reproaches them for their condition reminding them that this is what happens "to gods who do evil to men". However, at the end of chapter 15, when he can plough his fields due to sufficient rain fall, he mentioned that "I must stick a little incense before those two in the small temple. After all, they have power over the earth."

4. How did O-lan eventually find the jewels in great houses?

O-lan eventually found the jewels in great house because she used to be a slave in the Great House of Hwang. She knew clearly the meaning of the loosened brick because in one bad year the slaves, concubines and even Old Mistress hid their treasure in the secret place already

planned. Therefore, when O-lan saw a loosened brick in the wall, she carefully went there so that no souls could see her and demand a share. Then she pulled the brick away and put them in her sleeve.

5. Describe the robbery of the Great House of Hwang?

The bandits robbed the house taking the slaves and the goods, and they hung the Old Lord up by his thumbs and beat him. They tied the Old Mistress in the chair and gagged her, and later died due to the fright. Simultaneously everyone ran. Cuckoo said that she recognized that the gateman was among the bandits who led the way to rob the house, and other male servants who took away the jewels and other secret treasure stores not to be sold.

6. What does the old father really mean by saying, “An egg with a double yolk this time!” ?

By saying, “An egg with a double yolk this time!”, he meant that O-lan had delivered a twin: a boy and a girl.

7. How does illiteracy affect Wang Lung?

His illiteracy is a source of embarrassment to him as he doesn't know to write his own names. His illiteracy also put him at the mercy of grain merchants.

Chapter 18-19

1. Was Wang Lung's family affected much by the flood waters? Why/why not?

Wang Lung's family was not adversely affected by the flood because he had food and money, and his house was on a hill far away from the flood.

2. Why do you think Wang Lung went to the teashop?

Due to the flood, he became bored of his house and its members. He cannot work in the fields, his father is growing feeble-minded, his little fool only makes him sad, and O-lan's body no longer appeals to him, and for the first time in his life, he started to look at her critically trying to find faults with her. Therefore, he decided to go to the teashop.

3. According to the story, how does Wang Lung's character change?

He doesn't care for Ching's reports of the fields and receding waters. He spends much of his time caring about his physical appearance such as taking frequent baths, buying new clothes and new shoes, etc. He even has his braid cut off in order to please Lotus. Furthermore, Wang Lung, who used to be a frugal man, spends his silvers on jewels and favors for Lotus.

4. Why do you think O-lan does not ask her husband when he is always out and spend a lot of money?

O-lan does not ask her husband when he is always out and spend a lot of money because she knew that Wang Lung's anger is always ready for her who has no beauty of hair or of a person. It might be Chinese culture that does not allow the wife to question about the activities or decisions by her husband.

5. Compare and contrast O-lan and Lotus from Wang Lung's eyes.

6. How did Wang Lung treat his wife? If you were Wang Lung, would you treat your wife in such a way? Why/why not?

7. How was Wang Lung's unstoppable love for Lotus healed at last?

Wang Lung's unstoppable love for Lotus was healed at last for several reasons. First, he realized that Cuckoo spent too much money, which he was unwilling to give, buying expensive

food imported from the south for Lotus. Second, he did not appreciate Lotus being with his uncle wife's daily eating good food and talking nonstop with Lotus, and when Wang Lung came to see Lotus, she told him to wait and let he come in until she finished her talk with his uncle's wife. Third, Wang Lung was angry at Lotus who dared to curse his poor fool and to call her idiot, making him not go to Lotus's room for two days. Finally, when the water finally receded from the fields, he started working on his field again. In conclusion, all the above factors add up that make Wang Lung recover from his love sickness.

8. Why did Wang Lung laugh as he washed his body off the earth?

Wang Lung laughed as he washed his body off the earth because he washed it for no woman, and because he was free.

9. What were the roles of women of Wang Lung?

Lotus was for his toy and his sexual pleasure, while O-lan was for work and was a mother who had borne him sons and who took care of the house and cooked for him, his children and his father.

10. What did Wang Lung earn from being a rich man?

Being a rich man, Wang Lung earned more respect from the villagers because the villagers talked to him as one who lived in a great house not as a farmer like themselves. Furthermore, villagers sought his advice concerning the marriage of their sons or daughters or sought his decision if two farmers had a dispute over field boundary. Besides respect, he earned more money as villagers came to borrow money from him with interest.

11. How did his eldest son save Wang Lung from being mocked due to his illiteracy?

His eldest son saved Wang Lung from being mocked due to his illiteracy by showing his ability to read and write among the clerks in the grain market, and he even corrected wrongly-written letter.

12. What changes has Wang Lung witnessed his son reached puberty and what solution could he think of to deal with the changes?

When Wang Lung's eldest son reached puberty, he became moody and petulant and would not eat this and that. He was not interested in education anymore. For example, he was tired of his books, and he didn't like his old teacher. In the mornings, he didn't get out of bed to go to school until Wang Lung bawled at him or even beat him. Sometimes he did not go to school but spend the whole day idling about the streets. In order to deal with the changes, he didn't buy him a slave but would marry him off early.

13. Why couldn't he marry his son off then? Are you in favor of marriage at early age?

He couldn't marry his son off because Liu, grain merchant, thought that his daughter was too young to get married. He told Wang Lung to wait for three more years. I am not in favor of marriage at early age because I do not think they are ready for married life. First, when we are young, we might not know how to practice safe sex, causing partners to have STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases). Furthermore, women are not ready for delivering child, which is very risky for children and mother. Besides this, young parents might not be able to look after the baby. Second, the young are hot-tempered, and they are likely to argue with each other over small things, possibly leading to divorce. Additionally, they might not be able to support the family financially as they have to pay for house rent, food, utility, etc.

14. When it comes to marriage, what preparation one should have so as to have a desirable life

do you think?

15. Why can't Wang Lung expel his uncle out of the house? If you were Wang Lung, what would you do in such circumstance?

Wang Lung can't expel his uncle out of the house because he is a member of the Red Beard, a group of marauding robbers.

Chapter 20-22

1. Why does Wang Lung have a great passion to visit Lotus? Quote his exact sentences from the story.

Wang Lung have a great passion to visit Lotus because he is angry with his uncle's family who lives in his house. He is angry because he cannot think of solution to expel his uncle's family because they are their relatives. He is now a well-respected man in the village; if he expels them, the villagers will speak ill of him. He can't bear their appearance in his house, so he visits Lotus like he said "When a man's house is full of wild dogs, he must seek peace elsewhere."

2. As a woman or a wife, why do you think Lung's uncle's wife has no heart paving the way for Lotus to come into the house? What do you think of O-lan's reaction would be if she had known that?

3. Do you think that Wang Lung is completely blind in love with Lotus that he could not be able to tell right from wrong at all? Quote some evidence to support your answer.

I do not think that Wang Lung is completely blind in love with Lotus that he could not be able to tell right from wrong. First, he expected trouble from O-lan about the arrival of Lotus, but his main problems come from the presence of Cuckoo. Moreover, when Wang Lung angrily reproached his wife for not sparing hot water for Lotus, O-lan bore his violence and simply said to Wang Lung, 'and to that one you gave my two pearls. Because he felt ashamed of what he had done to his wife, he had to build another kitchen for Lotus and Cuckoo. Second, his love for Lotus started to wane when he first discovered that Lotus liked his uncle's wife and did not want him to come near him when his uncle's wife was visiting her. Third, when the twin took the poor fool into Lotus's inner court, she cursed the poor fool and called her idiot. This made Wang Lung so angry that he prohibited Lotus from cursing his kid again, and he did not visit her for two days. This action of Wang Lung pointed out that he could tell right from wrong. Third, when he saw the water had receded from the fields, he started to do his farming again. This can show land is extremely necessary for him. All in all, Wang Lung was not blindly in love with Lotus.

4. How can we know that Lung is having an affair with somebody according to Lung's uncle's wife?

According to Lung's uncle's wife Lung is having an affair with somebody because he suddenly care about his physical appearance such as smoothing his hair, buying new clothes and new velvet shoes.

5. What is the villagers' attitude towards Wang Lung who has two wives living under one roof?

The villagers think that it's acceptable for Wang Lung who has two wives living under the same roof, and they are jealous of Wang Lung who has beautiful wife in the inner court. Furthermore, they treat Wang Lung with more respect by talking to him like a man in a great

house not a farmer like themselves. They even ask Wang Lung's advice about marriage of their sons or daughters, and let him settle the dispute over the boundary of the field.

6. How much influence does Wang Lung's second wife have on him? If you were a man or a husband, how would you react to his issue?

7. Why does O-lan hate Cuckoo that much?

O-lan hate Cuckoo very much because when she was a slave in the House of Hwang, Cuckoo went to kitchen several times a day to order her to many things such food or tea for the lord. Moreover, she evens criticized about Olan's physical appearance and many other things about O-lan.

8. If you were O-lan, would you do the same way? Why/why not?

9. **What has happened to Wang Lung's eldest son? What does Wang Lung decide to do with his son's problem?**

Chapter 24-25

1. Why does Wang Lung's eldest son want to go to the south? Describe Wang Lung's reaction toward this request and give reason why he later changes his mind.

Wang Lung's eldest son wants to go to the south because he wants to be a scholar, he doesn't want to be watched like a child, and he doesn't want to stay in his little town but to visit other parts of the world. However, Wang Lung angrily turns down his son's request because he has learnt enough to help him with his business, and he doesn't intend to spend his hard-earned money on his son's education in the south. Nevertheless, he let his son go to the south as he discovered that his eldest son has relationship with Lotus. Therefore, his son will not visit Lotus anymore.

2. According to the story, how many sons and daughters do Wang Lung and O-lan have?

According to the story, Wang Lung and O-lan have three sons and three daughters, but the first daughter is killed by O-lan since birth.

3. What is Wang Lung's plan for his second son, second daughter and the youngest son? What has he done with his plans?

- He decided that he would take the second son out of school and he would apprentice him to a trade. Then he sent his second son to be a trade apprentice at the Liu's grain shop.
- He planned to marry his second daughter. Then he signed the papers for the second daughter's betrothal to the 10-year-old son of Liu, and the the dowry was decided and gifts of clothing and jewelry for her marriage day were fixed.
- He planned the youngest son would be a farmer, and the kid shall not go to school.

4. Who says this statement: "No, and my mother said I was not to weep aloud because you are too kind and weak for pain and you might say to leave me as I am, and then my husband would not love me even as you do not love her." What effect does the above statement have on Wang Lung?

Upon hearing the above statement, Wang Lung starts to feel uneasy and remorseful for what he had done to O-lan. He begins to realize faithfulness of O-lan to him. Realizing that the "fire in her vitals" is causing her great pain, Wang Lung tells her to go to bed while he goes for the doctor. Knowing that O-lan will die because of her serious disease, Wang Lung goes to the dark

kitchen where O-lan spends most of her time, and weep. This shows that he regrets that he does not take enough care of his wife.

5. What was Wang Lung reaction when he sees that O-lan is sick? Do you think Wang Lung want to sell the land to cure his wife?

When Wang Lung sees that O-lan is sick, he started to feel sympathetic and caring towards her as he started to think of her contribution to the whole family and him, and even he said that he would sell all his land to cure O-lan. However, I think it is unlikely that Wang Lung would sell his land to cure O-lan because he is too attached to his land to sell it, he is now a respected man in his village because of his wealth, and he can support Lotus, kept for his sex desire which is more pivotal than O-lan. All these are possible because of his land. He knows in his mind clearly he will lose all the above things if he sell the land. I think he said that just to console his wife and to show O-lan he love her, but in fact he is not because he even feel disgusted when he touched her hand in her dying state.

6. If you were Wang Lung would you sell your land to cure your wife's disease? Why/why not?

If I were Wang Lung, whether I sold my land to cure my wife would depend on two circumstances. If her disease were curable, I would sell everything encompassing land and if it is enough, I would borrow from others, to cure my wife. Then after her recovery, we would start our life from bare hand. However, if her disease were incurable, I would not sell my land because it's like a waste spending my money knowing that my wife will never ever recover. I know that when two people truly love each other, they do not want their partner to live in desperate conditions after their death. Nevertheless, I would spend my time staying with her until her last moment to make this period extremely meaningful for her before she died.

7. After you have read up to the 25th chapter of the Good Earth do you think Wang Lung is a good father and a good husband? Why/why not?

Chapter 27-29

1. What do you think from this statement remarked by Wang Lung "I have never had any good from that old man in heaven, yet. Incense or no incense, he is the same in evil. Let us go to see the land.
2. What significant events occur in the village during and after the flood?
3. How does Wang Lung react to the flood even this time? How does he protect his family?
4. Is Wang Lung's house affected by the flood? Why or why not? What does the flood this

time bring him and his family?

5. What did Wang Lung and his eldest son plan to do to his uncle's family? Why?

Wang Lung and his eldest son planned to keep the uncle and his wife helpless by buying them opium, and once addicted neither will be a nuisance.

6. Wang Lung has done so many things to satisfy the family members. As a result does peace come to the family? why? why not?

Although he had given his son a wife, he had bought slaves enough to serve them all, and he had bought enough opium to serve his uncle and his wife's wife for their pleasure, there was no peace in the family. It's because of Wang Lung's cousin and his eldest son.

7. What did Wang Lung's eldest son suggest him doing in order to deal with the problems in the house? How did Wang Lung react to his idea?

He suggested that Wang Lung drown the uncle, but Wang Lung refused to do so as he was an honorable man.

8. What kind of girl does Wang Lung's second son want? Why do you think he wants this kind of girl?

He desires a village maid of family which has good land, has no poor relatives, and bring a good dowry to him. She doesn't have to be neither fair nor plain, and a good cook. She must be frugal. For example, if she buys rice, it must be just enough; and if she buy cloth, the garment will be well cut, so there will be no scraps of cloth left over.

9. Find out the possible reason that make Wang Lung decide to rent the great house of Hwang. Elaborate on your views.

First, the fact that Wang Lung decided that he moved the Great House of Hwang is not caused by his eldest son's wishes or the actions of his cousin, but because he feels greatness in a place where he once felt so completely subdued. Second, when Wang Lung consults his second son, the son is content that the move will allow him to marry and move into the family home.

10. Why is Wang Lung cheerful when learning that his uncle's son wants to go to join a war to the north? Does this make him a bad relative?

Wang Lung is cheerful when learning that his uncle's son wants to join a war in the north because he finally discovers peace for himself. This does not make him a bad relative at all because he has served his uncle for so long due to the family ties. Talking about the bad relative, it should be uncle's family because they depend totally on Wang Lung for a living. Furthermore, the worst relative is Wang Lung's cousin because he has bad intention toward Wang Lung's second daughter. This shows ingratitude of the cousin to Wang Lung.

11. What do you understand from this statement made by Wang Lung "We have looked after you, my father and my son. Now there comes the fruit of my son's body. If it is not a son, I will give nothing more for the two of you!" ?

12. "I didn't fear like this when O-lan bore her first, my son," Wang Lung thought to himself.

Find the difference between O-lan and his eldest son's wife.

Read answer from question 3, from chapter 29-30.

13. Wang Lung doesn't cry when his father dies. Why do you think Wang Lung weeps when Ching perishes?

Wang Lung weeps when Ching perishes because Ching had been with Wang Lung for so long, even at the meager wedding feast for Olan and served Wang Lung very well. Furthermore, Ching was like a brother to him when Ching offered Wang Lung a few dry beans.

14. What did Wang Lung do to his land after Ching passed away?

After Ching passed away, Wang Lung rented all his land for an agreed price for a year at a time. He went to the land less frequently than ever as visiting the land painfully reminded him of his faithful servant, Ching, and he was too old to walk through the rough fields.

Chapter 29-30

Point to consider:

1. Even in wealth, Wang Lung's ties with the land are still exceptionally strong.
2. a death which affects him more than did the death of his own father.

Questions to be considered:

1. Describe the moving order of the family into the big house. What significance it carries?

Lotus and her Cuckoo and their slaves are first to be moved, followed by the eldest son and his wife. The significance it carries that Lotus has been raised in status as O-lan was dead; however, if O-lan was alive, Lotus was still second to her. This is the reason Lotus is the first to move.

2. As Wang Lung sleeps in the sun, we have nearly come to full circle. What full circle does the author tries to say?

He resembles his father in the beginning of the novel.

3. Compare O-lan to the wife of the first son in terms of giving birth to the baby.

O-lan, stubbornly refusing help from anyone, gave birth to child alone, and then came back to the fields to help Wang Lung with the harvest. In contrast, the eldest son's wife cried like a child in her pain, and she had slaves running in the house and her husband there by her door.

4. What happens to Wang Lung's youngest son?

He doesn't want to be on the land but wants to be educated as were his brothers. It troubles Wang Lung that he has no son on the land, but in order to have peace, he hires a tutor to teach his youngest son.

5. How big is the "the great House of Wang" ?

In the space of five years, Wang Lung has five grandsons and three granddaughters, and each child has its own individual slave when it is born. Therefore, the great House of Wang is very large.

Chapter 31-32

1. Wang Lung, who has now lived through more than one drought and more than one flood, swarms of locusts, famines, and other disasters, has never seen a war. Describe it.

The fact that Wang Lung refers to the war as something to be seen establishes the fact that he is just a simple peasant from the good earth.

2. Thus again is the uncle's son's sin a source of evil to Wang Lung. Why is he son?

The cousin of Wang Lung led a horde of soldiers carrying knives into the house of Wang Lung. Staying in the outer courts, they damaged the tree, and they crushed the delicate carvings

of with their boots. Also, they sullied the pools with their private filth, making the golden fish die. After listening to the report of the second son about killing person for the slightest provocation, Wang Lung and his sons realized the seriousness of the matter and moved immediately all the women and children into the inner courts. They guarded these court against the soldiers, but, due to the family or ancestral ties, he could not stop Wang Lung's cousin entering these courts where he insulted the wife of the eldest son and make sexual insinuations with the wife of second son, a fact that crate great enmity between the two women. In order to prevent him from taking any women he wished, he was given a slave who volunteered herself.

3. Now the story has come to full circle when Wang Lung calls the stout fellow who helped Ching and offers him the girl. Explain that statement.

Now Wang Lung sits on his dais and give instructions, whereas once he stood before this very dais receiving instructions, and whereas he received a stout woman, Olan, from this house, he is now giving a poor farmer, as he was once a poor farmer, a stout young girl.

4. The youngest son wants to join the soldier, what does Wang Lung do to stop him?

In order to stop his youngest son from joining the army, Wang Lung offers his son the school of his choice in the south or even the choice of one of the slaves as his mistress.

Chapter 33-34

1. How faithful and how significant is Pear Blossom to Wang Lung when he is getting old?

2. To Wang Lung, unlike other Chinese rich men, he feels ashamed when he takes Pear Blossom as his concubine. Find reasons to support this.

He feels ashamed as he is approaching 70, and thinks to himself that it was a disgraceful thing for an old man with grandsons and daughters whose age are nearer to his concubine. Additionally, he is even afraid to face Lotus, even though he has not been with her for years. He bribes Cuckoo to tell Lotus that Pear Blossom is moving with him. Moreover, he also feels ashamed of his sons of what he did. Therefore, he meets his sons separately for their opinions. The second learns of Pear Blossom first and says nothing. Then the eldest son who is at first incredulous but finally said, 'you are rich and you may do as you like.' Discovering Pear Blossom with his father, he gleamed at his father, conveying moral indignation, then announced with a surcharged voice that he would go for a soldier.

3. In your opinion, how do you feel about Chinese culture that "every rich man can do all what he wishes."

4. What do you learn from Wang Lung's words: "out of the land we came and into it we must go- and if you will hold your land you can live- no one can rob you of land."

This quote was said when Wang Lung heard his second son talking about selling the land with his eldest brother. Upon hearing this, he was very angry because he understood clearly the importance of the land, and he tried to point out the serious consequences of selling the land. Wang Lung's family was rich now because it had productive land whose harvest was bumper, generating great source of income. Therefore, Wang Lung's family could enjoy respect from the people around them and high standard of living, and then one day they would die and be buried in the land. However, if you were alive and you wanted to live properly you had to keep the land as if you had property such as jewels and silver but no land, then you would be robbed during famine by marauding bandits. Then you had nothing more to sustain your life. Wang Lung emphasized of possessing the land because when you were robbed of valuable property, you still

can do farming, which provided you enough to live. Then you could start everything from the scratch.