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Curriculum Project

Reading Quizzes (Question Sets for Selected Stories)

“Hometown” by Lu Xun

1. As a boy, why does Runtu wear a silver ring around his neck?
2. Describe Second Sister Yang’s appearance and explain her attitude toward the narrator.
3. What surprises the narrator about Runtu’s appearance and attitude toward him?
4. What is the narrator’s hope at the end of the story?

“Sealed Off” by Zhang Ailing

1. Stuck on the tram, grading papers to pass the time, Wu Cuiyuan has time to reflect on her reason for giving her male student, whose paper was about the big city, an "A". What causes her to grant such a high grade for work that isn't of superior quality?
 - a. The student's father is a highly ranked government official.
 - b. Wu Cuiyuan hopes her supervisor will think she is an effective teacher if her students have high grades.
 - c. This student makes her laugh and treats her kindly.
 - d. This student was the only man in her life who treats her as if she were an equal in intelligence and sophistication.
2. Why does Lu Zongzhen wish to avoid speaking to his wife's cousin's son?
 - a. Ambitious to rise from his humble origins, Dong Peizhi wishes to pursue Lu Zongzhen's daughter as a means of securing money and the ability to climb higher on the social ladder.
 - b. Coming from a more wealthy family, Dong Peizhi takes every opportunity he has to rub Lu Zongzhen's nose in the fact that he cannot afford to live in the same neighborhood as the rest of his extended family.
 - c. Pedantic and educated, Dong Peizhi likes to hear himself talk, and Lu Zongzhen doesn't feel like listening to a long lecture.
 - d. A medical student, Dong Peizhi has often embarrassed Lu Zongzhen by discussing intimate subjects that should not be mentioned in public
3. At the end of the story, the tramcar driver shouts "You swine!" To whom is he speaking?
 - a. an old beggar
 - b. Wu Cuiyuan
 - c. Lu Zongzhen
 - d. the medical student
4. Explain Lu Zongzhen's motives in starting the conversation with Wu Cuiyuan. How do his motives (and his feelings about her) change during the course of their conversation?
5. Describe and explain Wu Cuiyuan's changing emotions during the course of her conversation with Lu Zongzhen?

“Old Gun” by Mo Yan

1. How did Dasuo lose his index finger?

2. Why does Dasuo come to the sorghum fields at dusk?
3. Describe Dasuo's grandmother. What is her reputation? How does the story Wang Laoka tells in the village reveal the reputed qualities of Dasuo's grandmother?
4. What happens at the end of the story?

“Meijin, Baozi, and the White Kid” by Shen Congwen

1. Precious Stone Cave, in the time of Baozi and Meijin, was a place for lovers. What is it used for now?
 - a. to store guns and ammunition
 - b. as a retreat for robbers and thieves
 - c. as a place to worship gods
 - d. as a place for shepherds to shelter their goats during inclement weather
2. What does Meijin bring with her to the Precious Stone Cave?
 - a. An embroidered purse full of coins, a gourd of wine, and a dagger
 - b. Silk scarves, a silver lyre, and a penknife
 - c. A white kid and a knife
 - d. Precious gems, incense, and poetry she wrote for Baozi
3. Why is Baozi late in arriving at the Precious Stone Cave?

“Black Bristle, White Bristles” by Yan Lianke

1. Why is Butcher Li slaughtering pigs at sunset rather than sunrise?
 - a. He is trying to cover up the accident in which Party Secretary Zhao ran over a villager
 - b. His daughter's wedding is the next day and he needs to prepare the feast
 - c. A miner has put in an extra order of meat for a celebration he is having
 - d. The religious ceremony honoring his ancestors is to take place at sunrise the next day
2. Which man is initially chosen to serve the town head's prison sentence?
 - a. Wu Zhuzi, a forty-year-old whose wife has left him
 - b. Lame Zhao, who was crippled when a brick kiln collapsed on him
 - c. Li Qing, who runs a business in town
 - d. Liu Genbao, who is unmarried at 29
3. How does Butcher Li decide who gets to serve time for the town head?
 - a. He listens carefully to each of the four men and decides on the basis of merit, choosing the one who shows the most need of help
 - b. He makes the men wait all night and chooses the man who manages to remain awake at sunrise
 - c. He makes the men decide among themselves, and they choose arm wrestling as the suitable method for determining the most worthy
 - d. He has the men do the equivalent of drawing straws
4. Describe the interaction between Liu Genbao and the 26-year-old widow, a mother of two, the woman his kinsman set him up with. What is revealed about Genbao's character through this scene?
5. Explain Genbao's motivation and actions as you describe what happens upon his return home from Butcher Li's.
6. What advice does Genbao's father give him when he reveals his plan for volunteering to serve prison time for the town head?
7. How does Liu Genbao convince Wu Zhuzi to surrender the honor of going to prison to him?

8. What is the mood at the end of the story and how has it been created?

“Hot and Cold, Measure for Measure” by Wang Shuo

1. What do Wu Di and Chen Weiling study at the university?
 - a. Politics
 - b. They are medical students
 - c. Psychology
 - d. English
2. Who has Wu Di been dating for a year?
 - a. Zhang Ming's friend Fangfang
 - b. Han Jin, one of the speakers at the lecture hall
 - c. Mr. Shi Yide, an old classmate of Zhang Ming's
 - d. Her cousin, Cuiyuan
3. Where does Zhang Ming ask Wu Di to meet him?
 - a. the library
 - b. the Mao Zedong hotel
 - c. the Monument to the People's Heroes
 - d. Fangfang's apartment
4. Compare and contrast Wu Di and Chen Weiling.
5. What is your impression of Zhang Ming? What are his positive qualities? (Supply two supporting details for these characteristics.) What are his negative traits? (Supply details from the story that support your assertion about his negative traits.)
6. As Zhang Ming waits on the steps of the Monument to the People's Heroes, what does he observe happening in Tiananmen Square?
7. How does Zhang Ming manipulate Wu Di? How does he "read" her and then play upon his knowledge of her "type"?
8. What is Zhang Ming's philosophy of life?