

Today, I'm going to presents you with a closer look at the **parenting** method in the Dragonwings. To be more specific, I will **focus** only on the parenting of **Uncle** Bright Star and **Wind** Rider _ who represents **two** generations of Chinese Americans. I will discuss the **difference** in their parenting methods to understand the **change** in the view of Chinese American Identities.

The Uncle's parenting **focuses** more on the **family's** interests. Uncle tries to convey the **traditional** idea of the Chinese family to the **next** generation _ by teaching them to **strictly** follow the Family Hierarchical Rules. **According** to a research by Jeffery Mar, the **traditional** Chinese Family **hierarchy** is built on _ respect for family **elders** and **parental** authority. For the first one, / at the welcoming dinner, Moonshadow has **already** noticed that the **order** family member toasts matter. This convention is **commonly** seen / in a traditional Chinese family **which** is also considered as a part of / table manners. For the second one, / Uncle Brightstar strengthens his **parental** authority through the metaphor of his **throne**. Interestingly, the description of his throne **repeated**-throughout-the-novel. **Even-when** they had moved away from their company to live in a tent. As is described on page 245, it says "he **sat** down on an **old crate** instead; but_ he did it just as **majestically** as if it were his **throne**". The **throne** here is not just referring to the heavy_ and expensive chair, it is an **indicator** of Uncle's **undoubtable authority** in this family. For those who are **against** his will, just like what he did to Blackdog: **punishing**_ or even **threatening**. This type of parenting indicates his **conservative** view of Chinese American Identity. He regards "**remembering** who you are and **where** you are from" matter. On page 121, when Uncle is going to see Windrider off, he presents Windrider **a cup of soil**. / It says, "For **Uncle** the **soil** was very **special**, being a bit of the Middle Kingdom and home, _ and **more**: part of the **land** which his **fathers** and **their fathers** had worked before him". This cup of soil is **intended** to teach Windrider **not to** lose his **identity** as a **pure** Tang man.

By comparison, the **Windrider's** parenting method _ focuses more on _ **individual accomplishment** and _ **self-esteem**. Unlike the conservative Uncle Brightstar, Windrider **himself** is dedicated to **realizing** his flying-dream. Windrider **respects** and **listen** to Moonshadow _ instead of **scolding** him whenever-he-disobeys. For example, _ on page 207-208, _ after-the-earthquake, Windrider-asked-Moonshadow **twice** to **leave** the-hill-of-rubbles to find a **safe** place. While Moonshadow **rejected** and **proposed** his **own** idea: he said: "The **faster** we-can-clear-this-stuff-away, the **sooner** we-can-leave-this-mound. Maybe we can even get-away before the wall collapses". Windrider **listen** to him grinned **affectionately** and slapped Moonshadow's back to went back work together. In **Windrider's** parenting methods, he **respects** the younger generation and **encourages** the young to have their **own** voice. On page 255, when Uncle and Windrider are **arguing** about the **flying** machine. Moonshadow **proposed** a **strong** statement concerning _ **individual accomplishment**: He said, "A **superior** man _ can **only** do what he's **meant** to do". Uncle and Windrider hold a **totally** different attitude toward it. Uncle said "**Don't** give me that nonsense" while father replied, "He's the **only** one I hear _ **talking sense**".

The **purpose** Windrider takes this **encouraging** parenting is that _ he tries to **teach** the next generation **how** to be well adapted to the white-dominated society as an

individual instead of becoming a **pure** Tang man who relies on the **family** power.

In conclusion, Uncle holds **conservative** parenting, trying to **convey** the idea of the traditional Chinese family to the next generation. He hopes the young Chinese to treat their **identity** as a pure Tang man. However, **Windrider's** parenting is more **encouraging**, intended to develop the next generation's **individual** power _ to **adapt** to American society.

