Ch. 1

1. What is the one most “important thing” Mother tells Moonshadow about his father? Describe the effect of this “important thing” on Moonshadow and his mother.

The one “most important thing” is that Moon Shadow’s father “was a maker of the most marvelous kites” (Yep, 4).

For Moon Shadow, he admires the marvelous kites his father made. Besides, it’s an important way of knowing and interacting with his father.

For Moon’s mother, flying kites made by his father is a relief to her and bring her joy. She recalled the good old days with her husband when they were young which relieved the heavy burden as being a housewife.

1. Describe, in about 2-3 sentences, some of Moonshadow’s fears when first arriving at the United States.

  He afraid those demons in the U.S. will harm him. He also afraid of being sent back to Middle Kingdom if he make any mistake during the questioning.

1. Describe MS’s thoughts when finally meeting his father. Describe his father’s actions in the meanwhile.

Moon Shadow is totally unfamiliar with his father that he thought his father as a stranger. His father greeted him warmly, he smiled to Moon Shadow and “knelt down on the pier and held out his arms” (Yep, 18).

1. Fun question: translate Moonshadow’s name to Chinese characters (汉字). What are some of your *connotations* of this name – or other characters’ names in this text?

Moon Shadow in Chinese is “月影”. In Chinse culture, bright moon is endowed with the symbolic meaning of beauty and immortal. It is also a carrier of the emotion of lovesickness and homesickness since separate people cannot see each other, but they are both admiring the same moon in the sky.

Ch. 2

1. Describe briefly Uncle Bright Star’s physical appearance, as well as some of the ways it was affected by his time in America.

Bright Star is in his eighties. He is short and fat, with a round face, broad cheeks, a weak chin and thick lips. He wears a special blue silk coat.

1. Name the Chinese texts referred to by Uncle (two texts?), Lefty, and one of the founders of the Company in the Company building. Describe briefly the inspiration these characters and/or the Company draws from these texts.

The Company’s name is the Peach Orchard Vow. It comes from a Chinse book, The Romance of Three Kingdoms. The main characters in the text of the vow are Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei. These characters have some similarity with Uncle, Lefty and one of the founders. Firstly, they are all in an unrest world but have a dream to fight for a place to live and expand their people. Secondly, they all have great capability from gathering people to coping with tough situations.

1. Describe Black Dog’s relationship with his father and the other Americans around him.

Black Dog didn’t have a good relationship with his father. Though he is raised in the Middle Kingdom luxury, he was resent to America and tired of working as a labor force. He despised his father and hangout with brotherhood to make illicit income. He’s unkind to others and behaved impolitely.

Challenge: at one point in the text, MS the narrator mentions “the Tang people’s town” in San Francisco “as it is now.”  How does MS describe “the Tang people’s town … as it is now” (one sentence only)?

  The Tang people’s town is a place where the building style, the decoration, the people’s belief and traditions are almost the same as those in China at that time.

Ch. 3

1. Briefly (3-4 sentences) describe Father’s room and the things inside it.

Father’s room is small, crowded with weird looking machines. Opposite to the wall lies a long large table where gathering piles of thick, cloth-like paper. There were earphones, electric light and many things I haven’t seen before.

1. What major service does Windrider perform for the Dragon King in his dream?

He heals the Dragon King.

1. Describe briefly the wings the Dragon King provides Windrider to fly.

The wings are shimmery and seemed fragile but really strong. They are not heavy. Those wings has a rainbow colors and marvelous glory.

1. What social event does the Dragon King hold for Windrider after they fly together? What small favor does he provide Windrider right after that event?

The Dragon King spoke into the stone to contact with his kin and played a game of dominoes after that. He let Windrider to hear his wife and son.

Fun Side Activity: Draw and post any part of Windrider’s dream with the Dragon King.  Beware – Prof. Yang may show and talk about your picture in class!

Ch. 4

1. Describe some of the *physical* dangers Moonshadow faces when not in the Tang districts of San Francisco (2-3 sentences).

Demon boys sometimes throw stones at him. Some restless adult demons also may seeks Moon Shadow for some little “sport” (Yep, 66).

1. Summarize briefly the Action Cycle where Windrider helps Oliver Alger with his car. Consider this segment in five steps:

At first, Oliver Alger’s car is stranded by the sidewalk with nothing Oliver can do. Windrider examined the engine, but Alger is doubtful and asked for the nearest garage. Windrider find the problem and fixed it. After that, Alger wanted to tip Windrider but refused. Instead, he handed a card to Windrider. Alger appreciated Windrider and want to use such a handyman. Windrider is thankful and just happy to look at the horseless carriage.

1. Describe Uncle’s response to Windrider’s dream to fly. What does Uncle wish Windrider to do instead?

He mocked at Windrider for being such unrealistic. He thought it was not very credible since the flying thing is posted on demon’s paper. He wished Windrider to give up those ridiculous wild dream and stay on the ground and make money by doing his own job safely.

1. Describe (2-3 sentences) how Black Dog nearly started a gang war between the two brotherhoods, the Justices and the Bloody Hands.

Black Dog belongs to the brotherhood of the Justice, but he had stolen money from one of the foxes of the Bloody Hand. Black Dog also beat her to make her not talking.

**Ch. 5**

**Black Dog robs Moonshadow of all the money he was carrying for the Company.  This sets off a chain of events that influences the rest of this novel.**

1. **Choose one: Windrider chooses to confront Black Dog (alone / with the Company). He does this because….**

He chooses to confront Black Dog alone, because for the sake of the whole company, he doesn’t want run the risk of getting all those members involved in some unavoidable trouble with the Sleeper.

1. **Choose one: The Company chooses to (call / not call) the official police for aid, because….**

The company chooses not to call the demon official police for aid. From the Uncle’s point of view, these are just Tang people’s affairs. He think calling the official police may cause more injustice and raise the conflict.

1. **Moonshadow walks bravely by his father’s side as the two of them enter the territory of the Sleeper brotherhood (True / False). Why does Moonshadow enter the territory in this fashion?**

False. He holds his boots in his hands and sneak after his father. He did this because he reminds of the mother’s urge to protect and look after Wind Rider. Also, he did this is intended to protect his father.

1. **Windrider finally fights Black Dog in a one-on-one duel. He ends up killing a man, but it is not Black Dog.  Describe the immediate events that lead up to Windrider killing this man.  You may need to use several (3-4) sentences to describe this accurately.**

Before the duel, Moon Shadow noticed someone armed with a heavy pistol. When the fight begins, Black Dog shout “Now” as a sign for the gunman to shoot Windrider. However, Moon Shadow noticed and spare all his effort fighting with the gunman. To protect his son, Windrider killed the gunman eventually.

1. **Why do Windrider and his son finally leave the town of Tang people, with no one else joining them? This question has two parts.  Answer both fully.**

The main reason is that they are going to hide from the Sleepers since they had caused an unwanted death there. To guarantee their safety, they need to hide from some possible revengers. Another subtle reason is Windrider wants to realize his own dream of making a plane and for the sake of self-accomplishment, he decides to leave the company and earn his living in another way.

1. **Where does Windrider go? What is his new job?  How did he get this job?**

With the help from Mister Alger, he worked in a place where lives mostly demons. His new job is to fix people’s unworking machines. His getting this job is attributed to both his capability and the help of Mister Alger who he helped in the previous chapter.

**Ch. 6**

1. **With one sentence each, contrast what Moonshadow *expects* with Ms. Whitlaw with what he *actually experiences*.**
   1. **Appearance**
   2. **Food**
   3. **Manners (hospitality)**

Moonshadow expects Miss Whitlaw as ten feet tall with blue skin and looks ugly while her actual appearance is just no much bigger than Hand Clap with a large nose, red face and silver hair. (Yep, 130)

He expects the cookie as poison and are dung, but it turns out to be delicious. (Yep, 132)

He expected Miss Whitlaw as a hostile and evil woman, while the fact is she is friendly and hospitable.

1. **Contrast Ms. Whitlaw’s and Moonshadow’s perspectives on dragons. For each one, what is one *source* of their beliefs?  Try to be as specific as you can.**

Ms. Whitlaw thought dragons are “wicked animal that breathe fire and goes about eating up people and destroying towns” (Yep, 139). Her belief is built on the well-known stories of St. George killing dragons. On the contrary, Moonshadow considers dragon as a great creature that brings farmers rain and do some constructive things. This belief originated form the myth in Chinese culture.

1. **To Moonshadow, Ms. Whitlaw appears rather patient and kind for a “white demoness.” This leads Moonshadow to finally hold what belief about Ms. Whitlaw?**

Interestingly, he thought Miss Whitlaw was a Tang woman who did something so terrible in a former life that she reborn here as a white demon (Yep, 143).

**Ch. 7**

1. **At first, Moonshadow is afraid of Robin, even though Robin tries to be friendly to Moonshadow.**
   1. **What does Ms. Whitlaw say as she tries to scold Robin?**
   2. **How does Robin respond?**
   3. **Describe, as precisely as you can, how Robin’s response changes Moonshadow’s attitude toward Robin.**

Ms. Whitlaw scold Robin for mocking Moon Shadow for his afraid of going to the pump. She said that “You, Robin. I told you to leave Moon Shadow alone” (Yep, 155). Robin replied that she was trying to be friendly to MS, but he didn’t talk to her (Yep, 155). Robin accompanied with Moon Shadow to the pump to overcome his scarcity. Also, she does Moon Shadow a favor by telling him the weak point of Jack, the boy who used to bullied Moon Shadow. He follows Robins advice and cope with Jack which save him from being bullied anymore.

1. **As Moonshadow and Robin talk about dragons, Robin uses a *metaphor* (actually, a *simile*) to describe how she is stubborn.**
   1. **State this simile.**
   2. **Describe Moonshadow’s “triumphant” response to this simile.**
   3. **In your own words, describe how Moonshadow and Robin are *similar* to one another during this conversation – *compare* their attitudes or personalities.**

Robin compares herself as a stubborn Missouri mule which is a creature that pound for pound and can out ornery any other creature on God’s earth (Yep, 161). Moonshadow proposes that since he has never seen such a Missouri mule so that he cannot tell how a Missouri mule is like. Thus, he has no method of verifying whether Robin said are true. The only difference is the object they are discussing. For Robin, she refuses to believe the dragon described by Moon Shadow for she has never witness such a creature. Moon shadow use the same logic to criticize the credibility of the Missouri mule described by Robin.

1. **Thus far, Windrider has compared himself to dragons multiple times in the text. When he gets angry at Moonshadow for writing a letter to the Wright Brothers, this leads Ms. Whitlaw to make what kind of truth about dragons?**

She thinks that dragon is neither all-good nor all-bad. The dragon is a creature like Nature (Yep, 169). Therefore, she wants Moon Shadow to love his father more.

**Ch. 8**

1. **At one point in Ms. Whitlaw’s boarding house, Robin jokes to Moonshadow, “Curse you for being a good influence on me.” In what specific way did Moonshadow influence Robin?**

Moon Shadow’s enthusiasm of flying gliders motivate Robin. With the patient help and guidance, she is able to fly glider herself and obtain great joy from it.

1. **What “tip” does Robin give Moonshadow in return? How does Moonshadow and/or his relationship to his surroundings change as a consequence?**

She offers a strategy of defeating Jack, the boy who bullied Moonshadow often. She told him that defeat the biggest one will keep the rest away from bullying him. The strategy is that Jack is afraid of blood and his mum. Thus, Moon Shadow stop to have a fight with him and hit his nose violently to make him bleed. After that, he reestablishes his status among those children which makes them stop bulling him.

1. **As Windrider looks at the constellations, how do Moonshadow, Robin, and Ms. Whitlaw “distract” him? What do they distract him from?**

They asked him to talk about the constellations according to Chinese tradition and myths which distract Windrider from thinking of his wife.

**Ch. 9**

1. **Describe Moonshadow’s “uneasy” feeling before the San Francisco Earthquake hits.**

Before the earthquake, Moonshadow saw “the morning was filled with that soft, gentle twilight of spring, when everything is filled with soft, dreamy colors and shapes” (Yep, 196).

1. **At first, no one wants to help Windrider and Ms. Whitlaw help other victims of the earthquake. How does Windrider finally get people to help?**

Windrider used a club to force people who are reluctant to help.

1. **The government of California declares “martial law” in the city. What does this mean?  What happens to the citizens of San Francisco because of martial law?**

The soldiers are authorized to shoot at the looters. Part of the looting like rubbering and theft are eliminated, while in some cases, the soldiers are the looter themselves. They shoot whatever people they want shoot at and rob people’s house and steal.

1. **At the end of this chapter, one of Windrider’s company men, Lefty, finally meets Ms. Whitlaw face-to-face. What do Windrider and Lefty say about Ms. Whitlaw?**

Lefty said that Ms. Whitlaw “doesn’t look very ugly for a demoness” since she is age well (Yep, 219).

**Ch. 10**

1. **What finally causes the Company of the Peach Orchard Vow to move to the Golden Gate Park?**

The demon soldiers use too many dynamites to blow up some buildings to lay a firebreak. The overused dynamites caused the buildings in China Town start to burn.

1. **Despite all the danger and turmoil the Company face, Moonshadow claims their first evening at the Golden Gate Park came to “a fine evening.” What are some of the things the Company did to make it “a fine evening”?**

The Company held a Chinese dinner and invite Ms. Whitlaw and Robin to come. The Company treats them well. Ms. Whitlaw presents us a precious bottle of her “very own plum brandy” (Yep, 233). Uncle likes the wine and invite Ms. Whitlaw to sit in his favorite chair.

1. **How does Ms. Whitlaw impress Uncle Bright Star, when they finally meet face to face? What does she say or do?**

At first, she impresses him by presenting him the brandy which she precious a lot and the wine turn out to have a high quality which satisfied Uncle. After that, she sang “Barbara Allen” in a high, ethereal voice which also leaves deep impression on Uncle.

1. **The San Francisco government proposes to relocate the Tang people to Hunter’s Point.**
   1. **Why does this upset the Company so much?**
   2. **What strategy does the Company undertake to resist this proposal?**

There are several reasons that this government proposition upset the Company. First one is all other ethnic groups are able to move back to where they originally are to rebuild their houses while only Chinese are asked to move out. This unfair and discrimination on Chinses makes the members angry. Another reason is that those Tang people have developed their business in this area for years or even decades, so that moving to a new place means they need to give up all the business they had previously an start a new one which is hard for the Company.

Uncle appeals to the demon offices’ sense of greed to resist this proposal. The Company ally made up by all those Tang people threat to move some other cities to bring a negative influence on the economy in San Francisco.

1. **As the Company begins to rebuild its building, Windrider makes a crucial decision.**
   1. **What is this decision, and why did he make it?**
   2. **How does the Company respond?**

He decides to make the plane totally on his own together with Moon Shadow. He did this because he is a ideality and he wants to show people “how pure and free a man can live” (Yep, 250).

**Ch. 11**

1. **Moonshadow’s mother sends a letter from home, for Moonshadow alone.**
   1. **What is the principal request of this letter?**
   2. **What does Moonshadow tell Windrider this letter is about?**

She conveys her firm love to Windrider and require Moonshadow to support his father as hard as he can. He told his father that mother loves him and support him all the time.

1. **According to Moonshadow, what is the true “mountain of gold” in San Francisco? What inspires him to have these thoughts?**

Moonshadow thought the mountain of gold are “not the nuggets but people who made it up” (Yep, 268). After leaving the Company, he realizes that it was their joint effort is the most precious thing.

**Ch. 12**

1. **Create a list of all the characters who finally help Windrider to get Dragonwings to fly.**

Moon Shadow, Ms. Whitlaw and Robin, Brother Wright, Uncle Bright Star, Hand Clap, Lefty and White Deer.

1. **What does Windrider realize, in terms of “dragons” and himself, as he soars in the air via Dragonwings?**

It was when the flight meets with danger did, he realize the family weigh more than individual accomplishment

1. **The novel’s very last moment is of Moonshadow and Robin running into Ms. Whitlaw’s for cookies. Why do you think the novel chooses to end its story this way?**

In my perspective, the novel is mainly an adventure book for children. The main focus is not educating people a historical story. Therefore, the last scene needs to just zoom into the kids: Moonshadow and Robin. We’ve already knew the generation of Uncle Bright Star and Windrider. They have already proved what a Chinese American should like through their own way, while the Moonshadow represents the youngest generation, he represents a new perspective, a new idea of what Chinese American is like.