HOMESICK

Synopsis

This is the autobiography of Jean Fritz, the children’s author, during a few years when she lived in China and her later adjustment to living in America. Her father had worked in China before the revolution and its change to a communist type of government. As a child she is confused that some call her a foreign devil and others throw rocks at her. When trouble starts to break out in cities near by, her family realizes they must leave soon for their own safety. The war becomes more a real through two incidents that happen to Jean and her Family. Once as they are returning from a trip in the country some coolies threaten them. Fortunately some other Chinese friends of her farther saved them. Then as they are getting ready to depart from the country, bullets are being shot at their boat.

Finally they arrive safely in America at her grandparent’s home in Pennsylvania. Jean who has always been fiercely proud of being an American doesn’t understand how the students have so little pride in their school flag while saying the pledge. Her teacher’s find more to criticize than to accept and the students make fun of her life in Chanina, Jean’s caring grandmother puts the school events back into perspective and Jean starts to feel at home in the United States.
1. Why was Jean's family living in China?
   A. They were Chinese.
   B. Their ancestors were from China.
   C. Jean's father worked there.

2. What is an amah? Lin Nai-Nai, my amah, was the only one around...

3. Which event happened last?
   A. Ian twists Jean's arm and threatens her.
   B. Jean skips school.
   C. Jean wouldn't sing the British national anthem.

4. What did Yang Sze-Fu, the cook, have that made his feel superior to the other workers?

5. Why does the little boy call Jean a foreign devil?
   A. Many Chinese thought foreigners were bad.
   B. She looked so different he thought she was a devil.
   C. It was the only English phrase he knew.

6. What solution does Jean's father come up with for her singing problem at school?
1. What is the name Jean thinks she should have?
   A. Marjorie
   B. Andrea
   C. Millie

2. Jean felt bad that the coolies always ran when carrying passengers, but she knew they would loose face if they did not. What does it mean to loose face?
   A. To not be respected
   B. To not get as many customers
   C. To not get there on time.

3. While Jean and Andrea were on the wall playing, a Chinese woman started yelling at them. Soon some boys were throwing stones at them. How do you think they felt? Explain.

4. What does Jean say that she likes best about Christmas?
   A. Opening all the presents.
   B. Grown-ups don’t act like adults.
   C. Singing Christmas songs.

5. Why is it Christmas at Jean’s house but not at her grandmothers?
   A. Her grandmother likes to sleep in.
   B. Her grandmother doesn’t celebrate Christmas.
   C. Her grandmother is on the other side of the international dateline.
1. What does Jean’s father do that stopped the agitator from making trouble?

2. What is an agitator” (there were demonstrators, marchers and agitators)
   A. A member of a group.
   B. A mixing device on a machine.
   C. A person who stirs up trouble

3. What is a riot? (Occasionally there were riots)

4. Jean’s father brings her some surprise news from the hospital. What is it?
   A. Her mother fell and broke her leg.
   B. Her mother has to have surgery.
   C. Her mothers just gave birth to a baby sister.

5. What clues did the author give that suggested to the reader that Jean’s mother was pregnant?

6. How does Jean feel about the war going on around them?
   A. She wants it to be over soon so they can return to the United States.
   B. She hopes that people who had drawn rotten lives would be given a Change of luck.
   C. She feels it is foolish and won’t solve anything.
1. There was trouble at the dock for Jean's family. How were they saved?

2. How does the city of Washington, PA have importance to Jean?
   - A. She was born there.
   - B. Her grandparents live there.
   - C. That's where she wants to go to school.

3. What is a "siege"?

4. How many days did the siege of Wuchang last?
   - A. 4
   - B. 14
   - C. 20

5. Why did Lin Nai-Nai want to go to Wuchang?

6. What happened that made it necessary for Jean and her mother to leave Hankow before they were scheduled to?

7. Jean's family and her friends were all leaving for America on the same boat. What is Jean's one concern that could change their plans?
1. What is Jean reciting that draws attention to herself as they enter San Francisco Bay?

   A. A poem about her native land.
   B. Her favorite American song.

2. What is the first American food she tries?

   A. Chocolate soda.
   B. Hot dog.
   C. French Fries.

3. Why is Jean disappointed about the way her classmates in America say the pledge of Allegiance?

4. Jean does not have a good first day school. Tell about one of the events that happened.

5. Choose a character from the book that think is the most UNLIKE yourself and explain your answer?
LESSON 1

1. C.

2. An amah is like a nanny or someone who takes care of the children.

3. B

4. Yang Sze-Fu, the cook, had a very long nail on his pinky that made him feel superior.

5. A

6. The solution was to mouth the words to the American national anthem so it looks like Jean is singing since the tune is the same.

LESSON 2

1. A

2. A

3. Answers will vary. Jean and Andrea probably felt upset when the people started throwing things and yelling at them. They like the Chinese and had not done anything to them. They might not have understood why they were picking on them just because they were Americans.

4. B

5. C
LESSON 3

1. Jean’s father stood behind the man mimicking him, and turned it into a joke. That made him look braver and the man more foolish.

2. C

3. A riot is many people disturbing the public peace.

4. C

5. Answers will vary. Some acceptable are: Her mother says they can’t adopt a baby, Andrea said she had something to look forward to and asked how her mother was feeling, her mother was wearing loose dresses all the time, the servant said something was wrong with her Mother’s middle.

6. B

LESSON 4

1. When Jean's family arrived the dock coolies carried their bags, then stopped and pulled knives on them. Fortunately some carriage coolies who knew the family saw that they were in trouble and rescued them.

2. B

3. A siege is a persistent effort or attack.

4. C

5. Nai-Nai wanted to go to Wuchang to see if her family was all right and to take them food.

6. Jean and her mother had to leave Hankow because the war broke out and it wasn’t safe for them any longer.

7. Jean is afraid that her father might not make it to the boat on time for them all to leave for America.
LESSON 5

1. A

2. A.

3. Jean is disappointed because her classmates don’t seem to care or to be interested.

4. Answers will vary. Some things that happened are: people accuse her of Eating rats, the teacher tells her the way she writes is all wrong, some call her a Chinaman, Miss Crofts told her she said the Chinese word incorrectly.

5. Answers will vary.