

Due Date:
May 26

Grade 6 Book Report
A Single Shard
By Linda Sue Park

Chapter 1

1. Tree-ear made the decision to wait until the man losing the rice reached the bend in the road before he ran to catch him. Why did he wait? What would you have done if you had been in that situation?
2. "Scholars read the great words of the world. But you and I must learn to read the world itself." (Page 7) What do these words mean?

Chapter 2

1. What was the punishment Min inflicted upon Tree-ear because of the misshapen pottery box? Was it a fair punishment?

Chapter 3

1. Crane-man taught Tree-ear many things about the mountains on their walks there. What were some of the useful things he taught him?

Chapter 4

1. What were the steps in getting the clay ready for the potter?

Chapter 5

1. How did Crane-man feel about taking the jacket from Tree-ear? Why do you think Crane-man felt that way?

Chapter 6

1. If you were the emissary, whose work would you have chosen for royal commission? Why?

Chapter 7

1. How did Min feel about Kaug's work as a potter? How do you know?

Chapter 8

1. What advice did Crane-man give Tree-ear so that his body would not become tired before the journey to Songdo? Do you think it was good advice? Explain.

Chapter 9

1. What took the joy out of Tree-ear's work?
2. Why did Ajima offer to feed Crane-man while Tree-ear was gone?

Chapter 10

1. Why was Tree-ear so frightened of the fox?

Chapter 11

1. Why did Tree-ear choose not to leap off the edge after the vases were broken?

Chapter 12

1. How do you think Tree-man felt when showing the shards to Emissary Kim?
How did Tree-man feel at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 13

1. Why did Min act so quiet and solemn when told the joyful news that he received the royal commission?
2. Do you think Tree-ear ever got to create a vase of which he could be proud?
Explain your answer.
3. What was the significance of Tree-ear being given a new name?

Social Studies:

1. Use books in the library or sites on the Internet to research Korean history and culture. What has been their historical relationship with nearby countries like Japan, Russia and China? With the USA? Write a one-paragraph essay.
2. Learn about names in Korean or other Asian cultures. Do they have special meanings? What are the most common ones? Write a one-paragraph essay.
3. Learn about the pottery of Korea. How did celadon pottery develop? What does it look like? Is pottery still an important art in Korea? Write a one-paragraph essay.
4. Learn about Asian food, Korean in particular. Why is rice a staple of these countries? Write a one-paragraph essay.
5. Throughout the story, Tree-ear learns the power of meditation; from the way he feels chopping the wood for Min, to watching Min create the prunus vase, to creating pottery of his own. Learn about meditation in Eastern cultures. Why did it arise? How does it help people deal with stress? Why do you think it is now becoming popular in Western cultures? Write a one-paragraph essay.

Science:

1. Tree-ear's name refers to a kind of mushroom. Learn about mushrooms. How do they form? What is their scientific name? Which are edible? Which poisonous? Write a one-paragraph essay.

Vocabulary for Word Wall

1. Celadon A type of ceramic pottery developed during the Koryo Dynasty in the ninth or tenth centuries in Korea. Celadon has a distinctive pale grayish green color.
2. Earthenware The coarser sort of containers, tableware, etc., made of baked clay
3. Entourage A group of associates or attendants
4. Harangue A long, blustering, noisy or scolding speech
5. Impudent Shamelessly bold or disrespectful; shameless
6. Inlaid Set in pieces into a surface of another material so as to form a smooth surface
7. Insolence Boldly disrespectful in speech or behavior
8. Jiggeh [chige] An open-framed backpack made of branches.
9. Kiln A furnace or oven for drying, burning, or baking something, as bricks, grain, or pottery
10. Paulownia An Asiatic tree of the figwort family, with large, heart-shaped leaves and large, erect clusters of fragrant, violet flowers
11. Peninsula A land area almost entirely surrounded by water and connected with the mainland by an isthmus
12. Scholar A specialist in a particular branch of learning, especially in the humanities
13. Shard A fragment or broken piece, especially of pottery; potsherd
14. Slip Ceramics clay thinned to the consistency of cream for use in decorating or casting, or as a cement or coating
16. Spade A heavy, flat bladed, long-handled tool used for digging by pressing the metal blade into the ground with the foot
17. Spoor The track or trail of an animal, especially of a wild animal hunted as game
18. Surreptitiously Acting in a secret, stealthy way
19. Terse Free of extra words; short; concise
20. Trepidation Fearful uncertainty; anxiety