

## Summer Reading – English 12 – British Literature

You will need to buy a copy of the novel:

***Safely Home*** by Randy Alcorn (Try to get the book with the black cover and a picture of a bicycle on the cover. E-bay has the cheapest prices; a used book is fine.)

You will need a copy of each book for classroom use during the first weeks of school.

---

### ***Safely Home* assignment**

Read the entire novel. As you read, write responses to the assigned reading questions in a notebook/notebook paper with folder for each chapter using complete sentences. Bring your responses to the reading questions on the first day of school.

The Reading Guide for *Safely Home* begins on the next page!

Happy reading!

Email questions to [lmccoy@tcsww.org](mailto:lmccoy@tcsww.org) or [ladylindy63@gmail.com](mailto:ladylindy63@gmail.com)

## ***Safely Home Reading Guide***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Chapter 1**

1. What is the perspective of chapter 1?
2. What is the allusion on page 1?
3. Describe Ben Fielding. (physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional)

### **Chapter 2**

1. Describe the family of Li Quan.
2. Find the metaphors on page 7.
3. Where are Li Quan and his family going? What is the time of day?
4. How does Li Quan view himself?
5. What is the metaphor used to describe the Bible on page 9?
6. What is Shengjing?
7. On page 10, how do some people come to have portions of the Bible?

8. Find the allusions on pages 10 and 11
  
9. Tell the history of Li Quan's family.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Who interrupts the meeting and why?

**Chapter 3**

1. Find a simile and metaphor in paragraph 1 of chapter 3.
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does Ben do every Monday morning?
  
  
  
  
  
3. What have his goals cost him?
  
  
  
  
  
4. Find the conflict on page 19.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How did Ben and Quan become friends?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How long has it been since they've seen each other?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why did Ben stop writing to Quan?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What do you think might have happened to Jason?

1. Why do Li Quan and Ming only have 1 child?
2. Explain the metaphor for propaganda as found on page 23.
3. According to page 24, where are men free?
4. What is the shame Quan feels?
5. How long had Quan's father been in prison?
6. What repeated phrase builds suspense?
7. What is the choice the church people must make?
8. What conflict do Quan and Ming face over Shen? How do they resolve it?

**Chapter 5**

Discuss the "political correctness" in Chapter 5. What are some of Doug's "offenses"?

## Chapter 6

page 4

1. What is the situational irony at the beginning of this chapter?
2. Who are the observers?
3. Why is Ben hesitant to contact Quan?

## Chapter 7

1. What talent do we learn Quan has?
2. From pages 43-44, analyze what is it about Quan that troubles Ben?
3. Summarize Quan's letter to Ben.

## Chapter 8

What do we learn about history? About business? About the city? About fashion? About traffic?

## Chapter 9

1. Describe Li Quan's house
2. Why does Quan's ear look deformed?
3. What books does Quan own?
4. Explain the proverb: "A book holds a house of gold."

5. Why do you suppose there is an empty chair?
6. What are the gifts Ben brings to Quan?

**Chapter 10**

1. Summarize a passage using good description (give the page number).
2. Give an example of sarcasm.
3. Describe the common corruption.
4. Explain: "Do not confuse China's skin with her bones."
5. What are the idols of Americans that have corrupted China?
6. Explain the analogy of the weather and religion.

1. What is going on at the hotel?
2. Relate some of the history of the Chinese persecution.

**Chapter 12**

1. Why does Quan not teach at a university?
2. Explain the lie about Communism being domestic and Christianity being foreign as detailed on pp. 86, 87.
3. What is the irony of what Quan is asking Ben to believe at the top of p. 88?
4. Explain the proverb on page 88: "He who sacrifices his conscience to ambition burns a picture to obtain the ashes."
5. Explain Dr. Martin Luther King's quotation on the top of p. 89.

1. What is Six Four and what do the words Six Four mean?
2. What does Quan mean when he says that Six Four was exactly what the New China is all about? (page 93 top)
3. Explain the meaning of the cat analogy on p. 96.
4. Of what crime(s) does the government accuse Li Quan?

**Chapter 14**

1. How is the gospel the solution to China's problems?
2. What does Ben think of the Great Wall of China?
3. What does Quan think of it?



## Chapter 15

page 8

1. Why is Ben angry with God?
2. What is Quan's answer?
3. Explain the statement: "Truth is not determined by the majority."
4. What are Ben's suspicions?

## Chapter 16

1. What is in the bag under the bed?
2. What is *ichthus*?
3. Why isn't Quan sure he can trust Ben?
4. What does the stranger mean when he says, "I am Yesu's donkey"?
5. What is Quan's response to Ben's claim that Quan could lose his freedom?

## Chapter 17

1. Where does the chapter open in the first scene?
2. Who does every man trust?
3. What do Communists fear?
4. What made the copied Bible look as if it had been rained on?

## Chapter 18

page 9

1. Describe “freedom of religion” in China?
2. What is the “greatest gift” Quan offered Ben?
3. What is Ben’s “house of cards” in the last paragraph?

## Chapter 19

1. What 2 ways does the Enemy make us question our faith?
2. What are your goals?

## Chapter 20

1. How did Quan’s parents die?
2. Why is there an empty chair?
3. To what does the word *qianxinian*?
4. What is the point of the story about the horse that ran away?

## Chapter 21

1. What does *Mogui* mean?
2. What was Quan’s miracle from his angel/visitor?

3. Describe Ben and Quan's visit to the Buddhist temple and the encounter with the demons.
4. What does Quan tell Ben about hearing the voices of demons? (p. 164)

**Chapter 22**

1. Relate the Chinese character-words to their Bible background.
2. What is significant about the Temple of Heaven?

**Chapter 23**

Why is Quan taken to the home of the chief of police?

Why did the family of the chief of police come to Quan's house?

**Chapter 25**

1. What miracles has Quan seen?
2. Why is Ben angry at God?
3. What's the difference between an inheritance and a heritage?
4. Why do you suppose Li Shan, the police chief, has been transferred?
5. According to Quan, why do Christians go through times of testing?
6. Why didn't Quan's grandfather and his aunt get murdered by the Boxers?
7. What does the new police chief do?

## Chapter 26

page 12

1. What is Ben's reaction to what has happened to Quan?
2. What does he learn about the law in China?

## Chapter 27

Where does Ben find Li Quan?

## Chapter 28

1. What is *Laogai*?
2. Explain how it works?
3. Why is Ben upset with Getz?

## Chapter 29

1. What does this opening Psalm (Psalm 2) say about rulers?
2. Why is Ben upset at the opening of this chapter?

3. What is the irony of Ben's concern for Quan, considering what he had done and said to Doug earlier in the story?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What are Ming's mother's words of wisdom for marriage? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Why did Ben feel envious of Ming and Quan?

**Chapter 30**

1. Quan said prison was not so bad compared with what?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Explain the difference between the Chinese government and Christian view of children and families.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the meaning of the broken pottery/jade analogy on pages 233 and 235—from the Chinese view and from the Christian view.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why is Ming afraid Shen might not find a wife?

1. On the opening page, what is Quan's opinion about doing right?
2. Explain Quan's quote: "What is legal is not always right. What is illegal is not always wrong." Give other examples from your experience.
3. Why does Quan believe his blood was tested?
4. What do you think of Wang Shaoming's life and stories? Can you think of anyone else you have heard of who has done similar work?

**Chapter 32**

1. Why is Tai Hong (PSB chief) angered by Quan quoting Scripture?
2. What are two reasons for grace?
3. How have Ben's goals changed?

**Chapter 33**

1. What is the reason for the sign of the fish?
2. In jail Quan is reminded of his destiny; what is it?
3. **Chapter 33**

4. What can we learn from Quan's attitude of a thankful heart?
5. Who are the 2 presences Quan feels?
6. How might the mayor's assistant be able to free Li Quan?

**Chapter 34**

What may have been done to make it appear Quan signed a confession?

**Chapter 35**

What had happened at the house while Ming, Shen, and Ben went to the prison?

**Chapter 36**

1. What is the message of the cut down tree?
2. Ultimately, from whom is this message?
3. What is Quan's prayer?
4. What is said about experience?
5. What brings about change?
6. What is Quan's torture?



1. What does Quan say about revenge? What does he mean? Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Why did Ben tell Quan his story?
3. How does Yesu say his followers will be known? Think about the fruit you produce for Christ's sake—are you producing fruit for Him?
4. What chore does Quan want to do?
5. Can you guess his motive for doing this chore?

**Chapter 38**

1. Why are liberal churches not dangerous to the Party?
2. What is Quan's ministry?
3. Why are prisoners not as distracted as those not in prison?
4. What did Li Wen the carpenter build, and what is the purpose of the chair?
5. How does our work for Christ compare to what He does for us?

## Chapter 39

page 17

1. What does Chen do to pass time in prison?
2. Why does Satan attack God's children?
3. What do our brothers in prison want?
4. To say yes to Yesu is to say yes to what?
5. What does the lion on Quan's table symbolize?
6. What does Quan tell Ben about prison and freedom?

## Chapter 40

Tell the story of the broken glass and explain its meaning.

## Chapter 41

1. What passage was Ben reading?
2. What problems were caused by heresy?
3. Why is heresy a worse problem than persecution?

1. What have you sacrificed for the kingdom?

What are you willing to sacrifice?

2. What important decision does Ben make? Before you read further, record how you think this might change his life?

**Chapter 43**

1. What is the significance of the broken glass the warden drops?

2. What does Michael tell the King?

3. Why does the King not yet destroy the wicked and establish justice on the earth?

**Chapter 44**

1. What does Quan say about the benefit of suffering?

2. What good news does Ben share with Quan?

3. What is Martin's reaction when Ben shares his news with him?



4. What is the most common cause of stumbling?
  
5. What does Quan want Ben to tell the people in America?

**Chapter 49**

How does Quan go home?

**Chapter 50**

Describe Quan's trip with Jadorel.

**Chapter 51**

Describe Quan's homecoming.

1. Where will Quan be teaching?
2. Where does Jadorel go next?
3. Who else is watching Shen and where is the one watching?

**Chapter 53**

1. Do you recognize any of the martyrs Quan met? If so, who? What do you know about them?
2. What does Ben's switching office chairs signify? Are there any "chairs" you need to change in your life?
3. What might it mean to Ben to be a follower of Christ? What might it mean to you?
4. What is the "Great Wall"?