

9th grade History Summer Reading Assignment-2024 (Accelerated and Grade Level)

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution, by Ji-Li Jiang

ISBN 978-0-06-446208-2 [Note: Please get the physical book, not the electronic version, and bring it to class.]

Red Scarf Girl is a memoir of a young girl who experienced the Cultural Revolution in Communist China in the 1960s. The Cultural Revolution was launched by Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong during his last decade in power (1966–76) to renew the spirit of the Chinese Revolution.

This book will be discussed during the first cycle. Read actively and answer the following questions. Your answers will be collected the first day of class. You will use them as notes for an in-class essay on the book during the first cycle of school.

There is a glossary in the back of the book that you can use.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Scheinmann: rscheinmann@jbha.org

1. As you read, use 5 different colored highlighters to mark passages that show examples of the following in Jiang's story:

Government (Who is in charge? What do they do? What are the laws?)

Economy (How do people earn a living? What can influence how easy or hard it is to do so?)

Religion

Military

Society (includes gender roles, education, family life, and clothing)

2. Choose 2 of the above topics and discuss how each one can affect people in positive ways or negative ways. Give specific examples from Jiang's story to support your response.

3. A main conflict in this memoir is Jiang's devotion to the government vs. her devotion to family. Locate one example of each - one in which she specifically prioritizes her country to her family, and one in which she specifically prioritizes her family to her country. Explain how and why Jiang feels that way, in each example. Please note: The examples do not need to be direct quotes, but you should still list page numbers for quick reference.

4. Find and provide 3 quotes (with page number for each quote) that illustrate an aspect of Jiang's identity, or how she sees herself. Explain how each quote reveals a particular aspect of Jiang's identity.