

English II Academic
Summer Reading Assignment 2024

Task #1: Read and annotate *The Seventh Day* by Yu Hua

ISBN-13: 978-0804172059

Guiding Questions

You do not need to write responses to these questions. They are designed to help guide you as you read this summer.

- 1) What is the role of storytelling in *The Seventh Day*?
- 2) What social commentary do you see in *The Seventh Day*?
- 3) What other important ideas do you see in *The Seventh Day*?
- 4) Does *The Seventh Day* have a first person (I, we, me, etc.) or third person narrator (he, she, it, they, etc.)? How would you characterize the narrator?
- 5) What unanswered questions do you have about *The Seventh Day*?

Annotation Advice:

There are many ways to interact with a text. Everybody has a tendency when it comes to the type of annotations they tend to write – I ask a lot of questions, define words I don't know, make personal connections, and comment on language that I find beautiful, challenging or confusing. Find a way to balance your annotation with your enjoyment of reading.

Book Information:

The Seventh Day is available on Amazon and other online and in-store locations. You are responsible for purchasing the books on your own.

Please finish reading and annotating *The Seventh Day* before the first day of school and bring your book to your first English class.

***The Seventh Day* Synopsis (from amazon.com):**

“Yang Fei was born on a train as it raced across the Chinese countryside. Lost by his mother, adopted by a young switchman, raised with simplicity and love, he is utterly unprepared for the changes that await him and his country. As a young man, he searches for a place to belong in a nation ceaselessly reinventing itself, but he remains on the edges of society.

At forty-one, he meets an unceremonious death, and lacking the money for a burial plot, must roam the afterworld aimlessly. There, over the course of seven days, he encounters the souls of people he's lost. As he retraces the path of his life, we meet an extraordinary cast of characters: his adoptive father, his beautiful ex-wife, his neighbors who perished in the demolition of their homes. Vivid, urgent, and panoramic, Yang Fei's passage movingly traces the contours of his vast nation—its absurdities, its sorrows, and its soul. This searing novel affirms Yu Hua's place as the standard-bearer of Chinese fiction.”