

_____ Name _____ Teacher _____



Story Guide for Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family

1. What is the genre of this selection? _____
_____ This genre tells about
_____ and _____ that are like
people and events in _____.
2. This story is told from the first person point of view. How can you tell?

p. 72 3. List two things Yingmei (Third Sister) does to try to become more American? _____

pp. 74-75 4. What are Holly's two problems?

5. How does Mary try to help?

6. Why is Mrs. Hanson doubtful (full of doubt, not sure) about Mary's offer to Holly? _____

7. Break down these words into their word parts (root words and suffixes):

doubtful _____ + _____

absently _____ + _____

pp. 76-77 8. What does Mary discover about what Holly would like to do that surprises her? _____

9. What would Mary "give anything to do"? _____

10. What was one reason that Mary suggested that her mother be Holly's accompanist? _____

Mary says that "It was nice that Fourth Brother cared about my feelings."

11. Does he really care about her feelings? _____ 12. How do you know?

13. Why does Fourth Brother say he is eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? _____

14. What does Mrs. Sylvester think about cats? _____

pp. 78-79 15. Mary describes a juggling act she saw once where a girl balanced three plates simultaneously by spinning them on chopsticks. She also says she feels like that juggler. Why do you think she feels that way?

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16. What do you think will happen when Holly and Mrs. Yang play together?

17. How do you know that music is important to the Yangs? _____

18. The author writes that "To walk across the room, you had to negotiate carefully between piles." What does negotiate mean in this story?

19. Why does Fourth Brother knock over the music stand? _____

pp. 80-81 20. What does Mary mean on p. 81 when she says that At the end we all clapped politely but nobody was fooled? _____

21. Why does Mrs. Yang keep saying that she is not really very good?

pp. 82-83 22. Should Mrs. Hanson have realized that the Yangs were not insulting her? _____ Explain your answer. _____

23. Why was there confusion between the words yes and no? _____

24. Have you heard the song "Yes! We Have No Bananas"? _____

25. What does that song have to do with what happened between the Yangs and the Hansons? _____

26. Why does Mary speak up when Mrs. Hanson and Holly laugh at her family? _____

27. Did you enjoy reading about Mary? _____ Why was her family "impossible"? _____

28. Mary was ashamed of her family in the beginning of the story because they didn't try harder to be American. How is her attitude changed by the end of the story? _____

Read "Meet the Author" and answer these questions.

29. What instrument does Lensey Namioka say she likes playing? _____

30. What does Ms. Namioka say she preferred to do as a child? _____
