

Curative Shorts Questions ***A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*** **By Yiyun Li**

Notes About This Week's Reading and Questions: *Curative Reading is a three-step process much like a three-legged stool. Reading and answering these written questions at home make up part one where you being to spark your imagination to find inspiration. Step two is gathering in community not just for connection, but to also listen with curiosity as fellow curative readers express different ways of relating to, talking about and even remembering details of the story. Step three is a learning experience that happens in community as information about the curative aspects of reading for the mind body and spirit is taught as well as demonstrated. These questions are meant to deepen your understanding of the story and its curative aspects for you, others and the world around you. Your answers do not have to be shared with the group and can remain just for you.*

What was Mr. Shi's profession in China?

Where is the woman from who Mr. Shi likes to talk to in the park?

How do you feel about the way Mr. Shi and his new woman friend are able to communicate? Do they understand each other? How is this possible?

“Every man is born with more talents than he knows how to use’, he says at dinner. ‘I would never imagined taking up cooking, but here I am, better than I imagined.’” Is there a talent that you would never have imagined taking up but did that turned out better than you imagined? What was it?

“Life provides more happiness than we ever know. We have to train ourselves to look for it.” Mr. Shi seems to have many strong thoughts and statements like this. Find another one that you agree or disagree with and write why you feel this way.

“The eyes remind him of her mother too; at one point in their marriage, she gazed at him with this questioning look, waiting for an answer he did not have for her.” Later in the story, we learn about what this questioning look from Mr. Shi’s wife is all about. What was she wanting to ask her husband about but never did?

What does “Xiu bai shi ke tond zhou” mean?

How many years of prayers does it take for a father and daughter to end up together?

Mr. Shi did not talk with his wife and daughter when he got home from work. Was this because he was a rocket scientist, and everything was confidential?

Was Mr. Shi in love with Madam? Why was he so drawn to her?

Mr. Shi’s daughter explains why she could never talk openly with her husband, but she can with her lover from Romania? Why is this and how does it relate to the way Mr. Shi can talk openly to Madam?

How do you feel about Mr. Shi’s decision to not talk with his wife or daughter after he is discovered and shamed for talking so much with an unmarried girl at work? What would you have done if you were in Mr. Shi’s position in communist China?

“It is what we sacrifice that makes life meaningful.” Do you agree with this?