

Summer Reading Assignment for Rising Ninth Graders

Read the following:

1. "Interview with Yu Hua" by Michael Standaert from the University of Iowa's International Writing Program.

<http://u.osu.edu/mclc/online-series/yuhua/>

2. *To Live* by Yu Hua
 - details the life of a Chinese family from the 1940s through the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

Assignment #1: Quotations

This summer, we are asking you to read *To Live*. You will identify 2 quotes from *To Live* for each of the following thematic subjects:

- Life in Communist China
- The Power of Simplicity
- Fate and Retribution
- Private vs. Political
- The Value of Life/Living

Format for Quotations:

- Along with the corresponding page number, please include the first few words and the last few words of each quoted line.
- Ex. "When I was ten years younger... songs" (1).

Reminders

- Select quotations from *To Live* that will demonstrate your understanding of their relationship to the theme/thematic subject.
- Type or neatly handwrite your responses.
- Include your name in the upper right hand corner of each page.
- Bring this assignment to your first English class.

Assignment #2: Propaganda posters.

- Propaganda posters became a prevalent form of social indoctrination and a sanctioned form of artistic expression from the 1950s until the late 1970s.
- Pretend that you are a Chinese peasant living in a rural village during the 1950s or 1960s. Design an original propaganda poster that reflects your demands or indicates your support for government programs.
- Samples and explanations: <https://designschool.canva.com/blog/examples-of-propaganda/>
- SEE ATTACHED RUBRIC

Glossary of terms

“barefoot doctors” – farmers who received minimal basic medical and paramedical training and worked in rural villages in the People's Republic of China. Their purpose was to bring health care to rural areas where urban-trained doctors would not settle.

Cadre - a public official holding a responsible or managerial position, usually full time, in party and government. A cadre may or may not be a member of the CCP, although a person in a sensitive position would almost certainly be a party member.

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) - also called Communist Party of China (CPC) - political party of China. Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the CCP has been in sole control of that country's government. The CCP was founded as both a political party and a revolutionary movement in 1921 by revolutionaries. The CCP joined with the Nationalist Party in 1924, and the alliance proved enormously successful at first. However, in 1927, after the Nationalists turned violently against the communists and ousted them from Shanghai, the CCP was driven underground.

Counterrevolutionary - anyone who opposes a revolution, particularly those who act after a revolution to try to overturn or reverse it, in full or in part.

Great Leap Forward - the campaign undertaken by the Chinese communists between 1958 and early 1960 to organize its vast population, especially in large-scale rural communes, to meet China's industrial and agricultural problems. The Chinese hoped to develop labor-intensive methods of [industrialization](#), which would emphasize manpower rather than machines and capital expenditure.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966 – 1976) - an upheaval launched by [Chinese Communist Party](#) Chairman [Mao Zedong](#) during his last decade in power to renew the spirit of the Chinese Revolution. Fearing that [China](#) would develop along the lines of the Soviet model and concerned about his own place in history, Mao threw China's cities into turmoil in a monumental effort to reverse the historic processes underway.

Nationalists (GMD) - Nationalist Party, also called Kuomintang - political party that governed all or part of mainland [China](#) from 1928 to 1949. Originally a revolutionary league working for the overthrow of the Chinese monarchy, the Nationalists became a political party in the first year of the Chinese [republic](#) (1912). The party participated in the first Chinese parliament, which was soon dissolved by a coup d'état (1913). The Nationalist Party owed its early successes largely to Soviet aid and advice and to close collaboration with the Chinese communists (1924–27).

People's Liberation Army - Unified organization of China's land, sea, and air forces. It is one of the largest military forces in the world. The People's Liberation Army traces its roots to the 1927 Nanchang Uprising of the communists against the Nationalists. Initially called the Red Army, it grew under [Mao Zedong](#) and [Zhu De](#) from 5,000 troops in 1929 to 200,000 in 1933. Only a fraction of this force survived the [Long March](#) in retreat from the Nationalists.

Landlord - a person, especially a man, who rents land, a building, or an apartment to a tenant.

Land reform campaign and Collectivization - Mao believed in land redistribution, and knew that one way to overthrow old power structures was to divide and distribute the wealth and land of the "elite." Part of the Communist program to displace the old power holding elites and to share the land and wealth more equitably made individual landlords the targets of struggle sessions and purges. Many landlords were run out of their villages and others were killed. Sometimes individuals were charged with being counterrevolutionaries or rightists, which meant that they did not support the aims of the new revolutionary rule, or perhaps had been affiliated with the Nationalists. As a result, many peasant households held the deed for their piece of land for the first time ever. A new element that was introduced in 1950 was the provision that the development of agricultural production resulting from this would pave the way for the [industrialization](#) of China.

Red Guards - groups of militant university and high school students formed into paramilitary units as part of the [Cultural Revolution](#) (1966–76). These young people often wore green jackets similar to the uniforms of the Chinese army at the time, with red armbands attached to one of the sleeves. They were formed under the auspices of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1966 in order to help party chairman [Mao Zedong](#) combat "revisionist" authorities—i.e., those party leaders Mao considered as being insufficiently revolutionary.

"sent down youth" - the young people who—beginning in the 1950s until the end of the [Cultural Revolution](#), willingly or under coercion—left the urban districts of the [People's Republic of China](#) to live and work in rural areas

Sample – Chinese Propaganda



1967, April

Hold high the great red banner of Mao Zedong Thought - thoroughly smash the rotting counterrevolutionary revisionist line in literature and the arts

Locally produced posters are extremely interesting. Not only because they shed light on the local situation, but also from an artistic point of view. They are often striking in their simplicity of design and coloring, usually done in simple red, white and black, and are somewhat reminiscent of the block prints made in the war years. As such, they bear witness to the urgency of the times.

CATEGORIES	1	2	3	4	5
IDEAS & CONTENT	Inaccurate or confused ideas that indicate a serious misinterpretation of the text and/or a partial reading	Indicates a limited or unclear reading of the text	Connected to a basic reading of the text	Connected to a thorough reading of the text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemplary effort to create meaning Connected to a close, insightful reading of the text
IMAGES USED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copied from other posters online Unoriginal work Appears hastily done Poster is still in rough draft form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Images partially obscured by writing; serious problems with clarity of image or appearance of overall poster Unedited or unfiltered image detracts from meaning of the poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair Original Work Some problems with clarity and/or size of image(s) used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Original Work Created by hand or photographed from original photography in a neat, careful way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemplary Original Work Artfully created by hand or created with original, high resolution photos Well-matched with the text included Source noted if photo is borrowed from Internet site
TEXT INCLUDED WITH IMAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing, illegible, or poorly written A number of mechanical errors Unoriginal work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited visual appeal; obscures image Errors in mechanics/appearance seriously detract from quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lettering is included but it may include errors in mechanics or an uneven quality/appearance Lettering may be too small 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lettering is accurate and neat whether handwritten or typed Text is placed in a visually appealing, readable way with no mechanical errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artful lettering whether handwritten or word-processed Text is placed in a visually appealing, readable way with no mechanical errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar.
CRAFTSMANSHIP	Images and words are partially included and do not indicate an understanding OR they have both been copied from another source	Images and words do not complement each other though they are included	Poster indicates a fair artistic effort to combine word and image that reflects on the text	Images and words indicate a good artistic effort that shows understanding of the text	Carefully chosen words and images indicate an exemplary artistic effort that shows a deep understanding of the text
PRESENTATION IN CLASS	Very limited presentation that may indicate a lack of preparation or a limited reading of the text	Presentation indicates confusion about the text or a limited reading	Fair presentation; basic understanding of the text	Clear presentation; good understanding of text	Clear, accurate, articulate presentation that indicates depth of thought
COMMENTS:					*