

Stories for Teaching

Jingjing's Birthday

Children and Childhood

* "They took turns urging her to confess, to tell the truth and be Chairman Mao's good little girl." (p. 39)

* "Children have caused a lot of trouble by spoiling the Chairman's picture when they color the books." (p. 54)

Class Status

* "[Auntie Wang] had been designated as a poor citizen of the city, which made her one of the Five Red Elements of society. Because of that she exuded self-confidence and spoke in a very loud voice." (p. 37)

* "If he should get into trouble, with our background we couldn't clear ourselves even if we jumped into the sea to wash our sins away." (p. 55)

Interpersonal Relationships

* "Thanks to Chairman Mao." "And truly I did have Chairman Mao to thank, for from then on Auntie Wang became my close friend, and even her husband nodded and smiled whenever he saw me." (p. 61)

Execution of Mayor Yin

Familial relationships

* "You see! If he can turn against his own relative for the sake of righteousness, where do you stand?" (p. 23)

Understanding the Cultural Revolution

* "Just why are we having this Cultural Revolution?" "And yet at that moment I myself was unclear as to the actual significance and purpose of the Cultural Revolution. I could only recite to him all the familiar statements that I had read in the papers and heard in various discussions." (p.16)

Violence

* "At the time everyone felt it was a necessary step for the sake of the revolution. If they didn't execute a few people they couldn't establish their authority and extend their influence. Afterward we all knew we'd gone too far." (30)

* "How could they open fire on such slogans?" (p. 32)

Nixon's Press Corps

Surveillance and society

* "She said nothing about the possibility of reporters' passing along our road, but stressed instead the importance of discipline within the revolutionary ranks." "...in the end, my refusal to dismantle the rack became a political issue." (p. 200)

Resistance

* "Since we're never trusted and we can't afford to protest, we can let an inanimate object like our drying rack stand up for us. The most they can do is tear it to pieces." (p. 198)