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Literature Study Guide
And Student Workbook

Lisa See's
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

By
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and
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Created for Teachers By Teachers

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Full Name:

Date and Place of Birth:

Date and Place of Death:

Educational Background:

Family Life:

Describe a significant historical event or personal experience that occurred during the author's life that may have had an influence upon her writing.

Interesting Facts and Other Works:

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan
Vocabulary Worksheet

Sitting Quietly

intermediary – _____

natal – _____

reign – _____

scrupulous – _____

Daughter Days

Milk Years

akimbo – _____

bawdy – _____

concubine – _____

dynasty – _____

karst – _____

ornery – _____

palanquins – _____

placidly – _____

reproaches – _____

tranquil – _____

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan
Study Questions

Sitting Quietly

1. Explain the narrator's definition of "mother love" or "*teng ai*" and why it is thought to be necessary.

2. What is the general sentiment of this section? Why?

Daughter Days

Milk Years

1. Who is the narrator of this story? Characterize the narrator, using personal traits and specific information regarding age, social class, etc.

2. How does Lily describe her family and their family dynamic?

3. Why does Lily's aunt insist that Lily and Beautiful Moon to go out and play?

Footbinding

1. What is the significance of footbinding? Why is it different for some of the girls?
2. Why is Madame Wang's proposal of matching Lily with a groom in Tongkou met with hesitation, and how does Madame Wang convince Lily's father that it is a good idea?
3. Why does Madame Wang believe that Lily will be able to marry into a wealthier family?
4. Why is Lily pleased when her mother slaps her across the face?
5. What skills does Lily begin learning in the women's chamber, and which skill in particular does she seem to find most important?
6. What bit of information is kept from the girls when they begin their footbinding ritual, and how do they learn of it?
7. What other bad news comes while the doctor is examining Third Sister? Why is this disgraceful to the family?