

CP English 11 Summer Reading 2010

Safely Home **by Randy Alcorn**

From Amazon.com:

Executive Ben Fielding hits upon a perfect plan: he will make his company millions of dollars by using Chinese labor to manufacture its electronic components. To kickstart his plan, he visits China, where he stays with college roommate Li Quan, whom he hasn't seen in over 20 years. From Li, Ben learns that his initial impressions of China from his research and from visits over the years are false, but Ben doesn't believe Li's stories of the persecution of Christians until Li is taken to jail. As Ben rediscovers Jesus through Li's faith, he discovers the truth that God does not promise an easy life on earth, only eternal happiness after death.

From <http://www.bookschristian.com/books/randy-alcorn/safely-home/75029> (This website donates all royalties from this book to the persecuted church around the world.):

“Is this the day I die?”

Quan stiffened at the shout behind him. The voice rang with the authority of the Gong An Ju, the Public Security Bureau. “You meet in the night like the criminals you are. How dare you defy the law? In three minutes,” Scarbrow said matter-of-factly, “We will shoot every man and woman and child who does not declare himself loyal to the people rather than the *gweilos*, foreign devils.”

“Surely this is the day.”

American business executive Ben Fielding has no idea what his brilliant old college roommate is facing in China. But when they're reunited in China after twenty years, the men are shocked at what they discover about each other.

Thrown together in an hour of encroaching darkness, watched by unseen eyes, both must make choices that will determine not only the destinies of two men, but two families, two nations . . . and two worlds.

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Reading Suggestions

To make summer reading more enjoyable, you and one or more of your friends might want to consider establishing a common reading schedule so you can dialogue about Alcorn's book. You can get creative with your discussions. You might even want to text or email your thoughts and comments to one another. Not only will working with a friend make the assignment more enjoyable, it will also provide you structure and accountability, which should reduce your stress the week before school begins. Please note: If you work with a group, you still need to submit your own project.

Select and complete one of the following four options:

OPTION 1: Teaching Poster: If you select this option, your poster must satisfy the following criteria:

Teaching Poster Format

- Project is drawn or mounted on poster board that is no smaller than one-half the size of a regular project poster board, and it may be either portrait or landscape oriented.
- Neither tape nor staples may be used as mounting materials; use glue or paste.
- Rule lines (base, mid, and top), if used, are carefully erased after drawing materials have dried thoroughly. No smears.
- Any material that is cut out should be trimmed neatly. Straight edges are straight, and irrelevant background is trimmed out.
- Projects are decorated colorfully with paint, colored pencils, felt-tip pens, pastels, or another appropriate medium.
- Projects are illustrated with original artwork, traced or copied artwork, graphic designs, or appropriate photographs printed off of the Internet or cut from magazines.
- Your name appears on the front of the project, discreetly, but legibly, in small print.
- No words are misspelled.
- No punctuation errors are made.
- No capitalization errors are made.
- No usage errors are made. Watch out for pronoun and verb errors.

Poster Topics. The purpose of the poster is to visually illustrate major concepts from *Safely Home*. In order to receive a good grade, your poster project must TEACH something about the novel. You may create a topic of your own or select *one* of the following:

- **Plot:** Diagram the main plot and any subplots. Find a visual way to demonstrate and illustrate the various conflicts, turning points, connections between plot and subplot, and so on. You might also consider examining parallel or recurring events. If you select this poster topic, you may use a full-size poster board.
- **Character Map:** Prepare a poster portrait of one of the major characters. Include an illustration of the character as described by the author, and include significant quotes from the work which demonstrate the various methods of characterization -- name,

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physical description, what the character says, what the character does, how other characters react to your character, etc. Include pertinent page numbers.

- **Settings:** Illustrate the major settings, including descriptive quotes from the work and indicating major events that occurred at each setting. Include pertinent page numbers.
- **Image/symbolism Strands:** Prepare a chart showing specific examples of the major image/symbolism strands in the work, including quotes as appropriate. Write a brief statement analyzing the effect of each image/symbolism strand. (Hint: colors, animals, nature, darkness and light, etc.) Include the page numbers of your examples.
- **Figurative Language:** Find several examples (a minimum of ten) figures of speech: hyperbole, metaphor, simile, personification, etc. Prepare a chart listing and illustrating your examples. Include pertinent page numbers.
- **Significant Lines:** Select what you consider to be the ten most important quotes from Alcorn's novel. Prepare a collage that truly illustrates the meanings of the lines from the text. Include the lines themselves, as well as the page numbers on which the lines are located.

OPTION 2: SCRAPBOOK: Select a main character and create a scrapbook that records his/her life as mentioned throughout the entire novel.

OPTION 3: CONCRETE POEMS*: Write five concrete poems that are appropriate to the work and that focus on characters, events, themes, or even the work as a whole. Your poems should address the entire story line.

OPTION 4: JOURNAL*: Write a minimum of ten, $\frac{3}{4}$ page journal entries from the perspective of either Ben or Li Quan. Include the page numbers that each entry covers. (Your entries should relate to the entire novel.)

All assignments are due Wednesday, August 18, which is our first full day of school. Please note that **late work will be penalized 20%** each day it is late. However, if you enrolled after July 18, you have one month from your enrollment to submit your chosen assignment.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Washer

*Options 3 and 4 must be typed.