

Junior Summer Reading 2009

The Book: *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 bookschristian.com:

'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.

The How-To:

To make summer reading more enjoyable, you and one or more of your friends might want to consider establishing a reading schedule and dialoguing 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 teaching poster.

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The Product: Teaching Poster

(Adapted from an assignment created by Sandra Effinger)

Your poster is due Wednesday, August 18, our first full day of school and must satisfy all of the criteria listed below. Please note that **late work will not be accepted**. However, if you enrolled after July 18, you have one month from your enrollment to submit your poster.

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. That means that it may be anywhere between 11 x 14 to 22 x 28, and it may be oriented portrait or landscape.
- Neither tape nor staples may be used as mounting materials; use glue or paste.
- Rule lines (base, mid, and top), if used, should be carefully erased after drawing materials have dried thoroughly. No smears.
- Any material that has been cut out is trimmed neatly and precisely. Straight edges are straight. 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 must appear 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.

A wise student would sketch all lettering or drawings lightly in pencil and proofread several times. A very wise student would enlist the aid of several proofreaders.

Poster Topics. The purpose of these posters 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. Possible topics include:

- **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.
- **Timeline:** Prepare an illustrated timeline of events in the work. Although the actual events may not be revealed chronologically (by recollection and flashback perhaps), remember to proportion the length of the line to the total number of years the work covers. Include illustrations or quotes at major points on the line. If you select this poster topic, you may use a full-size poster board.

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- **Major Character:** 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, physical description, what the character says, what the character does, how other characters react to your character, etc.
- **Character Comparison:** Prepare a poster comparing and contrasting the main characters who can be analyzed as doubles and/or opposites. Include an illustration of each character as the author describes them and include significant quotes from the work which demonstrate the various methods of characterization -- names, physical descriptions, what the characters say, what the characters do, how other characters react to your characters, etc.
- **Settings:** Illustrate the major settings, including descriptive quotes from the work and indicating major events that occurred at each setting.
- **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.)
- **Figurative Language:** Find several examples of various figures of speech: hyperbole, metaphor, simile, personification, etc. Prepare a chart listing and illustrating your examples. Include the page numbers of your examples.
- **Significant Lines:** Select what you consider to be the most important quote, quotes, or longer passage in the work. Prepare a collage that truly illustrates the meaning of the lines from the work. Include the lines themselves.
- **Concrete Poems:** Write a set of several concrete poems appropriate to the work, perhaps illustrating characters, events, themes, or even the work as a whole. The poems themselves will, of course, be your illustrations.
- **Scrapbook (a non-poster project):** Select a main character and create a scrapbook that records his/her life as mentioned in the novel.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Washer