“THE GOOD DEED”

BY

PEARL S. BUCK

Background, Vocabulary, Literary Terms, Author
Pearl S. Buck

- 1892 – 1973
- Although Pearl Buck was born to American parents West Virginia, she spent most of her first forty years in China
- Her father was a missionary and she grew up speaking both American and Chinese
- Most of her literary works focus on China, its people, and its traditions
- Her second book, *The Good Earth* (1931) earned her a Pulitzer Prize and changed the way many Americans thought about the Chinese and erasing false stereotypes
- In 1938 she became the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature
Arranged Marriages

- Arranged marriages have long been a tradition in China.
- Parents choose their child’s spouse and then negotiate with the parents of the prospective bride or groom.
- Although some arranged marriages still do take place in modern China and in Chinese-American communities, most young people now choose their own marriage partners.
The Chinese believe that marriage is important to ensure the survival of family.

Although the marriage is official when it is registered with the Register of Marriages, there must be a ceremony before it is acknowledged by society.

A Chinese marriage that does not observe proper Chinese customs is invalid in the eyes of most Chinese.

Today, arranged marriages are no longer widely accepted.
There are prescribed ages for marriage:
- 21 years old for women
- 23 years old for men

Once the choice is made, all other aspects are taken over by the parents and older relatives to ensure that the traditional custom are observed.

Part of the tradition is information gathering, negotiation, engagement, wedding dowry, and wedding.

In China, the dowry is a symbolic compensation to the bride's family for the loss of their daughter.
Relationships Between Characters

- You can learn a lot about a story by examining the relationships between characters.
- Study the interactions and feelings that pass between the people in the story.
- If the characters are *dynamic*, their relationship will change over time.
Vocabulary

- ivory chopsticks (377)
- contemplatively (377)
- revere (378)
- compelled (378)
- tilled (379)
- millet (380)
- abashed (381)
- unfilial (381)
- repressed (383)
- indignantly (384)
- barbarous (384)
- is surfeited with them (384)
- uppish (385)
- assailed (387)
- expedition (388)
- chided (388)
- conferred (389)
Modern Arranged Marriages

http://www.5min.com/Video/Chinese-Marriage-Matchmakers-516996532