

Read the text (page 49).

Family Ties

In 1995, when Qian Fenxiang and Xu Lida had a second daughter, they were very frightened. According to a Chinese law designed to control population growth, people were allowed to have only one child, and those who had two children were severely punished. Qian and Xu knew that keeping their baby daughter would be dangerous for the entire family. And so, when she was three days old, the baby was left in a market by her heartbroken father, Xu, who attached a note to her clothes explaining that because of poverty and other problems, they had no choice but to abandon their little girl on the street. Xu thanked the finder for saving and caring for their daughter and ended with a request: to meet him and Qian on the Broken Bridge in Hangzhou on the morning of 7th July in 10 or 20 years' time.

The baby was eventually adopted by Ken and Ruth Pohler of Michigan, USA. Now named Kati, she was brought up in a comfortable and loving home. The Pohlers were deeply moved by the note that Kati's father had left with her. Ten years later, on 7th July, they sent their friend Annie to the Broken Bridge with a message for Kati's birth parents. Kati was still too young to deal with meeting her birth parents, but the Pohlers wanted them to know that Kati was well taken care of and loved.

Throughout the years, Qian and Xu had never forgotten their daughter. They went to the Broken Bridge early that morning,

hoping to find her but after waiting for hours, they finally went home, disappointed. Unfortunately, Annie, who arrived late in the afternoon, had missed them by just a few minutes. But Xu never gave up and continued to wait at the bridge year after year.

Kati was 21 when the Pohlers finally revealed what had happened. She immediately decided to fly to China to meet her birth parents. During an emotional reunion on the Broken Bridge, Qian and Xu begged Kati to forgive them, but Kati didn't blame them for anything. She was amazed by the wonderful welcome she was given by Xu, Qian and her older sister. She feels she has found her Chinese roots, which she had never given much thought to before. Kati is now back in the USA, where she is learning Mandarin Chinese. Communication with her Chinese family is still difficult, though, because of the language barrier, but they try to keep in touch. And Xu texts her "good morning" and "good night" every day.



Kati with her birth parents

FALSE FRIEND moved

1) Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false statements.

1. Qian and Xu abandoned their baby because they didn't want another daughter _____
2. Xu hoped that the baby would be adopted _____
3. Qian and Xu never wanted to see their daughter again _____
4. The Pohlers felt that Kati wasn't ready to meet her biological parents when she was ten. _____
5. Annie met Qian and Xu on the Broken Bridge _____
6. The Pohlers waited many years to tell Kati about her biological parents _____
7. Kati wasn't angry with her biological parents _____

2) Copy and complete the sentences

1. When people in China had more than one child
2. Kati's childhood was
3. The Pohlers wanted Annie to meet Qian and Xu in order to
4. Qian and Xu were afraid that Kati would
5. After meeting her Chinese family, Kati began
6. It's hard for Kati and her birth parents to communicate because they

3) Find words in the text to match the definitions below

1. increase (lines 1-12) _____
2. very sad (lines 1- 12) _____
3. looked after (lines 13-19) _____
4. dissatisfied (lines 20-28) _____
5. implored (lines 29-38) _____