



GIA SƯ CHUNG CƯ

118

One of the most popular literary figures in American literature is a woman who spent almost half of her long life in China, a country on a continent thousands of miles from the United States. In her lifetime she earned this country's most highly acclaimed literary award: the Pulitzer Prize, and also the most prestigious form of literary recognition in the world, the Nobel Prize for Literature. Pearl S. Buck was almost a household word throughout much of her lifetime because of her prolific literary output, which consisted of some eighty-five published works, including several dozen novels, six collections of short stories, fourteen books for children, and more than a dozen works of nonfiction. When she was eighty years old, some twenty-five volumes were awaiting publication. Many of those books were set in China, the land in which she spent so much of her life. Her books and her life served as a bridge between the cultures of the East and the West. As the product of those two cultures she became as she described herself, "mentally bifocal." Her unique background made her into an unusually interesting and versatile human being. As we examine the life of Pearl Buck, we cannot help but be aware that we are in fact meeting three separate people: a wife and mother, an internationally famous writer and a humanitarian and philanthropist. One cannot really get to know Pearl Buck without learning about each of the three. Though honored in her lifetime with the William Dean Howell Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in addition to the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, Pearl Buck as a total human being, not only a famous author, is a captivating subject of study.

1. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?
 - A. To offer a criticism of the works of Pearl Buck.
 - B. To illustrate Pearl Buck's views on Chinese literature.
 - C. To indicate the background and diverse interests of Pearl Buck.
 - D. To discuss Pearl Buck's influence on the cultures of the East and the West.

According to the passage, Pearl Buck is known as a writer of all of the following EXCEPT _____

- A. novels
- B. children's books
- C. poetry
- D. short stories

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned by the author as an award received by Pearl Buck?

- A. The Nobel Prize
- B. The Newberry Medal
- C. The William Dean Howell medal
- D. The Pulitzer prize

4. According to the passage, Pearl Buck was an unusual figure in American literature in that she _____

- A. wrote extensively about a very different culture.
- B. published half of her books abroad.
- C. won more awards than any other woman of her time.
- D. achieved her first success very late in life.

5. According to the passage, Pearl Buck described herself as "mentally bifocal" to suggest that she was _____

- A. capable of resolving the differences between two distinct linguistic systems.
- B. keenly aware of how the past could influence the future.
- C. capable of producing literary works of interest to both adults and children.
- D. equally familiar with two different cultural environments.

6. The author's attitude toward Pearl Buck could best be described as

- A. indifferent
- B. admiring
- C. sympathetic
- D. tolerant



19

The oldest living things on Earth are trees. Some of California's sequoias have for four thousand years looked down on the changes in the landscape and the comings and goings of humans. They sprouted from tiny seeds about the time the Egyptian pyramids were being built. Today these **giant patriarchs** seem as remote and inaccessible as the rocks and mountain cliffs on which they grow, like cathedral columns holding up the sky. It is hard to imagine them playing any part in the lives of mere humans or being in any way affected by the creatures that pass at their feet.

Lesser trees, however, have played an intimate role in the lives of people since **they** first appeared on Earth. Trees fed the fires that warmed humans: they provided shelter, food and medicine and even clothing. They also shaped people's spiritual horizons. Trees expressed the grandeur and mystery of life, as they moved through the cycle of seasons, from life to death and back to life again. Trees were the largest living things around humans and they knew that some trees had been standing on the same spot in their parent's and grandparents' time, and would continue to stand long after they were gone. No wonder these trees became symbols of strength, fruitfulness, and everlasting life.

20

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Trees grow to great heights.
 - B. Trees have been important to people throughout history.
 - C. Trees make humans seem superior.
 - D. Trees that grow in California are very old.
2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a way in which people have used trees?
 - A. For furniture
 - B. For fuel
 - C. For housing
 - D. For nourishment
3. In line 5, the phrase "**giant patriarchs**" could best be replaced by which of the following?
 - A. tiny seeds
 - B. important leaders
 - C. towering trees
 - D. Egyptian pyramids
4. In line 11, the word "**they**" refers to which of the following?
 - A. Trees
 - B. Grandeur and mystery
 - C. Seasons
 - D. People's spiritual horizons

5. The author implies that, compared with sequoias, other trees have

- A. been in existence longer
- B. adapted more readily to their environments
- C. been affected more by animals
- D. had a closer relationship with people

6. Where in the passage does the author make a comparison between trees and parts of a building?

- A. Lines 1-3
- B. Lines 5-7
- C. Lines 11-13
- D. Lines 14-19



GIA SƯ CHUNG CÚ

120

Amelia Earhart was born in Kansas in 1897. Thirty-one years later, she received a phone call that would change her life. She was invited to become the first woman passenger to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a plane. The flight took more than 20 hours – 5 about three times longer than it routinely takes today to cross the Atlantic by plane. Earhart was twelve years old before she ever saw an airplane, and she didn't take her first flight until 1920. But she was so thrilled by her first experience in a plane that she quickly began to take flying lessons. She wrote, "As soon as I left the ground, I knew I myself had to fly."

10 After that flight Earhart became a media sensation. She was given a ticker tape parade down Broadway in New York and even President Coolidge called to congratulate her. Because her record-breaking career and physical appearance were similar to pioneering pilot and American hero Charles Lindbergh, she earned the nickname "Lady Lindy." She wrote a book about her flight 15 across the Atlantic, called *20 Hrs., 40 Min.*

Earhart continued to break records, and also polished her skills as a speaker and writer, always advocating women's achievements, especially in aviation. Her next goal was to achieve a transatlantic crossing alone. In 1927 Charles Lindbergh became the first person

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20 to make a solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic. Five years later, Earhart became the first woman to repeat that feat. Her popularity grew even more and she was the undisputed queen of the air. She then wanted to fly around the world, and in June 1937 she left Miami with Fred Noonan as her navigator. No one knows why she
25 left behind important communication and navigation instruments. Perhaps **it** was to make room for additional fuel for the long flight. The pair made it to New Guinea in 21 days and then left for Howland Island, a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The last communication from Earhart and Noonan was on July 2,
30 1937 with a nearby Coast Guard ship. The United States Navy conducted a massive search for more than two weeks but no trace of the plane or its passengers was ever found. Many people believe they got lost and simply ran out of fuel and died.

1. With which of the following subjects is the passage mainly concerned?
 - A. The history of aviation
 - B. The tragic death of the queen of air
 - C. Achievements of early aviation pioneers
 - D. The achievements of a pioneering aviatrix
2. According to the passage, which of the following statements about Earhart is NOT true?
 - A. She wrote a book about her solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic, called *20 Hrs., 40 Min.*
 - B. In her last adventure, she didn't take communication and navigation instruments by accident, and that led to the tragedy.
 - C. She is regarded as the female Charles Lindbergh in aviation.
 - D. She was in her late twenties when she took her first flight.
3. According to the passage, when did Amelia Earhart begin her first flight _____.
 - A. when she was 12 years old
 - B. 1920
 - C. when she first saw an airplane
 - D. when she started to take flying lessons.
4. The word "sensation" in line 10 is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. feeling
 - B. hit
 - C. excitement
 - D. perception
5. Amelia Earhart was called "Lady Lindy" because _____.
 - A. she was the undisputed queen of the air.
 - B. President Coolidge gave her the nickname.
 - C. she repeated Charles Lindbergh's feat.
 - D. of her career and her physical resemblance to Lindbergh.

6. The word "undisputed" in line 22 is closest in meaning to _____
A. contemporary B. undeceived
C. dissipated D. undoubted

7. The word "it" in line 26 refers to _____.
A. plane B. communication
C. the reason D. aviation

8. The word "massive" in line 31 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. substantial B. general C. large D. careful

9. It may be inferred from the passage that Amelia Earhart _____.
A. would not have developed her love of flying if she had not been invited to become the first woman passenger to cross the Atlantic in a plane.
B. would have continued to seek new adventures and records to break if she had not died at the age of 39.
C. became too confident and took too many risks to be able to live to old age.
D. did not want to return to the United States.

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