



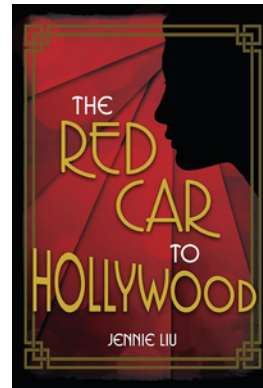
The Red Car to Hollywood

Written and illustrated by Jennie Liu

Grades 9-12

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Reading Guide by Paula Acedo, L.A. Conservancy Getty Marrow Intern

Discussion Questions

1. Ruby Chan lives in Los Angeles's Chinatown in 1924. Describe her neighborhood. Describe her home life. How does Ruby's neighborhood influence her life at home? If Ruby lived in a different neighborhood in L.A., what about her home life would be different, and what would remain the same? Why?
2. How is the neighborhood you live in like Ruby's neighborhood—what are the similarities? What are the differences?
3. What do you learn about Ruby's personality from her relationships with her friends and family?
4. How does Ruby's identity as a second-generation Chinese American shape the way she sees herself and the world around her?
5. When Ruby's parents discover her romance with a white boy, they arrange for her to meet a Chinese suitor. How does Ruby react, and why?
6. How does Ruby's friendship with her neighbor, actress Anna May Wong, change the way she thinks about her own future?
7. The book takes place during a time when the Immigration Act of 1924 was in effect. How does this law influence the lives of Ruby and her family?



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8. Ruby experiences racism and sexism throughout the story. Think of a specific instance where this happens in the book, and write down the ways Ruby responds. Do you agree with how Ruby reacts to this treatment? Why or why not? Are there alternative ways Ruby could have responded?
9. Why do you think Ruby chooses to take a job at a department store, and what does she learn from this experience?
10. The title of the book refers to the streetcar ride from Chinatown to Hollywood. What does this journey represent for Ruby?
11. By the end of the novel, how has Ruby changed? What do you think she has learned about independence, family, and community?

