

Name: _____

Student Journal

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break

by Lensey Namioka

Reading Schedule

Group members: _____

<i>Ties That Bind, Ties That Break</i>	Student Journal	Due Date	Discussion Date
Introduction	Pages 2–4		
Prologue and Chapters 1–2	Pages 5–6		
Chapters 3–4	Pages 7–8		
Chapters 5–7	Pages 9–10		
Chapters 8–9	Pages 11–12		
Chapters 10–11 and Epilogue	Pages 13–14		
The Exchange			
Assessment			

THE EXCHANGE

Is it ever
right to do the
wrong thing?

Getting Started

What If?

Your school has decided that everyone should get a tattoo. Students will have their name and grades tattooed on their arms. The tattoo is permanent, but tattooed students will receive special treatment. If you are tattooed, you will not have to work as hard as other students.

Most students want to be tattooed, but you do not. You do not want to be branded for life. Your friends and teachers are pressuring you to decide. You want to do the right thing, but the tattoo does not seem like a fair practice to you.

Make notes about how this would affect you.

- Would you allow yourself to be tattooed? Why or why not?
- Would you encourage or discourage your friends from getting a tattoo?
- How would you feel about your school's new tattoo policy?

Connect to The Exchange Question Discuss how this situation could relate to The Exchange Question: **Is it ever right to do the wrong thing?** Summarize your discussion.

Introduction

Read the Introduction on pages 7–9 in *Ties That Bind, Ties That Break*.
The Introduction will help you understand key concepts in the book.
Knowing them will help you discuss and write about the book.

The Introduction includes information about

- a popular legend telling how foot binding began
- the negative physical effects of foot binding
- the theories of why women allowed their feet to be bound
- when the practice of foot binding ended

After you read the Introduction, answer these questions to check your understanding.

1. What is the popular legend about how foot binding began?

2. Why did Chinese men want wives with bound feet?

3. How did foot binding physically affect women?

Introduction: Key Concepts

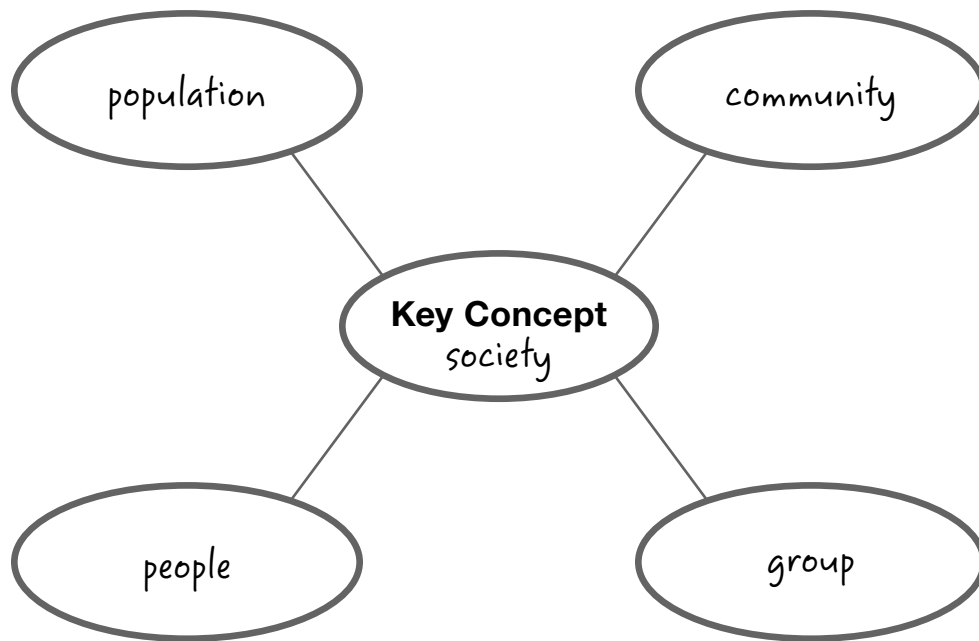
Word Web

Study the **Word Web** for *society*. What words does *society* make you think of? Write a sentence using the word *society*.

Key Concepts

attractive
bind
practice
society
status

Word Web



On a separate sheet of paper, create a similar **Word Web** for each of the **Key Concept** words. Write a sentence for each one.

Respond to Prologue and Chapters 1–2

1. **Personal Response** Ailin’s family thinks Ailin will be more beautiful if her feet are bound. How do people you know improve their appearance? Do you agree with these practices? Why or why not?

2. **Compare and Contrast** How is Ailin like Second Sister? How is she different? Use the word *attractive* in your response.

3. **Simile** A simile uses *like* or *as* to compare two things. Reread page 38. The author compares Second Sister’s foot to a piece of bread. Why?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Prologue and Chapters 1-2, continued

- 5. Characters' Point of View** List what each character in the Tao family wants and how that affects their opinions about foot binding.

Character Description

Character	What the Character Wants	What This Shows About the Character
Ailin		
Second Sister		
Grandmother		
Father		
Mother		

Choose one of the characters listed above. Based on their opinions about foot binding, how do you think they feel about arranged marriage?

Respond to Chapters 3–4

1. **Personal Response** Ailin says that going to school was one of the happiest periods in her life. When have you been happiest? What made that time in your life so special?

2. **Conflict** Reread page 52. What do Mother and Father mean when they say Ailin doesn't understand the consequences of not binding her feet? Use the word *bind* in your response.

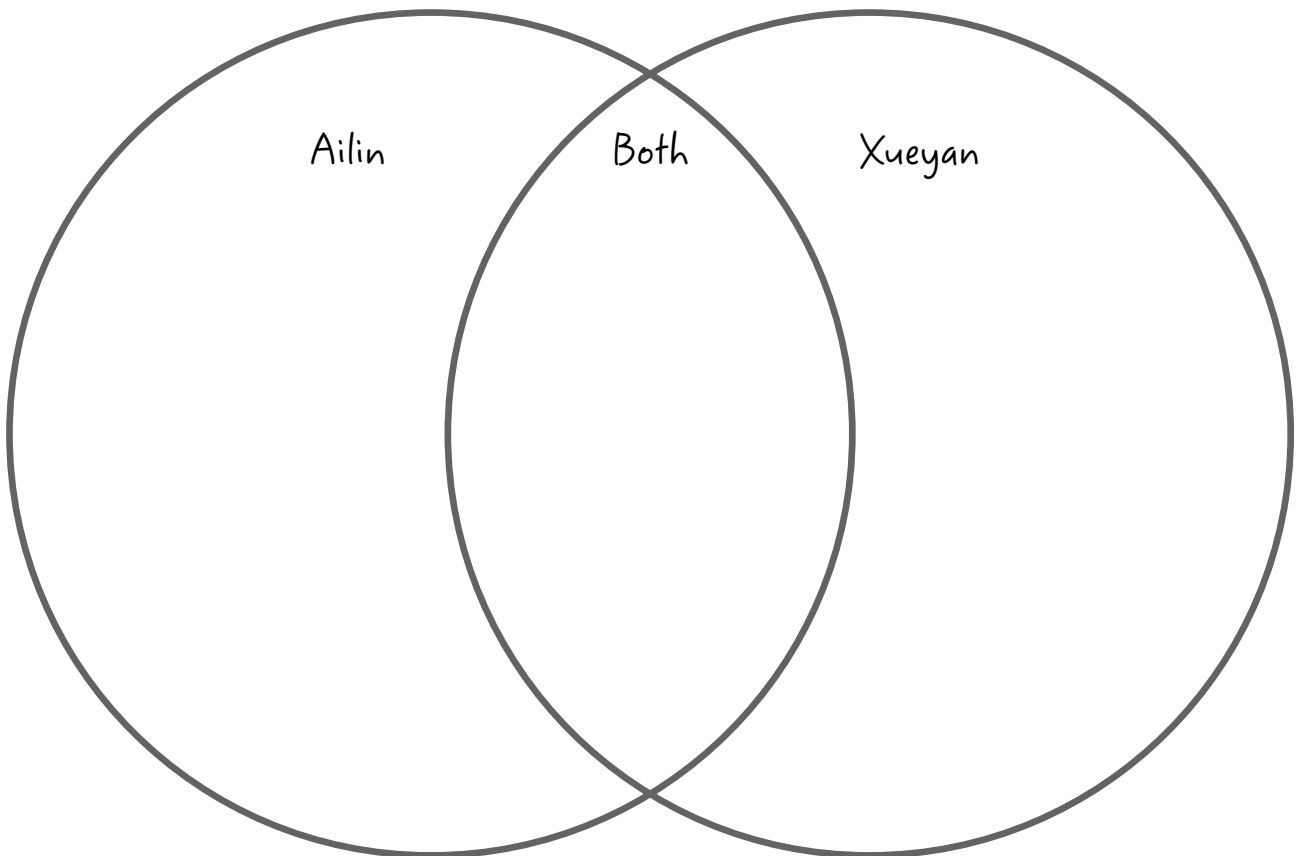
3. **Argument** Grandmother argues that it is impossible to find someone to marry a girl without bound feet who is also educated. Do you feel her argument is fair and reasonable? Why or why not?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Chapters 3–4, continued

- 5. Perspectives** In Chapters 3–4, we learn more about Ailin and her friend Xueyan. Write their opinions, attitudes, and what they want to do with their lives in the **Venn Diagram**.

Venn Diagram



If you were Ailin, what would be positive about being friends with Xueyan? What would be negative? Why?

Respond to Chapters 5–7

- 1. Personal Response** Big Uncle thinks sending Ailin to a public school will give her strange ideas. If you were Ailin, do you think changing schools would change your ideas? Explain.

- 2. Cause and Effect** How does foot binding affect the status of women in China in Ailin's time? Use the word *status* in your response.

- 3. Opinion** On page 101, Ailin thinks she has ruined her chances to be successful because she did not bind her feet. Do you agree?

- 4. Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Chapters 5–7, continued

5. **Plot** Father dies and Big Uncle becomes Ailin's guardian. List the events that lead to Ailin's solution in the **Problem and Solution Chart**.

Problem and Solution Chart

Problem: Ailin's father dies, and Big Uncle is in charge of her future.
↓
Event 1:
Event 2:
Event 3:
↓
Solution: Ailin accepts a position as amah for the Warner's children.

Ailin decides to disobey Big Uncle and accept a job as an amah for the Warners. Why does she do this?

Respond to Chapters 8–9

1. **Personal Response** Ailin feels hurt because the houseboy thinks she is a servant. Tell about a time when others viewed you differently from how you viewed yourself. Why did this happen?

2. **Evidence and Conclusions** The Warners misunderstand Chinese society. What evidence supports this conclusion? Use *society* in your response.

3. **Author's Purpose** On pages 127–128, Ailin remembers seeing bamboo shoots as a child. On page 135, she mentions the bamboo shoots again. How does the author use this metaphor to show how Ailin is changing?

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Chapters 8–9, continued

5. **Cause and Effect** Ailin returns to see her family one last time. List what happens and the effects it has in the **Cause and Effect Chart**.

Cause and Effect Chart

Causes	Effects
<p>Ailin knows that she may never see her family again.</p>	<p>Ailin visits her family.</p>

How has Ailin changed since leaving her family? What causes these changes?

Respond to Chapters 10–11 and Epilogue

- 1. Personal Response** Ailin travels to America with the Warners. If you were Ailin, how might you be feeling on the way to America? What would you look forward to or be scared of?

- 2. Paraphrase** On page 148, James Chew says that not everyone should conform to traditions. What does he mean by this? Use the word *conform* in your response.

- 3. Irony** James tells Ailin that Americans make fun of girls with bound feet. What is ironic about this discovery?

What If?

- 4. Connect** Look at your notes on **Student Journal**, page 2. Think about what might happen if you did not want to do what everyone else considered right. Compare this to *Ties That Bind, Ties That Break*. Was Ailin right to have refused foot binding?

Respond to Chapters 10–11 and Epilogue, continued

- 5. Conclusions** Ailin has changed since the beginning of the book. List her actions and what each action shows about her in the **Character Description Chart**.

Character Description

Character	What the Character Does	What This Shows About the Character
Ailin Tao		

Does Ailin regret staying in America after talking with Hanwei about how much China is changing? Why or why not?
