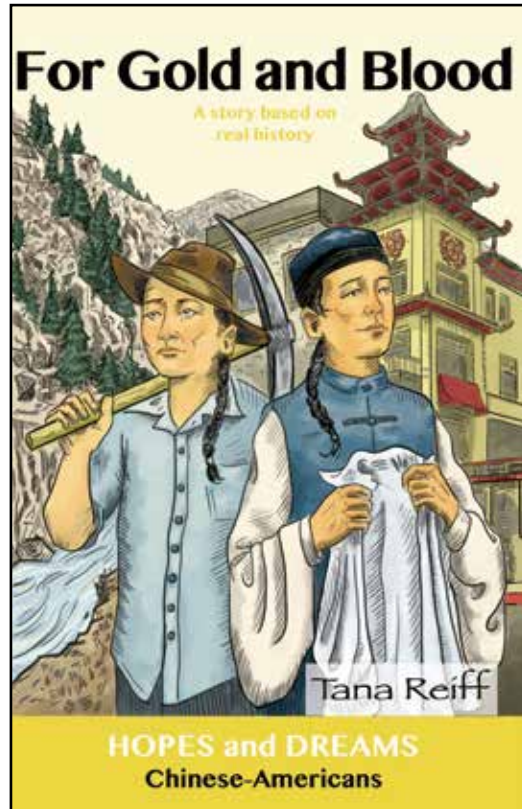


Teacher support materials to use with



Brief Plot Summary

Discussion Questions

Historical Drawings and Photos for Discussion

Detailed Plot Summary

Historical Background

What Did You Read? – Form

Book Report – Form

Word Play Activity

Fill in the Blanks Review Activity

Brief Plot Summary

For Gold and Blood tells the story of two Chinese brothers, Soo and Ping Lee, who, like many Chinese immigrants, leave their home in China to go to California in 1851. They hope to strike it rich in the Gold Rush and send money back to their family. In the gold fields, they make a big strike but are cheated out of it. After 12 years of prospecting, they split up. Soo joins the Chinese workers who build the Central Pacific Railroad, while Ping opens a laundry in San Francisco. With little to show for his work, Soo also goes to San Francisco. Both men face prejudice and violence. In time they join rival factions in the community of Chinatown, Ping with one of the Chinese Six Families and Soo with a secret, illegal tong. The story ends after the 1906 earthquake. This dramatic historical novel portrays the complicated lives of typical immigrants from China and many other countries.

Think about it

For Gold and Blood

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1 Leaving Home

1. If you were Ping, would you leave home for the possibility of finding gold so far away?
2. The brothers had to pay money to get out of the country. Does that happen now?
3. Do you think it's possible to get rich fast without breaking the law?
4. Do you think Soo and Ping will find gold?

Chapter 2 Finding Gold

1. If you found a big nugget of gold, what would you do?
2. Why might someone break a deal?
3. What is the meaning of "flash in the pan"?
4. If you were Soo and Ping, what would you do now?

Chapter 3 Moving On

1. What is your idea of hard work?
2. How can you tell when a person is not afraid of hard work?
3. Would you keep looking for gold, go work on the railroad, or go back home?

Chapter 4 The Railroad

1. Do you believe that a work strike is a good way to win something?
2. What makes a strike successful for workers?
3. If Soo goes to build the railroad, what do you think Ping will do?

Chapter 5 San Francisco

1. Have you ever wanted to start your own business? What would it be? What would you need to get started?
2. Ping saw a need for a possible business, and he became successful. Do you see any "needs" in today's world?
3. Do you think Ping and Soo will ever see each other again?

Chapter 6 Two Lives

1. How many people could live in your house?
2. How important is your family to you? How do you show that?
3. Was it fair to send the Chinese railroad workers away? Could that happen today?
4. Now what will Soo do?

Chapter 7
Trouble in the City

1. What does it mean to play your luck?
2. What do you think of Soo's work for the tong?
3. Why would one group want to hurt another group?
4. Do you think Ping and Soo will meet up? How will it happen?

Chapter 8
The Laundry

1. Why do people like Ping get hurt the way he did?
2. What do you think is the real purpose of the tong?
3. Is a brother or sister always a brother or sister, no matter what?

Chapter 9
Family

1. Do you believe that "blood comes first"?
2. In old San Francisco, what is the difference between a tong and a family group?
3. Would you let the young man go to the hall?
4. What is the meaning of "no strings" or "no strings attached"?

Chapter 10
The Flower Girl

1. Why is Chen afraid to face Ping?
2. If you were Ping, what would you think of this fight?
3. Have you ever seen a fight break out? Why do fights start?
4. How might things have been different if there had been more Chinese women in America at that time?

Chapter 11
Big Changes

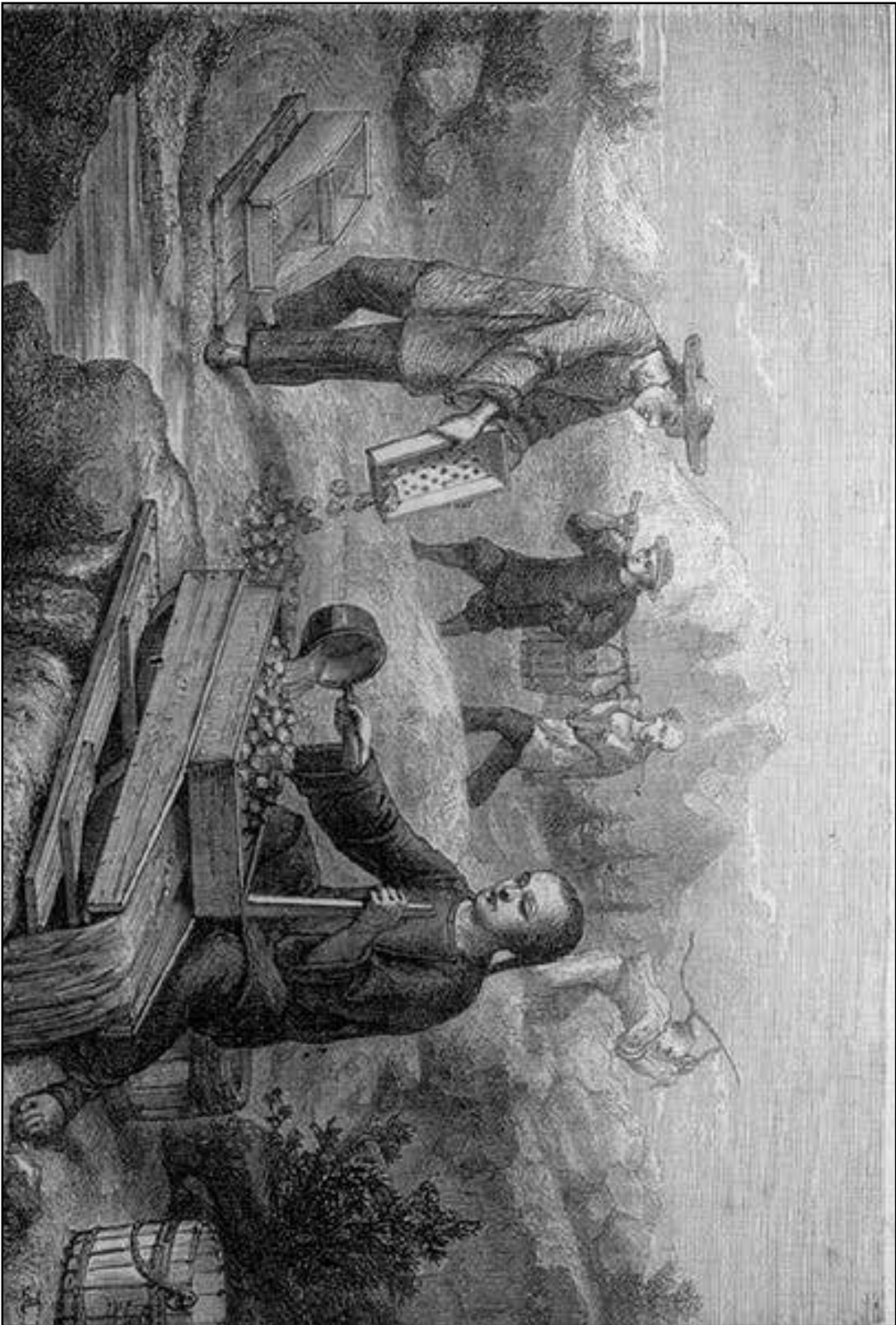
1. What does it mean to "stretch" a law? How is stretching a law different from breaking a law?
2. Do you think the law against bringing over more Chinese people was fair? Why do you think this law was passed?
3. Why would a woman in the house help bring peace in the family?

Chapter 12
War and Peace

1. What made life so hard for the Chinese in America?
2. Why was there so much fighting in Chinatown?
3. Life is never fair, but what does it take to make life fairer?
4. What does the title of this book mean?

For Gold and Blood

Historical Drawings and Photos for Discussion



Chinese in California Gold Rush

Note: Most of these photos are from the Library of Congress and in the public domain. Others appear many times without attribution online and thus are in the public domain. You may print them for classroom use.



A Chinese man panning for gold along a California river.



Dale Creek Bridge on the Union Pacific Railroad two miles west of Sherman, Wyoming by Andrew J Russell
The Linda Hall Library, Kansas City, MO <http://www.lindahall.org>



Chinese railroad workers in the Sierra Nevada



Chinatown
C7a08990u Library of Congress



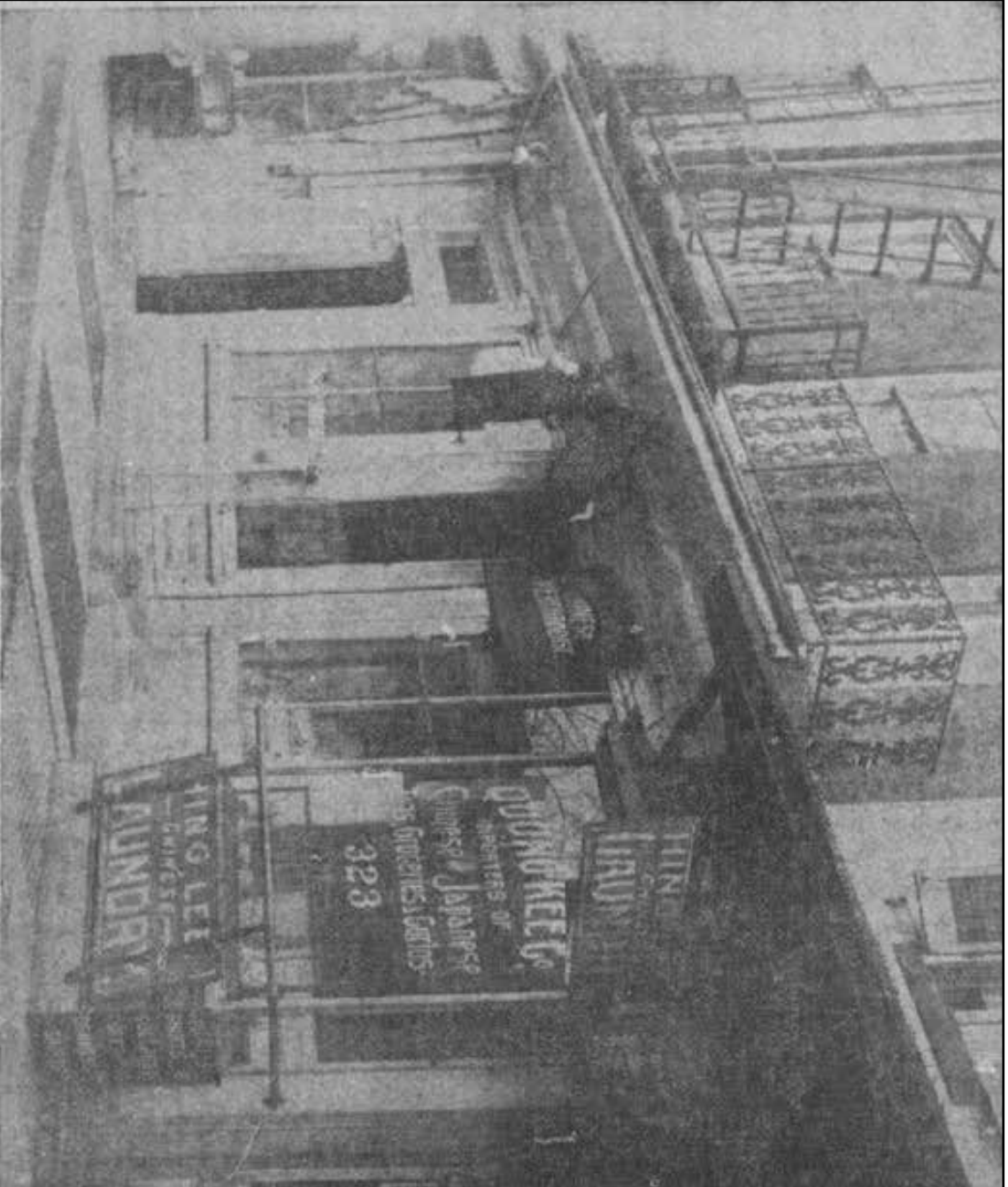
Chinese Family Laundry, 1880 by Mian Situ
<http://www.greenwichworkshop.com/tryit/ProductTryIt.asp?p=3643&a=5>



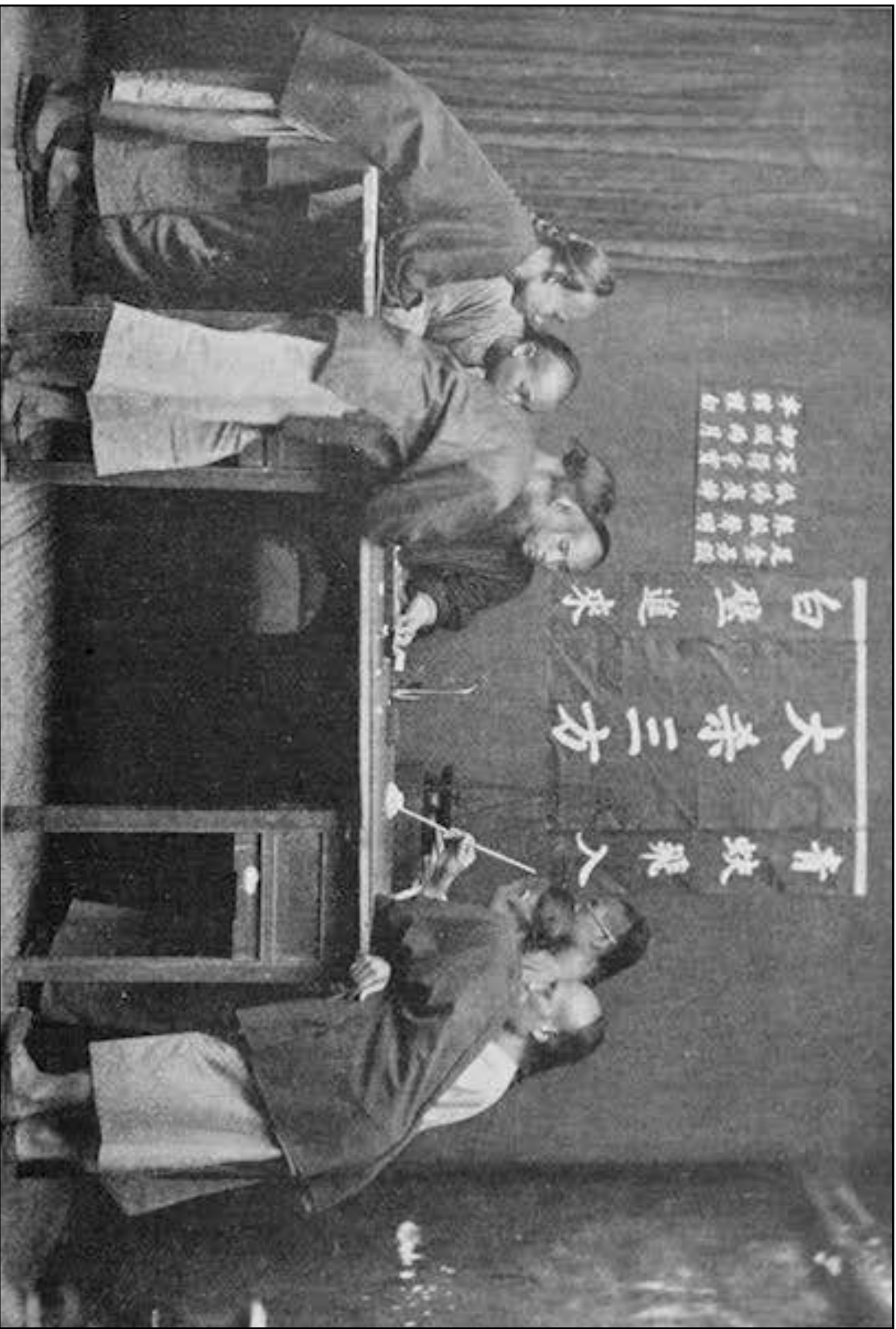
Laundry Manager Using Abacus
Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia



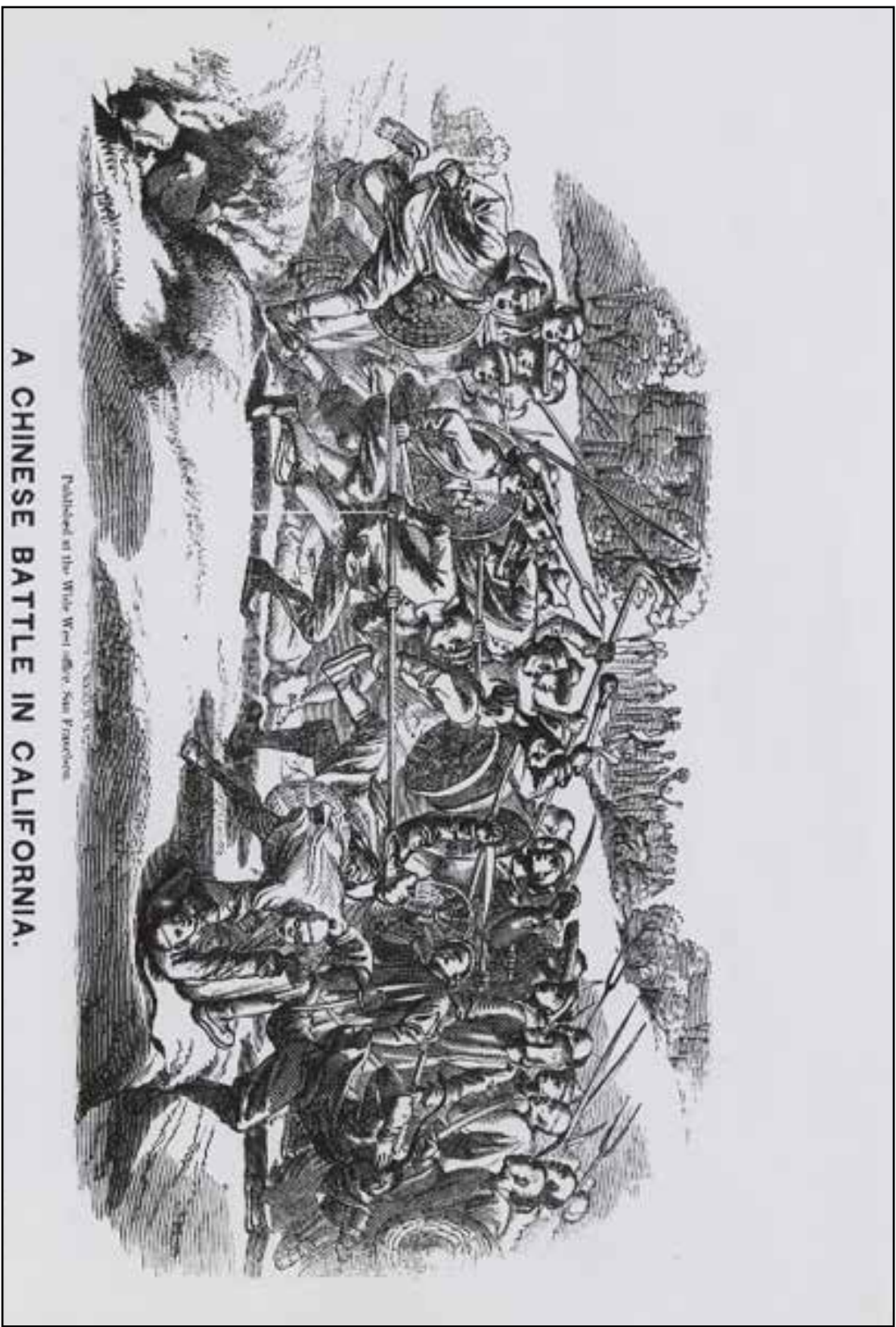
Jan. 20, 1936: For this installment of Rediscovering Los Angeles, Times artist Charles Owens and columnist Timothy Turner visit a Chinese laundry on Figueroa near Temple.
<http://ladailymirror.com/2013/12/03/rediscovering-los-angeles-sam-kee-laundry/>



Chinese laundry 323 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. LC ID # (2478590410) (3)



Fan-tan gambling house



Chinese Tong War - Near Chinese Camp, October 1856.

For Gold and Blood

Detailed Plot Summary

When Soo Lee tries to persuade his brother Ping to go to the Mountain of Gold in California, Ping is skeptical. It would be difficult to leave China and family, even though living on a houseboat after the war is not easy either. But with the promise that they will send gold home and then return home themselves in a few years, Ping agrees to the idea. Family members all contribute funds for the journey. The brothers pay off a man to get them onto a ship at Hong Kong, and in two months they arrive in California.

Soo and Ping set off for the gold fields where they patiently pan and sift for gold. They may keep half of what they find. They ignore the white workers who make fun of their appearance. Then Ping makes a big strike, and the boss doesn't want to split it 50-50. He sends them away from the camp instead.

The brothers walk until they come upon another gold camp. Now, to find gold, they stand in a cold stream all day, the sun beating on their heads. When gold becomes scarce, the boss releases all the Chinese workers. The Lees head north and find a small amount of gold dust, but after 12 years of prospecting, gold has become very hard to find. Ping wants to go home to China, but they cannot afford it now.

The adventurous Soo parts from his brother to work on the new railroad. He receives \$25 a month while the white workers get \$35 plus food. The work is very difficult and treacherous. In some places, the men must live and work 40 feet under the snow. Soo is one of the Chinese workers who is lowered down a mountainside in a basket to stuff explosives into holes and then shimmy up the rope before the rock blows up. Dissatisfied Chinese workers stage a strike, but it fails because the white boss simply denies them food.

After little luck in finding gold in Oregon, Ping detects a need in the West for laundry service, so he starts a laundry. He is as meticulous about this work as he was about gold prospecting. Watching him at work is seeing artistry in motion. But Ping has lost touch with his brother, and every day he wonders if Soo is all right. As part of the Lee family group, Ping becomes active in the new Chinatown in San Francisco, joining the Chinese Six Companies to help newcomers and each other. He even saves enough money to bring his nephew, Chen, to California. The Chinese Six Companies find Chen a job in a cigar factory. More family members come over, and Ping puts them up in his apartment by nailing boards along the walls so everyone has a place to sleep. Chinatown is growing these days.

When the railroad work is completed, Soo ends up in San Francisco, but each brother does not know the other is there. Soo gets a job in a shoe factory, and then becomes involved in a tong, a sort of secret, organized crime group. His job is to run gambling places.

One night Ping is robbed and beaten and his laundry is set on fire by a hostile white gang. Soo's tong sends Soo to the laundry to sell the tong's protection services. Under these unexpected circumstances, the brothers are at last reunited!

But Soo cannot take Ping's money and vows to protect him anyway. Ping wants no part of the tong activity, and is content to keep his loyalties with the legitimate family organization. Even so, he accepts Soo's protection as long as there are "no strings" attached. Ping also introduces Soo to their young cousin, Chen.

Soo and Chen meet up again soon, when Soo catches Chen at a dance hall wooing the "sing-song girl" Soo has a claim on. Women are scarce here, so a fight erupts between Soo's tong and the Lee family group. Ping is outraged by "blood fighting blood." To smooth things over, Ping asks Soo to import a wife for Chen. Because a new law excludes immigration of Chinese laborers, Ping gives Chen his laundry and Soo makes papers saying Chen had been married in China. When the bride, named Chan, arrives, the Lees have a woman in the house for the first time, and, for now, there is peace in the family.

Street wars continue, but over time Soo and Ping become a bridge between rival factions. The groups begin to work together instead of against each other. When the earthquake hits San Francisco in 1906, paper records are destroyed, and risk-taking Soo begins importing a family for himself.

Chen's children never forgot the story of Soo and Ping. Peace had come to Chinatown and fairness to the Chinese in America at a high price – through the gold rush, the railroad, the laundry, the tong wars, the earthquake, family blood, and many hard years.

For Gold and Blood

Historical Background

To the Chinese of the nineteenth century, only one thing was more important than family and homeland: survival. Homelessness, brought about by wars, combined with the news of a “Mountain of Gold” across the ocean, lured young men from the Guangdong Province in southeastern China to make the 7,000-mile journey beginning in 1848. Most intended to return home later, for they considered China “the Middle Kingdom” of the universe. As more Chinese arrived, they formed family and service groups, which coagulated into the Chinese Six Companies, to assist newcomers. When railroad building was in full swing during the 1860s, American labor contractors went to China to actively recruit young men.

The Chinese contribution to the development of the American west is largely underrated. Coolie laborers, with their long, black queues, wide-brimmed straw hats, padded jackets, and wooden soled shoes, eating with chopsticks, presented a stark cultural contrast to the other gold and railroad workers. But the Chinese earned respect for their diligence and patience as they sifted for the finest particles of gold dust and braved horrendous extremes of weather conditions and often fatally dangerous working conditions to build the Central Pacific Railroad. When the western segment of the railroad met the Union Pacific at Ogden, Utah, in 1869, the white men celebrated while the Chinese laborers had already been dismissed to drift back westward to find other work. In fact, of the 10,000 men who helped build the Central Pacific, 9,000 were Chinese.

Back in California, the Chinese found work in cigar and boot factories, on farms, and in important land-reclamation projects. Others found a niche by starting restaurants and laundries to accommodate the need in this predominantly male western society for the kinds of services women had traditionally provided.

But after the economic panic of 1873, anti-Chinese sentiment grew as jobs became scarce, despite the fact that most of the jobs the Chinese had filled were undesirable to anyone else. “The Chinese must go!” became the battle cry of the Workingmen’s party and other hostile factions. During the 1870s and 1880s, mob violence erupted, hurting Chinese people and destroying several Chinese laundries. In 1882, the U.S. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years and helped cause the Chinese “bachelor society” that by 1890 had produced a ratio estimated at 27 times more males than females.

These racist actions also led the Chinese to seclude themselves in Chinatowns in the major cities, the largest in San Francisco. In these enclaves, the Chinese set up shops, newspapers, even their own telephone exchanges with operators who spoke four major Chinese dialects. Disenfranchised from

mainstream America, they developed a self-governing system comprised first of rival families and organized-crime groups (called tongs) and later of a sequence of more unified organizations.

When the earthquake hit San Francisco in 1906, paper birth records were destroyed. In the absence of any way to prove their place of birth, some Chinese seized the opportunity to import “paper sons” – younger Chinese persons passing as their offspring, since only Chinese people born in the U.S. were allowed to bring over their children. But most Chinese in America were stranded here without a wife and children or economic means of returning home or the right to become American citizens.

Anti-Chinese feeling climaxed with the Johnson-Reed Act of 1924. This law totally excluded immigration of anyone “ineligible to citizenship,” which effectively shut off all Chinese immigration. It was not until 1944 that the Chinese were allowed to become American citizens. Nearly a century had passed since the first Chinese set foot in America.

Name _____

What Did You Read?

Write the answers to these questions about *For Gold and Blood*.

1. From what country did Soo and Ping come? _____

2. What was happening in California that interested the bothers? _____

3. Why were the Chinese men so good at finding gold? _____

4. Where did Soo go to get work after the gold became hard to find?

5. Why did the workers go on strike? _____

6. What business did Ping start? _____
Why? _____
7. When did Soo and Ping meet up again? _____
8. Name one day Soo and Ping showed they were different people.

9. Why did the fight start between Soo's group and Ping's family group?

10. What did Ping do so the Soo could get a wife for Chen? _____

11. What did Ping believe about blood or family? _____

12. How did the Lee brothers help make peace in Chinatown? _____

Book Review

Book Title _____

Student's Name _____

The people in this book came from _____

I read this book because _____

Is this book interesting? Why or why not? _____

The best part of the story is _____

The worst part of the story is _____

My favorite person in the story is _____

because _____

The main thing I learned from this book is that _____

Too many hard words? yes no Examples: _____

Too many long sentences? yes no Examples: _____

The length of the books is: too long / too short / about right

Tell a friend to read this book? yes / no Why? _____

Name _____

Word Play: Add *-ing*

If you add -ing to an action word you have a new word.

The chart below will help you add -ing correctly to the words on the page.

If a word ends in:	
e	drop the e, and <i>-ing</i>
ch, ct, earn, gh, k, l, o, sh, w, x, y	just add <i>-ing</i>
n, p, t (when they come after a vowel)	double the last letter, then add <i>-ing</i>

Now use the rule chart to add -ing to these words

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. talk _____ | 11. pay _____ |
| 2. wash _____ | 12. shop _____ |
| 3. take _____ | 13. give _____ |
| 4. run _____ | 14. own _____ |
| 5. lay _____ | 15. sit _____ |
| 6. get _____ | 16. pan _____ |
| 7. come _____ | 17. laugh _____ |
| 8. vote _____ | 18. show _____ |
| 9. raise _____ | 19. rob _____ |
| 10. bowl _____ | 20. help _____ |

Now, on other paper, write a sentence using each -ing word that you made.

Fill in the Blanks

Review Activity

For Gold and Blood tells the story of two Chinese brothers, _____ and _____ Lee, who, like many Chinese _____, left their home in China to go to _____ in 1851. They hoped to strike it _____ and _____ money back to their family. In the gold fields, they made a big _____ but were cheated out of it. After 12 years of _____, they _____. Soo joined the Chinese workers who built the Central Pacific _____, while Ping opened a _____ in San Francisco. With little to show for his work. Soo also went to San Francisco. Both men faced _____ and _____. They joined rival factions in the _____ community, Ping with one of the Chinese Six Families and Soo with a secret, illegal _____. The story ends after the 1906 _____. The two brothers survived and brought many _____ members to join them building a new and strong Chinatown in San Francisco.

Full text of the fill in the blanks review activity

For Gold and Blood tells the story of two Chinese brothers, Soo and Ping Lee, who, like many Chinese immigrants, left their home in China to go to California in 1851. They hoped to strike it rich and send money back to their family. In the gold fields, they made a big strike but were cheated out of it. After 12 years of prospecting, they split up. Soo joined the Chinese workers who built the Central Pacific Railroad, while Ping opened a laundry in San Francisco. With little to show for his work, Soo also went to San Francisco. Both men faced prejudice and violence. They joined rival factions in the Chinese community, Ping with one of the Chinese Six Families and Soo with a secret, illegal tong. The story ends after the 1906 earthquake. The two brothers survived and brought many family members to join them building a new and strong Chinatown in San Francisco.

Answer Key

“What Did You Read?” questions are objective in nature; however, in some cases the answers may not be derived from the book verbatim. The answers given below are intended as guidelines to be used in conjunction with the teacher’s judgement that the question has been satisfactorily answered. The answers to the “Word Play” exercise should be exactly as given in this answer key, except where specifically noted.

What Did You Read?

1. China
2. People were finding gold.
3. They worked very hard.
4. railroad
5. for food and higher pay
6. laundry, because there were no women in the West to do this kind of work
7. when Soo came to help Ping after he was robbed and his laundry was damaged
8. Any one: Soo liked to try his luck, Ping did not; Soo was in a tong, Ping was in a family group; Soo brought over a “paper son,” Ping made home for family members; Soo worked for the tong, Ping started a real business; etc.
9. because Soo and Chen were interested in the same woman
10. He gave Chen his laundry business.
11. that blood should never fight blood
12. by being a bridge between the groups

Word Play: Add -ing

1. talking
2. washing
3. taking
4. running
5. laying
6. getting
7. coming
8. voting
9. raising
10. bowling
11. paying
12. shipping
13. giving
14. owning
15. sitting
16. panning
17. laughing
18. showing
19. robbing
20. helping

The teacher must individually evaluate the students’ original sentences to make sure they have used each -ing word appropriately in context.