

Questions on the first five chapters

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1. What impressions do you gain of the characters from the description of the girls' arrival?
2. What do you notice about the ways in which Jin-Ho and Susan are brought up by their adoptive parents? Why and how does Tyler choose to highlight these differences?
3. Discuss the various characters' feelings about the first two Arrival Day parties.
4. What importance does the character of Connie have?
5. Discuss Bitsy and Ziba's friendship: do you think it is equal? If not, why not?
6. Do you think Tyler depicts Sami and Brad in the same detail as the women? If not, why not?
7. Why do you think Tyler created Bitsy as divorced before she met Brad?
8. What is Tyler's purpose in describing Ziba's family as she does?
9. Discuss Maryam's memories of Iran: what effect do they have on the narrative?
10. Why does Tyler choose not to detail Connie's death and funeral?
11. Comment on the changes in the character of Dave and the way he is described after his wife's death.
12. What effect does it have, both on other characters and on the narrative, when Bitsy and Brad decide to adopt another child?