

# An Arrow to the Moon

## Discussion Questions

1. *An Arrow to the Moon* is written from multiple perspectives. What did you learn from different characters' chapters? Was there a character that you responded to most strongly?
2. College represents different things for Hunter and Luna. What factors play into their opposing views of higher education? Do you relate to either of them? Think about your own views on university or college and try to identify what aspects of your life have shaped it.
3. While discussing college, Hunter tells Luna that she is practically an "Asian sheep" and following the herd mentality (p. 170). What do you think he means by these words?
4. How do the relationships between parent and child vary between Luna's family and Hunter's family? What similarities and differences do you see?
5. Why do both families care so much about how the small Asian-identifying community of Fairbridge views them? How does their emphasis on 'saving face' impact family dynamics and their own evaluation of themselves?
6. How does the Yee family's fear of Rodney Wong manifest in their treatment of Hunter?
7. What is the significance of Hunter and Luna creating stories based on the lives of those around them? Why are they so opposed to fairytales?
8. Why does Luna become so upset when Hunter claims that Taiwanese and Chinese are virtually the same identity? How do their parents' thoughts and ideas inform their own beliefs? What does this argument make them realize, and how could they have discussed it differently?
9. What do different characters sacrifice? How do those sacrifices help others? How do they hurt?
10. The appearance of the crack in Fairbridge may have been literal, but can you ascribe any figurative meaning to its appearance in Luna and Hunter's lives? How does it tie to the beginning of the story?
11. *An Arrow to the Moon* was inspired by both Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and the myth of Houyi and Chang'e. In what way do these stories shape and interact with the plot? Are there any points in the plot where Emily X.R. Pan deviates from either story?
12. Destiny plays an important role in *An Arrow to the Moon*. Why is the theme of destiny so important in literature? Is fate or the choices of individual characters more responsible for the development of the plot in *An Arrow to the Moon*?

