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PLOT SUMMARY
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- Revolves around the lives of 2 sisters Pei and May
- Baba gambles away all his money and sells his daughters to pay off the debt
- Forced to marry stranger men and move to America only to face more troubles.



Discussion Questions

Are you able to connect to any aspect of the novel?

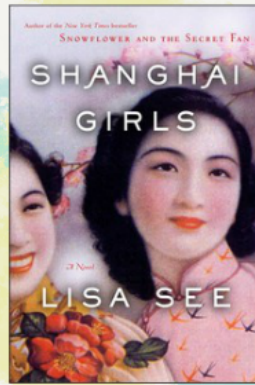
If you were in Pei or May's position would you have chosen to marry and obey your father?

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS
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TRIVIA

1. Who is the author of Shanghai Girls?
2. What are the names of the main characters (the 2 sisters)?
3. Refer back to the 'high' content of the novel?
4. Explain: Why are you still the protagonist in Shanghai Girls?



PRIDE

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CONNECTIONS



SEWA (A): ELA BHATT

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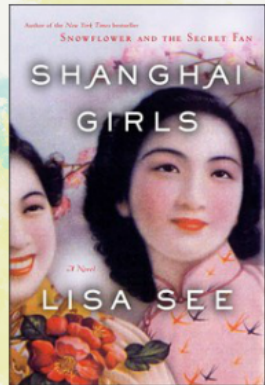
If you were in Pearl or May's position would you have chosen to marry and obey your father?

THE OWEN DEARLY KING
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TRONIA

1. Who is the author of Shanghai Girls?
2. What are the names of the main characters the 2 sisters?
3. What betta her huge parents of the novel?
4. Explain how you would be described in Shanghai Girls.



PRIDE
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"imagine if..."

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THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

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gluttony
ANGER
greed
sloth envy
pride
LUST

Greed - Baba's actions lead to the destruction of the lives of Pearl and May

Pride - Old Man Louie's pride leads to his downfall. It is also shown through the undermined roles of women portrayed in the novel

Wrath - Shown through the several wars that occur throughout the novel and through the anger that Pearl expresses for May.

Lust - Shown through Pearl's rape and the immoral behaviour of the soldiers

Envy - Petty jealousies that Pearl and May have for one another

GREED

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1. Destroys the lives of Pearl and May

“We’ve all paid a price for my father’s gambling. He’s lost his business... May and I have lost our clothes and perhaps our livelihoods as a result. We’ve been hurt... (See 36)



As a result of their father's greed Pearl and May are forced to marry and move to America. They feel as if they have lost everything that was meaningful in their lives.

- Pearl ends up getting raped
- Her dreams of marrying for love are destroyed
- Move to America where they are dominated by their father-in-law.
- Their mother dies
- Baba loses his life

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“The essence of happiness has nothing to do with money,” I say and I believe it. But May bites her lip, and I see that I’ve said the exact wrong thing. ‘We thought the world ended when Baba lost everything – ‘... Our lives would have been very different if he’d saved our money instead of lost it, which is why I work so hard to make it now.’ (See 255)

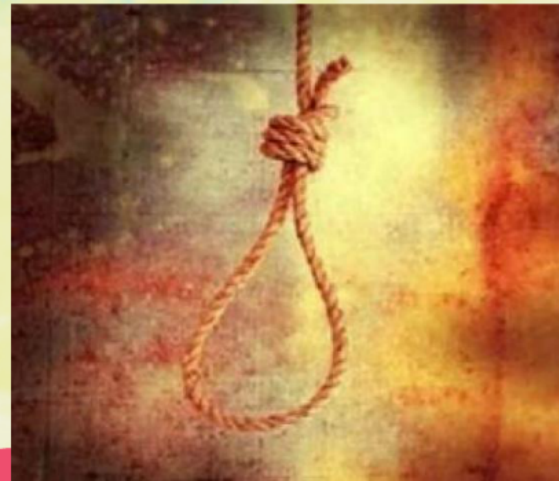
GREED

2. Leads to the downfall of an individual

'What is your precious family name?' Louie is just a chi ming – a paper name. I'm actually a Wong. I was born in Low Tin Village, not far from your home village in the Four Districts. My father was a farmer.' (See 164)

"I run to the closet where Sam hangs. I put my arms around his swaying legs and lift them to take the weight off his neck." (See 289)

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PRIDE

1. Leads to the downfall of an individual

"The old man raises his voice, spitting the Sze Yup dialect out of his mouth 'Don't disobey me!'" (See 163)

"During the coming months, many people visit, and I listen to them speaking highly of my father-in-law, calling him a successful Gold Mountain man, but when I look at him during these final days, I see only a ruined man...Now in the end, he has to rely on his paper son for housing, food, evening pipe and copies of China reconstructs... (See 258)

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Paper Son
One Man's Story

