

QUESTIONS ON FOOTBINDING ARTICLE

1. How old are girls from the gentry class when they have their feet bound?
2. What happens to the poorest girls who don't have their feet bound?
3. How old is Lily and her cousin Beautiful Moon when they begin their footbinding?
4. Why was a diviner brought to Lily's house?
5. Who was Madame Wang and why was she brought to Lily's house?
6. Describe Lily's family's reaction to Madame Wang, especially her mother's.
7. How is a matchmaker different from other women?
8. Why do the diviner and matchmaker consider Lily special?
9. What significance does Lily's uniqueness hold for her and her family in terms of marriage?
10. Beyond, Lily's opportunities for marriage, the matchmaker, Madame Wang also discussed another type of relationship, a _____. What type of relationship is this?
11. What does Lily's mother do to her after the diviner & matchmaker leave? Why? How does Lily react?
12. How had Lily's status changed as a result of the visit by the matchmaker?
13. What is "nei" and "wai"?
14. What two Confucian ideas ruled women's lives?
15. What is "nu shu"?
16. What were some of pre-footbinding activities?
17. How many girls died from footbinding?
18. What are the seven distinct attributes of perfectly bound feet and which is the most important?

19. What items were needed to bind feet (p.26)?
20. How long would it be before Lily would be allowed to walk downstairs?
21. How did “Third Sister” behave when it was time for her feet to be bound?
22. What did the three girls have to do after their feet had been bound?
23. What happened to the girls on the fourth day? Every two weeks?
24. What lesson did the girls learn that was important to all women?
25. What had happened to Lily on the day she heard something crack? How does her mother respond?
26. How was Third Sister’s footbinding experience very different from that of Lily and Beautiful Moon?
27. When Third Sister’s feet were unbound what condition were they in?
28. What happened to Grandmother during this time? What were some of the reasons Lily suspected as causes for her Grandmother’s condition?
29. What were the main purposes in life of the first daughter-in-law?
30. What happened to Third Sister and Grandmother? Why couldn’t they be buried immediately?
31. How did life in the women’s chamber change after the deaths of Grandmother and Third Sister?
32. What did foot size determine for a girl?
33. What did small feet prove regarding a girl’s character?

