

READERS' THEATER BASED ON
Paper Son: Lee's Journey to America
Written by Helen Foster James and Virginia Shin-Mui Loh
Illustrated by Wilson Ong

Copyright © 2013 by Helen Foster James and Virginia Shin-Mui Loh
Published by Sleeping Bear Press
Reproduced by permission of the publisher

Arranged by CYRM committee members for classroom use only

Characters:

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Narrator 3
Narrator 4
Lee
Interrogator
Interpreter

Narrator 1:

Finally, Lee was summoned to the interrogation room.

Narrator 2:

His stomach was in knots.

Narrator 3:

If he made any mistakes, then he would be returned to China.

Interrogator:

I will ask you the questions.

Interpreter:

I will repeat each question in Chinese.

Interrogator:

What is your name?

Lee:

Fu Lee

Interrogator:

What is your father's name?

Lee:

Fu Ming

Interrogator:

How many windows are in your house?

Lee:

Three, no five.

Narrator 4:

The two men exchanged glances.

Narrator 1:

Lee took a deep breath.

Interrogator:

Three or five? What is your answer?

Lee:

I am very nervous. There are three doors and five windows.

Interrogator:

Where is the rice bin?

Lee:

In the kitchen on the right side of the door.

Narrator 2:

The questions went on and on.

Narrator 3:

The interrogator and interpreter never ran out of questions.

Narrator 4:

Lee was exhausted and confused.

Narrator 1:

Lee's cap fell to the floor from his fingers.

Narrator 2:

The interpreter gave the cap back to Lee.

Interpreter:

Hide your cap. Do not return with it again. Trust me.

Narrator 3:

Lee took back his cap but was confused even more.

Narrator 4:

PoPo and Tai had told him not to trust anyone.

Narrator 1:

The interrogator and interpreter whispered together.

Narrator 2:

Lee could not understand their words.

Narrator 3:

Lee searched their faces for a clue to the conversation.

Interpreter:

You may go back to the dormitory.

Narrator 4:

Lee's brain was filled with questions.

Narrator 1:

His stomach was in knots.

Lee:

Did I answer the questions right? Did I say anything wrong?