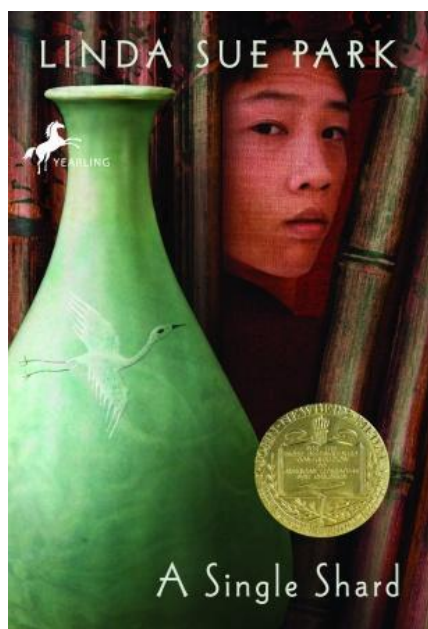


Teacher's Annotated Edition

# Elite Educational Institute Book Club



## A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Teacher's Annotated Edition

## Note To The Teacher

The curriculum for this book is designed to be taught in five lessons (see box below), but depending on the interest of the class or further exploration into specific topics or issues, the book can be taught in more lessons.

Lesson #	Chapters
1	Chapter 1 – Chapter 2
2	Chapter 3 – Chapter 4
3	Chapter 5 – Chapter 7
4	Chapter 8 – Chapter 10
5	Chapter 11 – Chapter 13

At the beginning of each class, the students must take a Reading Comprehension quiz. The students must do the reading. Allow them to take one sheet of notes and use it for the quiz. This way, the students will have to read conscientiously and anticipate questions. As a teacher, the quiz will also let you know who read and who didn't.

**MAKE SURE THE STUDENTS WRITE MANY ESSAYS!** Generally, assign essays as homework, and grade them while the students work on a Vocabulary Exercise or during their quizzes.

## A Single Shard

### **Synopsis**

Tree-ear is an orphan boy in a 12th-century Korean potters' village. When he accidentally breaks a pot, he must work for the master to pay for the damage by setting off on a difficult and dangerous journey that will change his life forever. –*Amazon.com*

### **Author information**

Linda Sue Park is the author of the Newbery Medal book *A Single Shard*, many other novels, several picture books, and most recently a book of poetry: *Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo (Poems)*. She lives in Rochester, New York, with her family, and is now a devoted fan of the New York Mets. For more information visit [www.lspark.com](http://www.lspark.com).  
–*www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com*

# List of Vocabulary Words

## Teacher's Annotated Edition

### A Single Shard List of Vocabulary Words

For each section, you may want to pick and choose the words you would like your students to define and learn. All the vocabulary words from the book are listed so you can determine, based on what your class has already learned from previous books, which words to focus on.

#### **Chapter 1**

1. protruded – v. – stuck out from the surroundings
2. perusal – n. – examination; inspection
3. cumbersome – adj. – awkward to carry or handle because of weight, size, or shape; bulky
4. oblivious – adj. – unaware of somebody or something
5. ruefully – adj. – regretfully; apologetically
6. avail – v. – use something while you have the opportunity; n. – benefit; advantage
7. mock – v. – treat somebody with scorn; ridicule; adj. – imitation; pretend
8. pondered – v. – considered carefully
9. beckoning – v. – gesturing to somebody to come
10. abandoned – adj. – empty; deserted; adj. – left alone without being cared for; neglected
11. gruel – n. – thin boiled cereal
12. arid – adj. – dry
13. strode – v. – walked with long steps
14. droning – v. – making a low humming sound; v. – talking in a boring voice
15. eaves – n. – part of a roof that projects beyond the wall that supports it
16. sluggardly – adv. – lazily
17. symmetry – n. – balance; evenness
18. oafish – adj. – unintelligent, clumsy, or uncultured
19. celadon – n. – Chinese porcelain with a grayish green glaze
20. ware – n. – ceramics
21. virtue – n. – the quality or being morally good
22. plentiful – adj. – existing in large quantities
23. prosperity – n. – success; wealth
29. derision – n. – contempt; mockery; ridicule
30. communal – adj. – used by all members of a group; shared
31. quashed – v. – suppress something by means of force
32. rutted – adj. – uneven; furrowed; bumpy
33. disarray – n. – a disorganized and confused state
34. anticipation – n. – the feeling of looking forward to something that is going to happen; hope; eagerness
35. wrenched – v. – pulled and twisted something away
36. momentum – n. – the speed or force of forward movement of an object; energy; drive
37. tunic – n. – a loose wide-necked garment that extends to the hip or knee and is usually worn with a belt or gathered at the waist
38. makeshift – adj. – providing a temporary and usually inferior substitute
39. methodically – adv. – logically; carefully; precisely
40. placid – adj. – calm; peaceful
41. insistently – adv. – persistently; adamantly; firmly
42. crude – adj. – unskillful; adj. – vulgar or obscene
43. wincing – v. – making a pained expression; v. – moving body back slightly
44. sternly – adv. – strictly; severely

#### **Chapter 2**

24. emboldened – v. – gave somebody courage
25. emerged – v. – appeared from behind something
26. impudence – n. – rudeness; disrespect
27. furrowed – adj. – wrinkled; creased
28. cowered – v. – moved backward in fear

#### **Chapter 3**

45. resentful – adj. – annoyed about having been badly treated; bitter; angry
46. ministrations – n. – help, treatment, or service
47. diligent – adj. – persistent and hard-working
48. frenzied – adj. – wildly excited or out of control
49. vast – adj. – very great in size or amount; huge
50. spoor – n. – the visible trail of an animal
51. keen – adj. – quick to understand things

# Reading Comprehension

A Single Shard  
Reading Comprehension Questions

The following questions are to be used as quizzes at the beginning of each class to make sure students are reading and understanding the book. Allow students to take one page of notes on their reading to help them with the quiz.

Chapter 1 – Chapter 2

1. What does Tree-ear have in his pouch?

**He has rice. "Not carrot-tops or chicken bones, which protruded in odd lumps. No, the bag was filled with *rice*."**

2. What does Tree-ear decide to do when he sees the farmer spilling rice from his bag? How does his decision pay off?

**Tree-ear informs the farmer of the spilled rice. "Tree-ear made his decision. He waited until the man had reached the bend in the road, then ran to catch him." The farmer allows Tree-ear to keep the rice that has fallen on the ground.**

3. What has Tree-ear learned from Crane-man about working versus stealing?

**Crane-man has taught Tree-ear that stealing and begging make a man no better than a dog. He says, "work gives a man dignity, stealing takes it away."**

4. Why is Tree-ear called "Tree-ear"? What does Crane-man say about his name?

**"Tree-ear was so called after the mushroom that grew in wrinkled half-circles on dead or fallen tree trunks, emerging from the rotten wood without benefit of parent seed." Crane-man says it is a good name for an orphan.**

5. What space do Tree-ear and Crane-man share?

**They share the space under the bridge.**

6. What is Crane-man's handicap?

**He was born with a "shriveled and twisted calf and foot."**

7. How does Crane-man keep track of Tree-ear's age? How old is Tree-ear?

**Crane-man makes marks on one of the slats on the underside of the bridge. He has one mark for each spring since Tree-ear arrived at the bridge. There are ten marks, but Tree-ear arrived when he was in his second year. Thus, Tree-ear is 12-years-old.**

8. How did Tree-ear arrive at the bridge?

**Tree-ear's parents had died of fever, and a man was paid to take Tree-ear to Ch'ulp'o, where his uncle lived. "When the travelers arrived, the man discovered that the uncle no longer lived there, the house having been abandoned long before. He took Tree-ear to the temple on the mountainside, but the monks had been unable to take the boy in**

## Teacher's Annotated Edition

**because fever raged there as well. The villagers told the man to take the child to the bridge, where Crane-man would care for him until the temple was free of sickness."**

# Vocabulary Exercises

**A Single Shard**  
**Vocabulary Exercise #2**  
**Chapter 3 – Chapter 4**

**CONTEXT CLUES**

**deliberately**  
**derision**  
**despair**  
**diligent**  
**fatigue**

**felicitous**  
**fervent**  
**impudent**  
**insolence**  
**keen**

**lingered**  
**meagerness**  
**merit**  
**mock**  
**obliged**

**resentful**  
**tedious**  
**terse**  
**treacherous**  
**vast**

**Choose one word from the list above that correctly completes each sentence.**

1. When it looked like all hope was lost for winning the war, the commander told his troops not to **despair** because thousands of extra troops were being sent for backup.
2. The comedian got so tired of the **insolence** of an audience member who heckled him constantly during the show that he finally asked security to remove the disrespectful person.
3. Tina was nervous about entering high school because she thought the older kids might **mock** her for being a freshman.
4. The group of friends **lingered** around the coffee shop long after it was closed because none of them wanted to go home yet.
5. Although he claims it was an accident, I have good reason to believe that Carlos **deliberately** tripped the teacher.
6. The **meagerness** of the fruit and vegetable selection at the grocery store made Mr. Chang want to shop somewhere else where the produce was more plentiful.
7. The fact that the lottery winner flaunted his newly acquired wealth made all the neighbors **resentful** of his good fortune.
8. United States citizens are **obliged** to pay taxes to the government; they have no choice in the matter.
9. Albert Einstein is a man of great **merit**; his contributions to the world were of the utmost importance and excellence.

**A Single Shard**  
**Vocabulary Exercise #4**  
**Chapter 8 – Chapter 10**

**BEST OF FOUR**

**Each sentence has an underlined word. The sentence is followed by four words. Circle the word that best matches the underlined word.**

1. Evelia would have gone on another date with Daniel, but his coarse manners at the dinner table disgusted her.

**crude**                      harsh                      grainy                      refined

2. The noxious fumes that wafted from the garbage bin made Carla cover her nose and mouth.

harmful                      sanitary                      **putrid**                      deadly

3. Since I was pressed for time, I made a rash decision to accept the job overseas even though I was concerned about leaving my family.

informed                      **hasty**                      deliberate                      asinine

4. Carter didn't hesitate in jumping out of the airplane because he'd skydived many times before, but Will expressed trepidation as he stood, looking down at the earth below him.

enthusiasm                      **apprehension**                      confidence                      refusal

5. The portions of food served in some European countries are meager in comparison to the enormous portions that are served in America.

adequate                      substantial                      scarce                      **skimpy**

6. The mother will lull her child to sleep by singing to him in a very soft voice.

**soothe**                      coerce                      melodize                      comfort

7. While the other contestants anxiously awaited their turn in the singing competition, Abby sat quietly, attributing her serenity to the fact that she'd put in over a hundred hours of practice.

anxiety                      impassiveness                      silence                      **calmness**

# Essay and Discussion Questions

A Single Shard  
Essay and Discussion Questions

**Essay questions in bold.**

**Chapter 1 – Chapter 2**

- The author begins the book with Crane-man asking Tree-ear if he has “hungered well today.” We then find out that “the well-fed of the village greeted each other politely by saying, ‘Have you eaten well today?’ Tree-ear and his friend turned the greeting inside out for their own little joke.” What is the significance of this phrase? What does this tell us about Crane-man and Tree-ear?
- What is Crane-man’s theory on stealing? Do you agree with this theory? Why or why not?
- Tree-ear recalls one of Crane-man’s many sayings: “Scholars read the great words of the world. But you and I must learn to read the world itself.” What does this saying mean in terms of who Tree-ear and Crane-man are and the position they have in society?
- Why does Crane-man think Tree-ear is a good name for an orphan? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Tree-ear and Crane-man live under a bridge, yet Tree-ear takes great care in keeping the space neat. Why does he do this? Do you think most people would be so meticulous?
- Min is such a good potter that he works without walls. What is the significance of this? What does his lack of walls communicate to the world? Is there anything you’re so proud of that you’re not afraid to let the world see you in progress?
- How would you describe Min? When Min first meets Tree-ear, how does he react to him? Does Min seem like someone you would want to spend time with?
- **Tree-ear has wonderful visions of helping Min by using the wheel and making pots, but when he arrives for his first day of work he is disappointed that his duty is to cut wood. In a well-organized essay, discuss a time when the result of something you had positively anticipated turned out to be a disappointment. Be sure to discuss how your expectations may have affected how you felt in the outcome. (Minimum 15 sentences.)**
- What seems to be the relationship between Tree-ear and Crane-man? Tree-ear is technically an orphan, but do you think his relationship with Tree-ear qualifies as familial?