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Discussion Questions:
***In the Year of the Boar
and Jackie Robinson***
by Bette Bao Lord

1. How does Shirley feel about leaving China and coming to live in the United States?
2. What is most important to Shirley in her new home and school?
3. What is most important to Shirley's parents?
4. Why does Shirley refer to herself as a "hungry ghost"?
5. How does Shirley's relationship with Mabel help her to fit in?
6. How does baseball help Shirley make her life better in her new country?
7. What does baseball represent to Shirley and her teacher, Mrs. Rappaport?
8. How does Shirley become a little ambassador for China and her school?
9. Why does Emily choose Shirley to represent the school during the Jackie Robinson assembly?
10. In what ways have the lives of Shirley and her family changed by the end of the year?