

# CHINESE CINDERELLA

Blue pen icon, take notes from entire slide.



Purple icon, take notes from section or underlined.



Gold icon, Elite Tasks.



Red icon Test Warning.



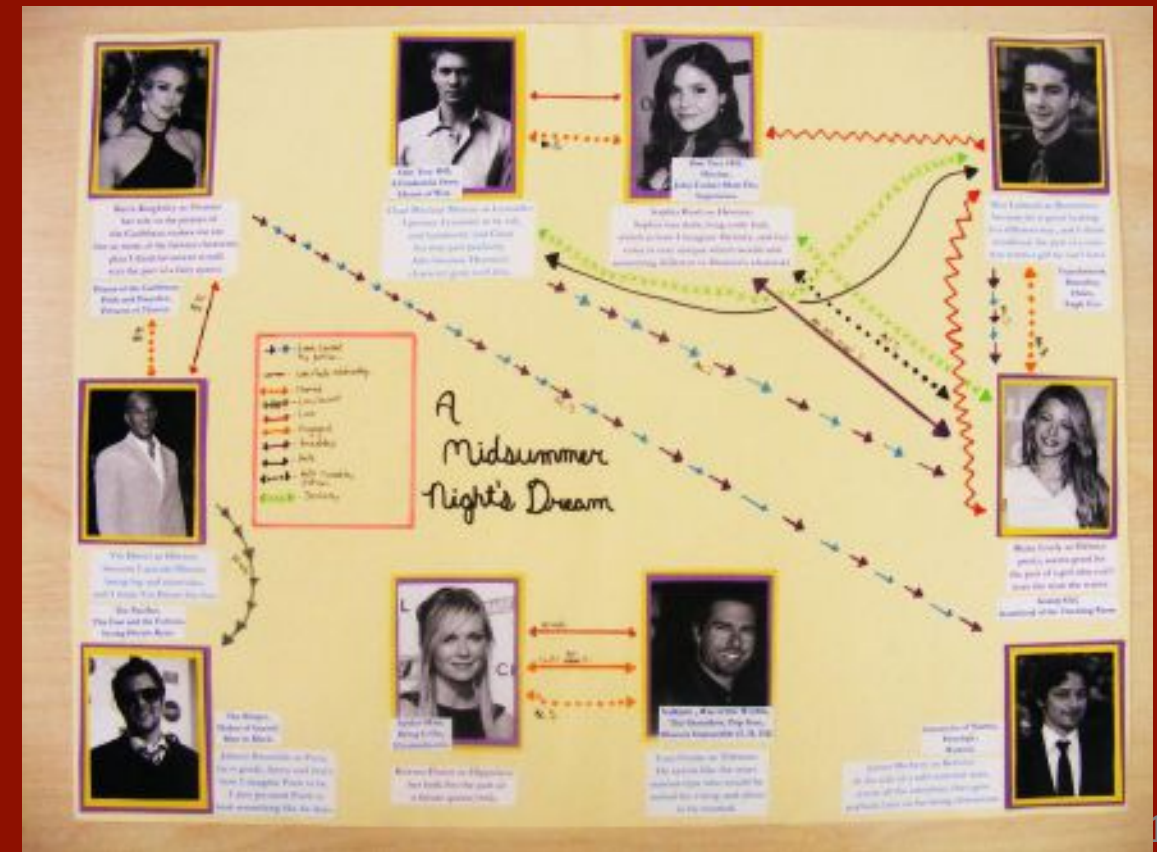
## You have 2 Tasks:

You are to writing the opening of a biography.

- You are to focus on a person who has overcome adversity.

## Assessment task 2:

You are to create a Literary Sociogram of the text.



A biography is when someone describes the life of another person.

It tells of that person's experiences. Related texts are

Autobiography – A writer describes their own life.

Memoire - A writer tells about one aspect or moment of their life.



# Biography Language Features:

- Refers to named individuals
- Contains dates linked to events
- Past tense
- Includes direct and indirect speech
- Written in 3rd person (his/her they/their)
- Time connectives to link ideas (then, before, after, later)
- Events are anecdotal (story) in style (rather than lists of facts)



# Biography Structure:

- Opens by introducing the subject, explaining why they are known.
- Events are ordered chronologically (timeline)
- Closing statement tells how this person will be remembered.





# Chinese Cinderella

The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter



Adeline Yen Mah

bestselling author of *Falling Leaves*

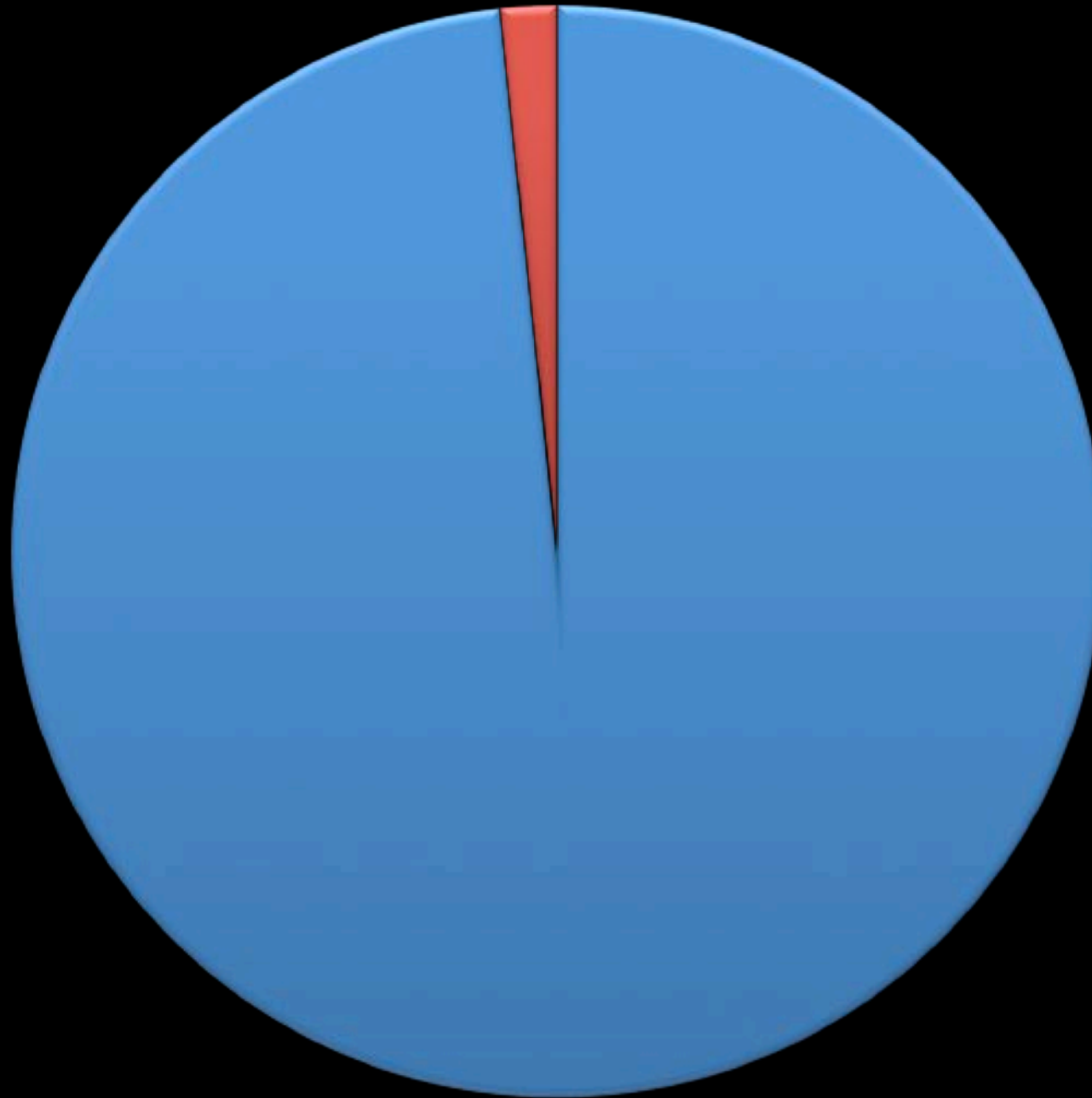
China is the number 1  
English speaking country  
in the word.

# Why Study Chinese Cinderella?

# CHINA FACTS: Population

China	1,339,724,852
Australia	22,675,626

POPULATION

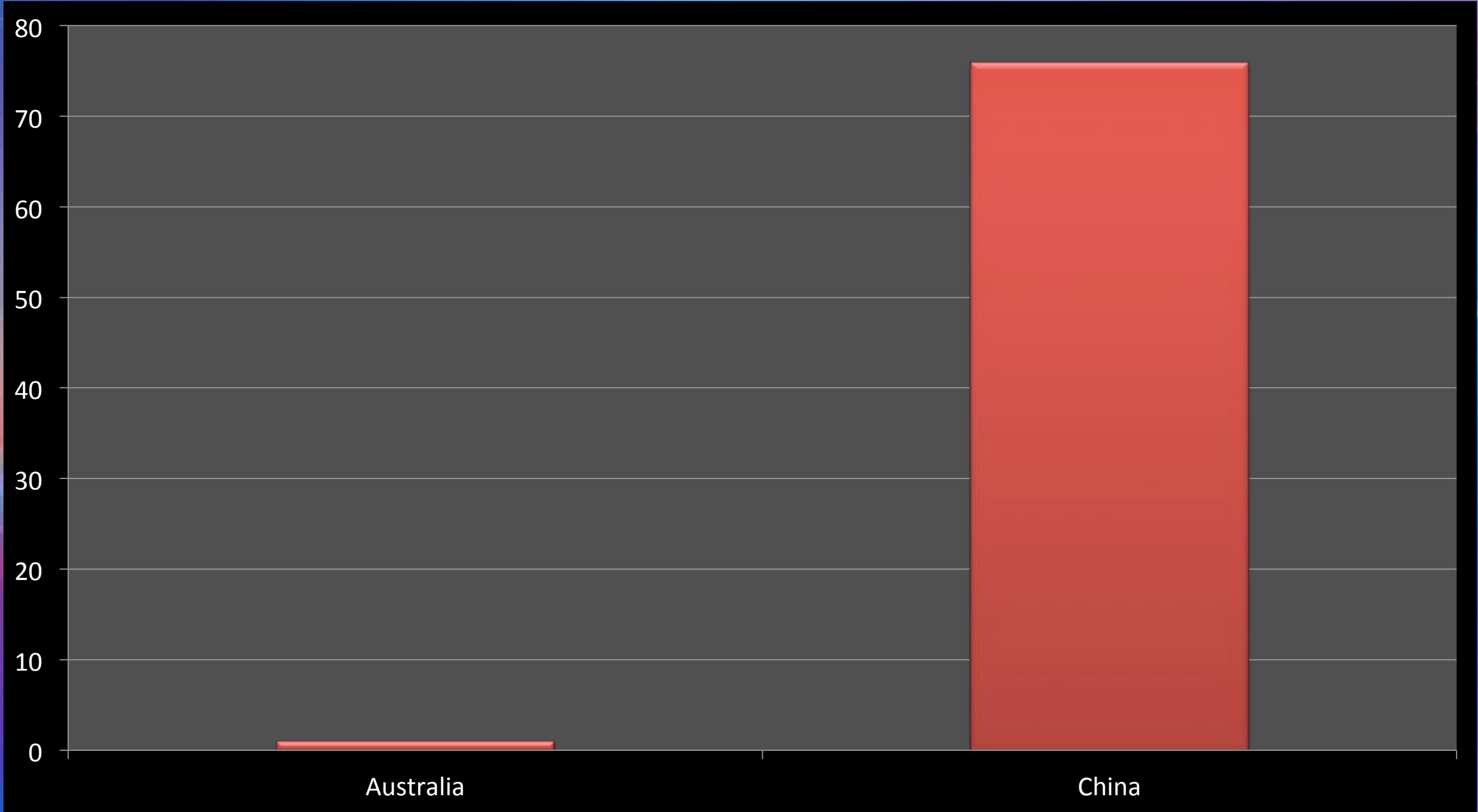


- China
- Australia

# CHINA FACTS: Population growth

Babies born every 2 minutes.

China	76
Australia	1



## CHINA FACTS:

- By 2025, China will build enough skyscrapers to fill 10 cities the size of New York.

x10



## CHINA FACTS:

China is largely considered to be the longest continuous civilization, with some historians marking 6000 B.C. as the dawn of Chinese civilization. It also has the world's longest continuously used written language.



## CHINA FACTS:

- China consumes about half of the worlds cement, iron ore and coal.
- 1 in every 5 people in the world is Chinese.

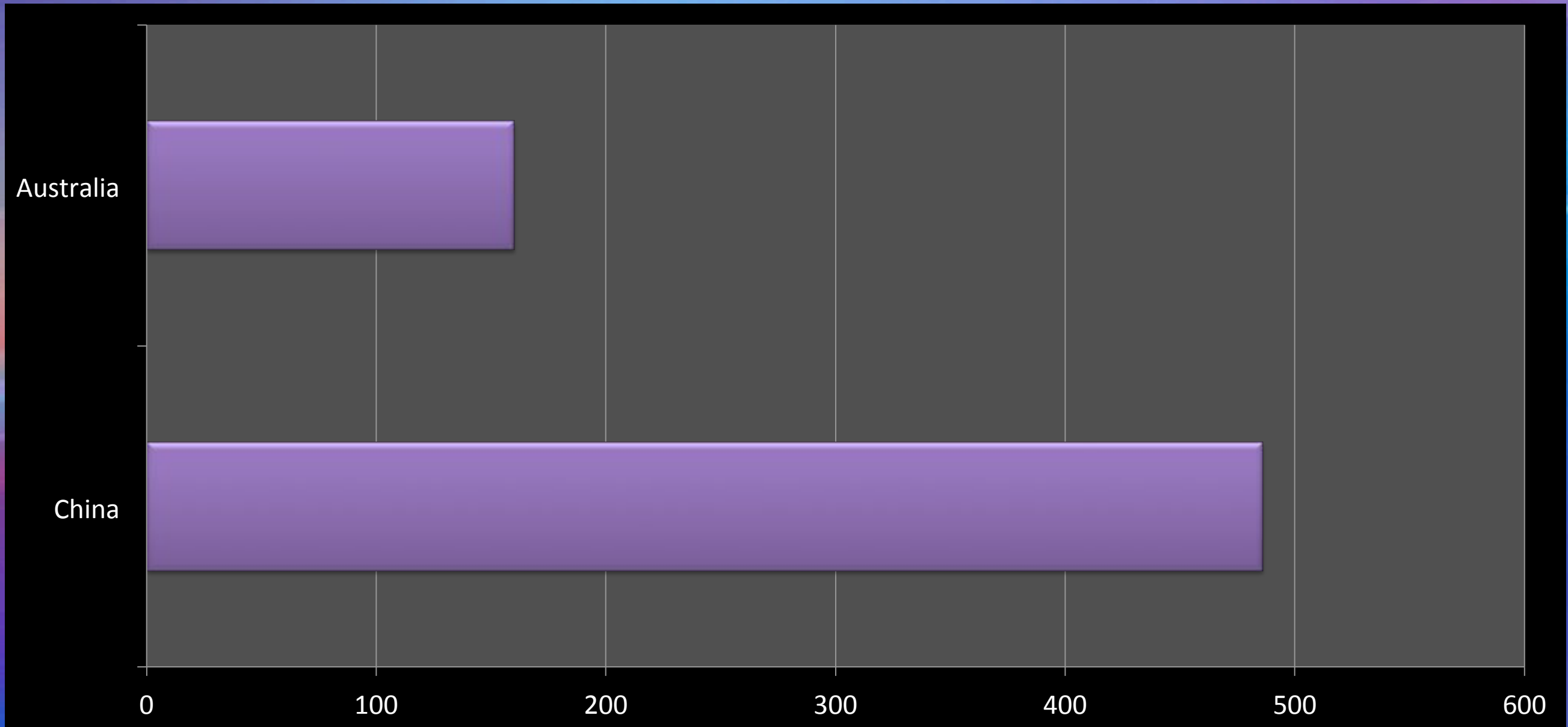
## CHINA FACTS:

- 4 out of every 5 toys in the world were made in China.



## CHINA FACTS:

- Their trains travel at 486 kilometres per hour compared to Australia's 160.



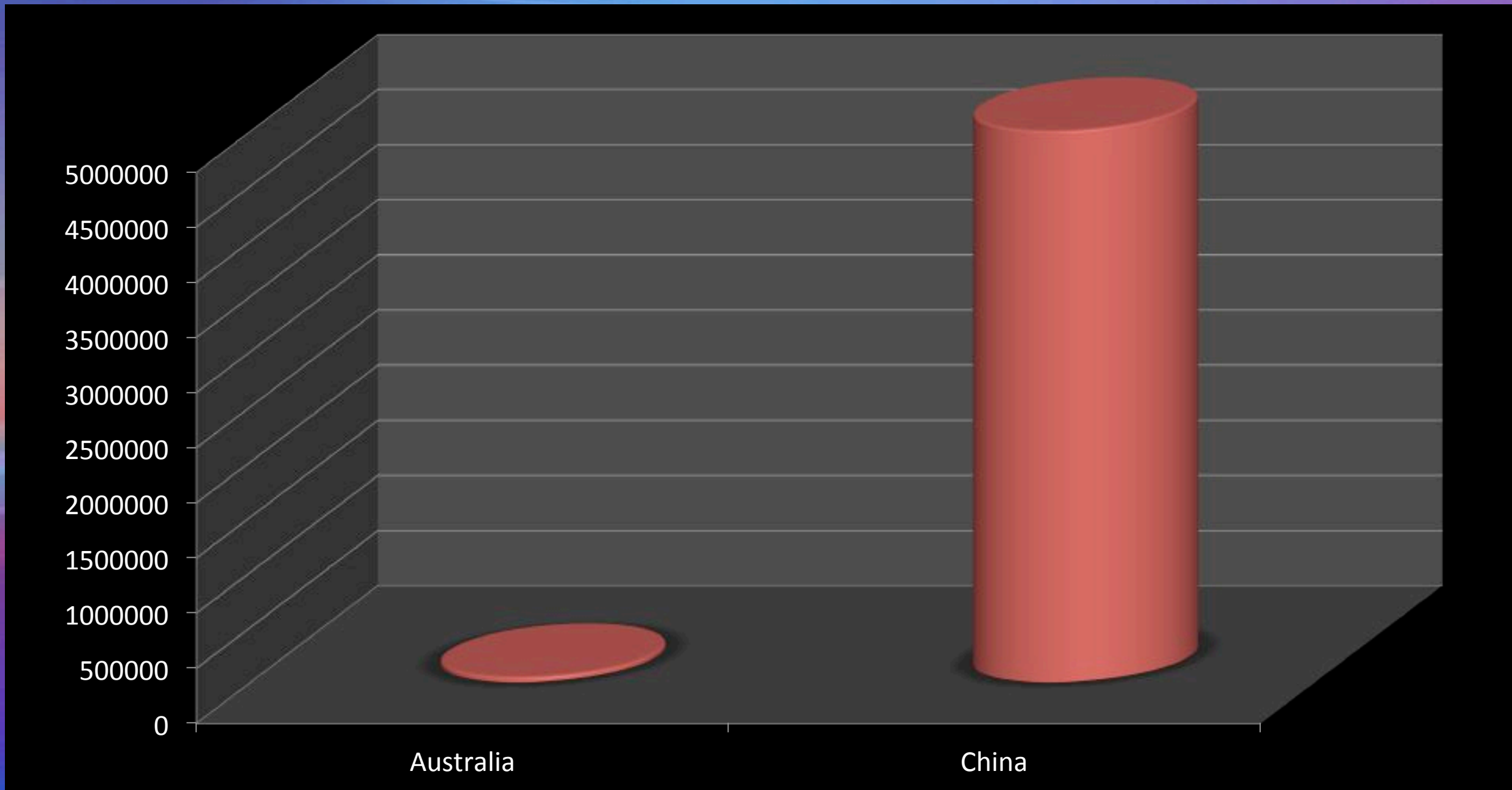
## CHINA FACTS:

- China has more 95+ ATAR equivalent scoring students than Australia has students.



# CHINA FACTS:

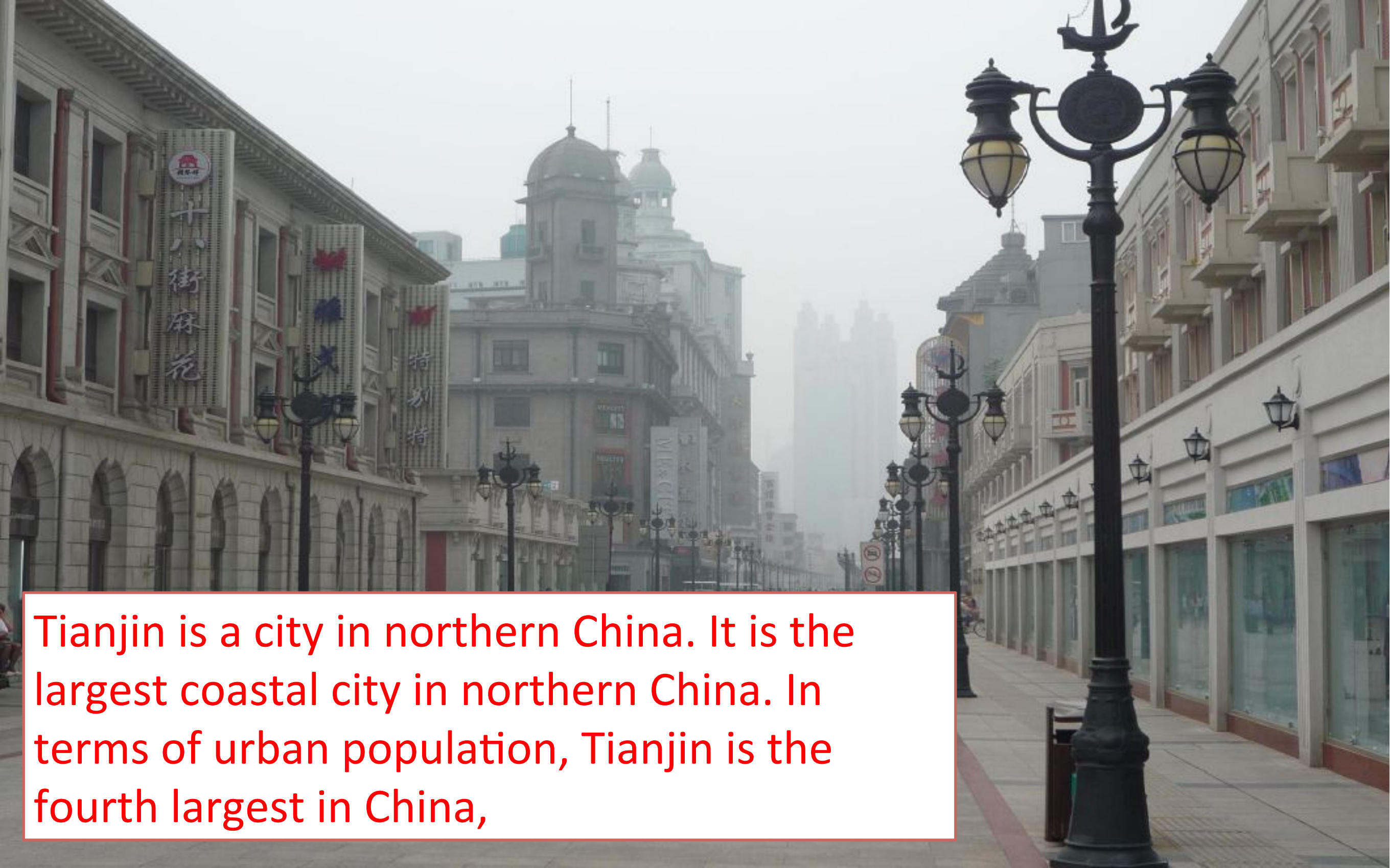
47,135 Australian army. 5,000,000 Chinese Army



## CHINA FACTS:

- China executes x 3 as many people as the rest of the world and use mobile execution vans for efficiency.





Tianjin is a city in northern China. It is the largest coastal city in northern China. In terms of urban population, Tianjin is the fourth largest in China,

Victoria Park, Tianjin 1940's



Tianjin 1943

EAST PART OF FRENCH CONGO, TIENTSIN.

部東界租國佛津天

NKD  
製複禁

Tianjin 2013





Published in 1999, *Chinese Cinderella: The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter* is a book by the Chinese-American physician and author Adeline Yen Mah. It describes her experiences growing up in China during the Second World War.

Adeline's mother dies of fever two weeks after giving birth to her. Adeline is thereafter known to her family as bad luck.

Adeline's father remarries a woman who harshly disciplines her and her brother while her half-brother and half-sister are spoiled.



## Structure

This autobiography is written in chronological order. It relies on the memories of Adeline presenting us vignettes, or small scenes, from her childhood. Because of this, the book often jumps periods during which Adeline either may remember little, or little of importance happens, yet many scenes are vividly recalled

Chronological=Follows a time sequence.

Vignettes= Small piece of writing.



Why does Adeline become a good student?

Adeline's family considers her as bad luck and they don't pay attention to her throughout her early childhood. Adeline's mother died two weeks later after her birth , and in Chinese culture she is considered as bad luck. Adeline's new mother has little affection for her husband's children. She displays hatred and distrust towards all of the children, particularly Adeline. The book outlines Adeline's struggle to find a place where she feels she belongs. Adeline immerses herself in striving for academic achievement in the hope of winning favour, but also for its own rewards as she finds great pleasure in words and scholarly success.

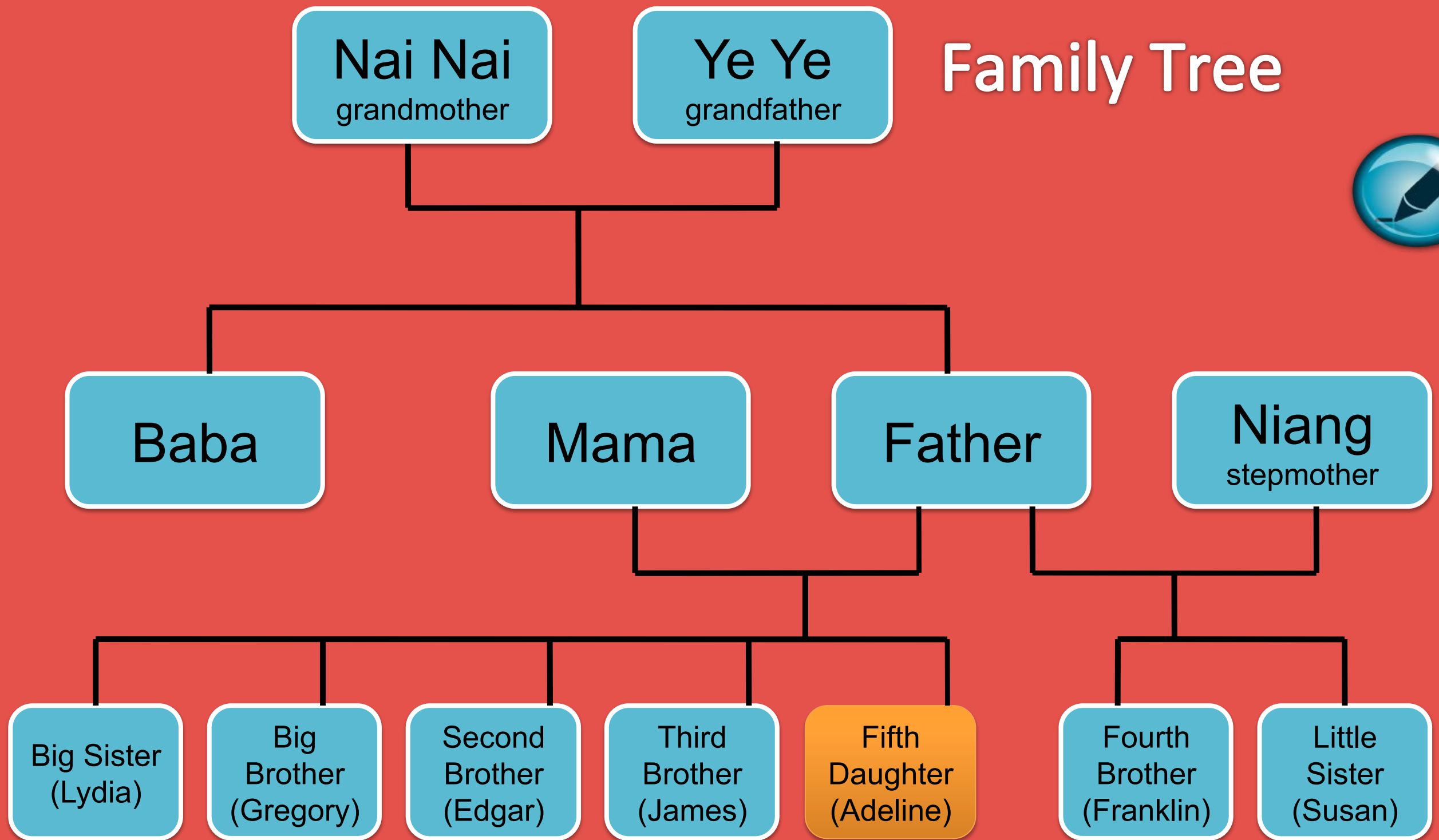
Why did Adeline want to go to  
England?

While playing with her friends at boarding school, Adeline is interrupted and taken home by her chauffeur. She meets her father who he tells her that she has won first prize in the international play-writing competition. Adeline, thinking it was now or never, asks him if she may attend school in England with her brother. When asked what she intends to study, she says literature. Her father rejects her idea and orders her to go to medical school. Adeline ignores her father and finally gets something she has been longing for, a chance to follow her dreams and to get away from her stepmother. She is able to go to college in England along with her third brother.

# What are the meaning of those words in red?

Chinese Cinderella is my **autobiography**. It was difficult and painful to write but I felt **compelled** to do so. Though mine is but a simple, personal tale of my childhood, please do not **underestimate** the power of such stories. In one way or another, every one of us has been shaped and moulded by the stories we have read and **absorbed** in the past. All stories, including fairy- tales, present **elemental** truths which can sometimes **permeate** your inner life and become part of you. The fact that this story is true may hold special appeal. Today, the world is a very different place. Though many Chinese parents still prefer sons, daughters are not so much **despised**. But the real things have not changed. It is still important to be truthful and loyal; to do the best you can; to make the most of your talents; to be happy with the simple things in life; and to believe deep down that you will ultimately **triumph** if you try hard enough to prove your worth. To those who were neglected and unloved as children, I have a particular message. In spite of what your abusers would have had you believe, please be convinced that each of you has within you something precious and unique. Chinese Cinderella is **dedicated** to you with the **fervent** wish that you will persist in trying.

# Family Tree



## CHARACTERS



Aunt Baba is a unmarried and hard working . She was 'ordered to take care' of Adeline. Though she is a comfort and supporting, Aunt Baba is unable to be of much help to Adeline. Aunt Baba puts great faith in Adeline's intellectual abilities and praises all of her academic efforts, often being the only one to recognise and celebrate her achievements. It is Aunt Baba who saves all of Adeline's reports and commendations.

Why might aunt Baba want to help Adeline?

## CHARACTERS



Niang is a central character in Adeline's young life. A source of cruel and cold treatment for all of her step-children, she has a particular hatred for Adeline. Calculating and manipulative, though outwardly charming and stylish, Niang is the stereotypical evil stepmother. Whilst Adeline appears to crave the approval of her father, she senses this is not possible with Niang and only wishes to disappear in her presence.

1. What does Adeline's physical description of Niang tell us about her? (p.4)
2. Why does Niang behave towards Adeline as she does?
3. Read Adeline's confrontation with Niang at the time of her friend's birthday party. (p.110 onwards) What does this tell you of Niang

## CHARACTERS



Adeline's father is a mysterious character, aloof and seemingly untouchable. At times indulgent, at others cruel and uncaring, he is portrayed as ruled by his new wife's whims and having little regard for his elder children. Adeline's only early memory of him is his pride at her having topped the class during her first week at school (p.11). Yen is thoughtless of others. Continually abandoning Adeline, ignoring the wishes of his own father. He appears to value only the opinion of his new wife Niang and chase success for himself based on wealth and power.

1. How might Adeline's father's behaviour contribute to Adeline's cruel treatment by her stepmother?

### Big Sister (Lydia)

The view we have of Adeline's older sister is only fleeting. She is portrayed as both manipulative and manipulated, prepared to beg and obey for the trifles she wishes to have (tram fare p.47). For most of the novel she is symbolic of the arranged marriage that Adeline wishes desperately to avoid for herself. (p.206) Adeline's big sister is shown as weak and unable to help anyone except for herself. She too, craves acceptance as do the other children within the family.

Read pages 101 & 104. What does Big Sister's actions after receiving the pendant tell us about her?

## CHARACTERS



### Ye Ye (Grandfather)

Adeline's grandfather is one of her most greatest supporters. Towards the end of the book, when Adeline is worried about her possible fate at the whim of her parents, he says: 'You mustn't talk like that! You have your whole life ahead of you. Everything is possible! I've tried to tell you over and over that far from being garbage, you are precious and special. Being top of your class merely confirms this. But you can vanquish the demons only when you yourself are convinced of your own worth.' (p. 207)

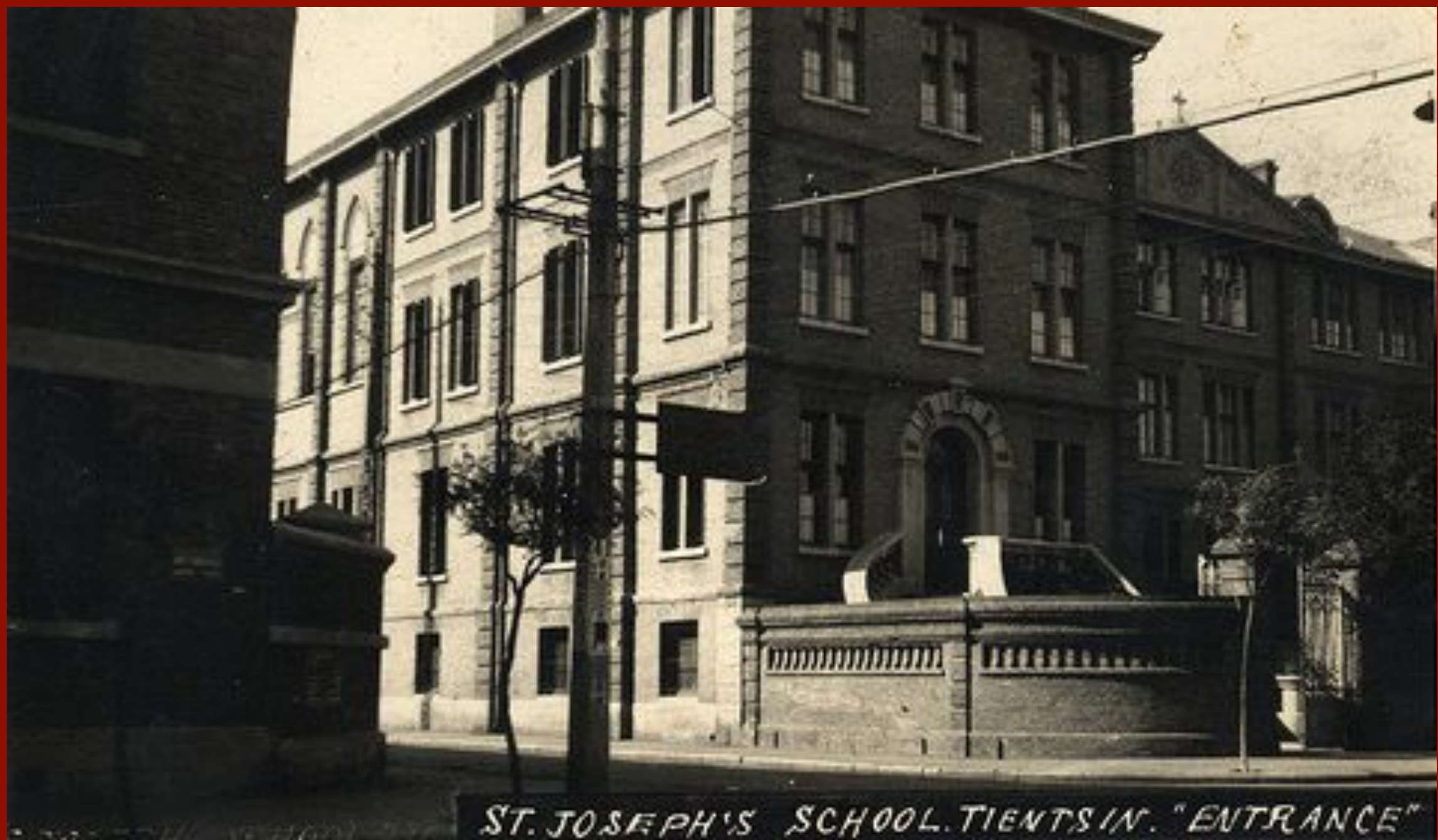
1. How does Ye Ye's words of advice show what sort of father he might have been?
2. Does it explain the attitude of his own son to Adeline?

## CHARACTERS



Adeline's three older brothers are treated with marked difference to Niang's own son within their father's household. Neglected and starved of affection, they survive due to the possibilities that they offer as 'sons'. The brothers are treated like ancient Chinese monks. Whilst their younger brother (fourth brother) has the latest page-boy haircut and a navy jacket with matching trousers, they endure shaved heads and traditional high collared robes. (p. 102)

Why might Adeline's stepmother dress her own son differently to those of her husband's first marriage?





Longon Berries aka Dragon Eyes Fruit



Adeline

## FOOTBINDING

Foot binding (also known as "Lotus feet") is the custom of applying painfully tight binding to the feet of young girls to prevent further growth. men found it to be highly attractive, and therefore became Chinese women's way of being beautiful and to show that they were worthy of a husband.



1. Choose one of these quotes from Adeline.
2. Read the chapter which has the quote.
3. Explain the context (the reason) for the quote.

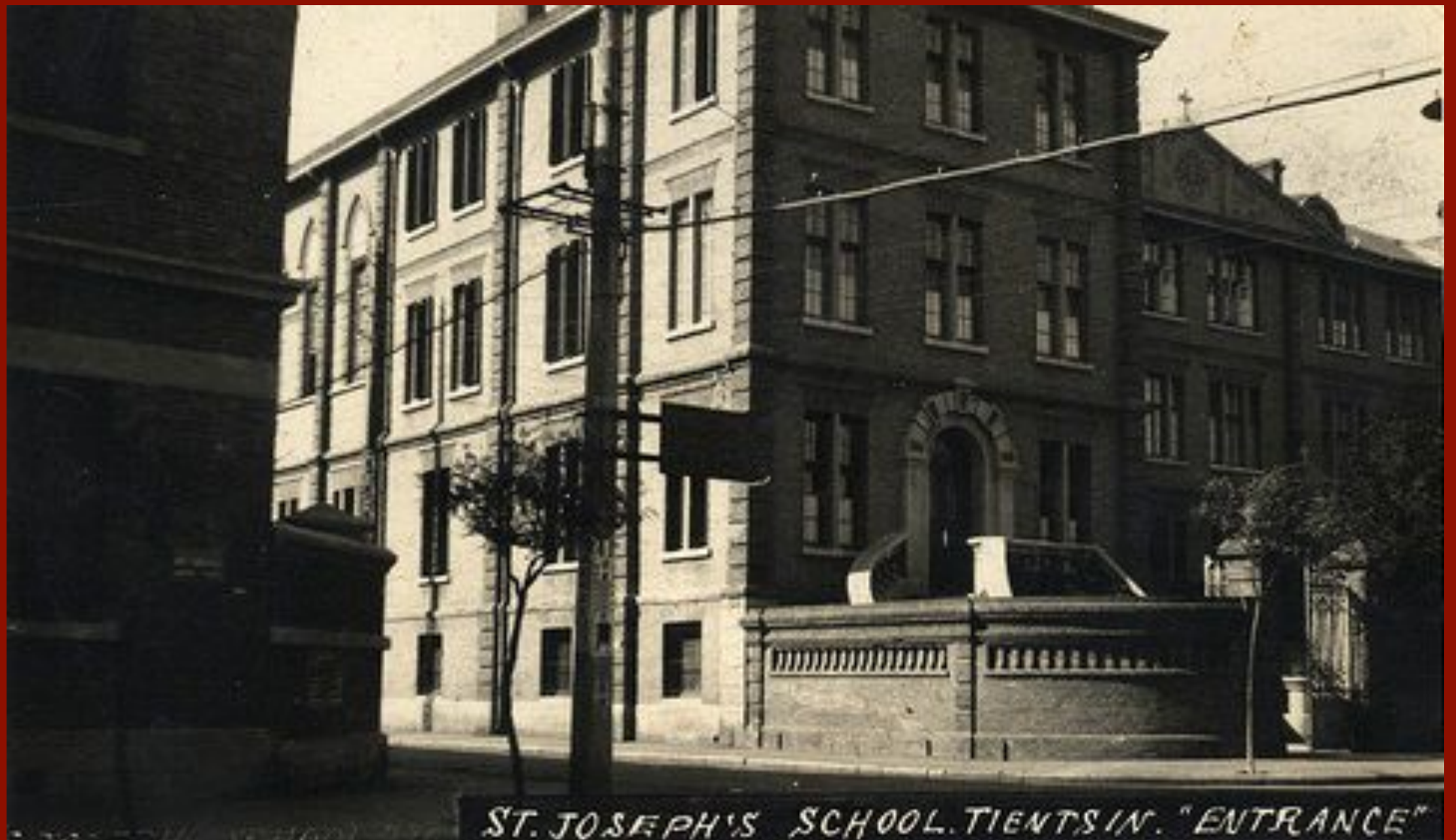
‘They had tossed me aside like a piece of garbage’ (p.143)

‘Now they knew the pathetic truth! Unloved and unwanted by my own parents! How long did it take for a person to die of shame.’ (p.129)

‘I’m nothing. Less than nothing. A piece of garbage to be thrown out.’ (p. 207)

“Oh, the misery of it all! I felt I was being skinned alive. (p.214)

‘Everything is ugly. I loathe myself.’ (p.215)



ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL. TIENTSIN. "ENTRANCE"