

SING TO THE DAWN: EVIDENCE FROM CHARACTERS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS

CHARACTER	PERSONALITY	WHAT IS SAID OR DONE	THEMES
DAWAN	TIMID, UNCONFIDENT, HUMBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the bridge, when Kwai said that Dawan could win the scholarship, she flushed and told him not to be silly because she is a girl. - She was afraid to ask questions in the class. She said that the teacher liked Kwai more as he talked for hours after class to him about injustice and poverty. - When she was about to tell her father about her winning the scholarship, she dared not look directly into her father's eyes and whispered that there was only one prize. - She told Kwai that all those morning when they watched the sun rising, she had listened to Kwai talking of building a new world and never said anything much because she never thought she would never have the chance to do anything. - When Bao said that she must be really smart for winning the scholarship, she told Bao that it's not that people are born smarter or dumber than one another. It's the way different chances have been given or denied. She also said that she could read only because she was given the chance to. 	<p>GENDER DISCRIMINATION</p> <p>IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION</p>
	DETERMINED, ADAMANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Even though Noi discouraged her that no matter how hard she tried she could not change anything in the village and after a while she would just live with it, Dawan was determined to try. - When Noi and Ghan told her about the 'ugly and cruel' things in the city like children from poor family selling cigarettes at movie theaters and young women from villages offering whiskeys and themselves to white soldiers, Dawan said she wanted to go and see it by herself. 	<p>IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION</p> <p>LIFE STRUGGLE, EXPLOITATION OF THE POOR</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Even though Noi told Dawan that the City is for the rich people and the foreigners and they, the villagers go there only to serve them, Dawan still wanted to go and see it by herself. - When Kwai told her that she was only a girl and she won't be able to fight, or to argue loudly or to lead people in time of crisis, she told him to shut up and said she was every bit as good as he was. - When Kwai told her if she did not go then he would, Dawan insisted that she would go. She told him it was her last chance as it would be the last year their father would pay for her school-fee. Kwai would have many more chances yet and their father would send Kwai to school as long as he wanted to go on studying. - She knew that if she let Kwai go to the City, he would get a good job and be someone important to make life better for everyone. However, she still wanted to fight for her right. - She went to see the head monk to persuade him to talk to her Father even though Bao reminded her that the monk would not speak for her and persuade her father. - When the monk told her that everything she wanted to learn is in the temple, she insisted that she wanted to learn everything like curing sick people and helping farmers to own their land in the city school. - She told her father to be as fair and as kind towards her as he was to Kwai and challenged him by asking why she should not be the one to go. - When her father told her that she could not do anything with 'fancy education' because she is a girl, she said how could she do anything worthwhile if he didn't give her a chance. She compared herself to a caged sparrow and told him she wanted her chance to fly, see the world and learn new things to help the people in the village and perhaps her country. 	<p>EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p> <p>GENDER BIAS, EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p> <p>EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p> <p>GENDER BIAS</p> <p>IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION</p> <p>EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p>
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	BRAVE, OUTSPOKEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Even though the head monk is a respectable figure in the society, Dawan was snapped when the head monk said that a mere school girl like her cannot achieve anything and that she should not waste any more time to dream a futile dream of studying in the city. She accused angrily that if her brother came and asked him to help him accept the scholarship, he would do it for him. - She told the head monk that he did not live with the pain of the world outside the temple because he lived inside the peaceful monastery and everything was provided for him. - When Kwai accidentally pushed her and a sharp splintered wood cut through her left ankle, she screamed at Kwai that he was a liar and a bully. She challenged Kwai to use his strength and knock down the people who got it his way. - During the incident at Bao's flower stall, she accused that Kwai's ideal of helping poor and weak people had gone sour. She said he tried to grab from her the only chance that was meant for her. Not only that, she chanted softly, "Liar, liar, liar..." - When Kwai said he did not want her 'dumb' umbrella, she called him 'stupid' and said that he was going to be in the rain longer than she would. - Kwai said that their father did not have the right to forbid Dawan from going to the city because she won the scholarship. Their father snapped by saying he might not have the right, but he had the power not to let Dawan go. At this point, Dawan argued that he might have the power, but he should not misuse it. He told her he was not talking to her but she said she was talking to him because it concerned her. 	<p>EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p> <p>INJUSTICE, LIFE STRUGGLE</p> <p>EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p> <p>EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP</p> <p>EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN</p>

	MATURE, WISE	<p>Dawan is 14 but...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the class, she responded to the teacher's question with another thought-provoking question: what makes the landlord own all the land instead of them? - She asked herself if the landlord had the right to collect whole piles of rice from everybody from the village. - When Noi said that she would not be able to change anything no matter how hard she tried, Dawan said there must be a system with rules and laws that works. She added that was why she wanted to study in the City: To help find a better and fairer system. - When Kwai told her if she did not go then he would, Dawan explained that it was her last chance as it would be the last year their father would pay for her school-fee. Kwai would have many more chances yet and their father would send Kwai to school as long as he wanted to go on studying. - Dawan knew the importance of education and promised Kwai that she would learn what would be helpful in creating changes in their village. - When Bao said that she must be really smart for winning the scholarship, she told Bao that it's not that people are born smarter or dumber than one another. It's the way different chances have been given or denied that makes them so different after a while. 	<p>EXPLOITATION OF THE POOR</p> <p>GENDER BIAS</p> <p>IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION, RESPONSIBILITY</p>
	KIND, LOVING, CARING, THOUGHTFUL, SELFLESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When Dawan was surrounded by her classmates for her winning the scholarship, she searched for Kwai in the whole room with her eyes until she saw him. - When Dawan was surrounded by her classmates for her winning the scholarship she called out for Kwai but he only walked away abruptly. 	FRIENDSHIP, LOVE

		<p>She rammed her way through the crowd after her brother.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She insisted to pay Bao ten cents for the lotus bud because she knew that it was difficult for her to pick the lotus buds herself in the klong. - She did not take advantage of Bao's kindness when Bao offered her to free the caged sparrow before seeing the monk to make more merit and pay her later even though she really wished she could. - Even though her ankle ached from the incident at the flower stall, she was still worried that Kwai would catch a cold sitting out in the storm. When Kwai told her he wanted to think, she advised him to think at home. - Even after Kwai had hurt Dawan badly at the flower stall, she left her umbrella for him to sit under in the rain while she limped clumsily home, wet and cold and tired. - On her last morning at home, she was disappointed to find that Kwai had awakened and gone off without waiting for her. She wanted to share the morning so much with Kwai. - She told Kwai she would miss watching the dawn with Kwai when she was alone in the city. - Even though the whole village was seeing her off, Dawan realized that there was not a single one she really cared to say goodbye to because she had not said goodbye to Kwai. - As the bus approached the bridge, Dawan stuck her head out of the window. She saw Kwai on the bridge gesturing his outstretched arms to hug and send her off. She threw her arms to hug him and sang along with him. 	<p>KINDNESS, SOLIDARITY, EMPHATY</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP, LOVE</p>
KWAI	INTELLIGENT BUT NAIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The teacher had high hopes for Kwai and sometimes he spent hours talking to Kwai after school about injustice and poverty in their village. But the first things he thought about studying in the City were the big 	EXPLOITATION OF THE POOR

		<p>markets, butcher stalls and different kinds of coconut cakes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He was aware that there was injustice in the village when he said that the villagers worked so hard all year plowing, planting and reaping, and some landlords, collected so much of their rice without lifting a hoe. - He said Dawan could win because they might want older student, Dawan always got good marks, and studied harder than he did. But when Dawan really won, he turned away from her. - During the discussion with the teacher, he suggested that they put all their buffaloes and tools in the village centre so that everybody could take turns using all the equipments as a change to the current unfair custom. - He found out from his teacher he was second after Dawan by pestering him until he told him. He told Dawan if she didn't go, he would take her place. 	<p>SIBLINGS RIVALRY</p> <p>EXPLOITATION OF THE POOR, RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>SIBLING RIVALRY</p>
	<p>CONCERNED</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Their parents had considered it foolish and wasteful to send girls to school but he kept insisting that their parents send Dawan to school until she was allowed to join him. - He was concerned about his Father's worry that there won't be enough rice for their family after he paid the rent for the rice-field. - He said if he got the scholarship, he would study hard and come back to teach their Father to raise new crops and use better fertilizers, set up a hospital for their village, and advise the people not to get cheated by the tax-collectors. - When Dawan said that he would 'win' the 'prize' the next year, he shouted he didn't 'win' it. Instead, he said it was a 'responsibility' for those who didn't get that chance. 	<p>IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION</p> <p>FAMILY RELATIONSHIP</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY</p>

	SELFLESS	<p>anything.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Their parents had considered it foolish and wasteful to send girls to school but he kept insisting that their parents send Dawan to school until she was allowed to join him. - He ran after Kwai and slowed down his pace to walk beside Dawan, holding the umbrella carefully over both of them after he had decided that Dawan had the right to go to the City school. - When his father was outraged that Kwai deliberately did not tell him that he was second, he told his father it was not his right to go to the City when Dawan wanted to study there too. - He said he would not go even if his father ordered him to go because their father had no ‘right’ to forbid her and Dawan was the one who won the scholarship. - He hid his teardrops that fell on the wooden floor by covering it with his toe when their father finally agreed to let Dawan study in the City. - As Dawan’s bus approached the bridge, he stood on the bridge singing her morning song with his arms outstretched gesturing to hug her and send her off. He waved until the bus faded in distance. Perhaps he just couldn’t bring himself to see her off personally in their house and he was too proud to let people see him cry. 	<p>IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP, LOVE</p> <p>GENDER BIAS, SACRIFICE</p> <p>SACRIFICE, LOVE</p> <p>SACRIFICE</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP, LOVE</p>
FATHER	AUTHORITATIVE, UNFAIR, DISCRIMINATING, BIAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to Dawan’s grandmother, her father was quiet and gentle but he had changed because of his many burdens and worries. He became tougher, louder and fierce. - When Dawan told him she won the scholarship, he was only interested to know if Kwai had won anything. He accused her of grabbing Kwai’s chance, threw his hammer angrily and walked to the rice field. 	<p>LIFE STRUGGLE, POVERTY</p> <p>GENDER BIAS, LIFE STRUGGLE</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When Dawan wanted to know if she could go because she only had that week, he said she had had enough schooling and asked her what was the point to keep studying. When Kwai asked if he could go if he was second, their father said if it was him it would be different because he is a boy. More education is useful for Kwai because Kwai could help him after his studies. - He thought it was foolish and wasteful to send girls to school. He said that Dawan had no right of studying in the City because she is a girl and that he had the power to forbid her from going. - He was furious when Kwai gave in to Dawan. He said that Dawan had no right for education and she could not do anything even if she had fancy education because she is just a girl. He also accused Dawan of forcing Kwai to let her go. 	<p>GENDER BIAS, IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION</p> <p>GENDER BIAS</p> <p>GENDER BIAS</p>
HEAD MONK	BIAS, DISCRIMINATING,	<p>He was a respectable figure in the society and was respected by Dawan's father.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He told her that everything she wanted to learn is in the temple and she should only learn about the Holy One's truth, the transience of life and to gain spiritual enlightenment (Nirvana). - When Dawan said that she wanted to learn things curing sick people or help farmers to own their land, the monk said no one can stop suffering and nothing in this world will last because they are not important. - According to him, what is important is attaining Nirvana where there is no suffering, no pain and no rebirth. - He said that he could not help Dawan do something that he did not believe in. - He said that a mere school girl like Dawan cannot achieve anything and she should not waste any more time to dream a futile dream of studying in the city. He told Dawan to be satisfied with what she already had. - He thought that education is unnecessary for girls. - He said that if Kwai had won the scholarship instead of Dawan, there would not be any problem. 	GENDER BIAS