In China, even the peasants named their first daughters Jade—
the stone that in the far fields could moisten the dry season, could make me move mountains for the healing green of the inner hills glistening like slices of winter melon.

And the daughters were grateful;
They never left home.
To move freely was a luxury stolen from them at birth.

Instead, they gathered patience, learning to walk in shoes the size of teacups, without breaking—
the arc of their movements as dormant as the rooted willow, as redundant as the farmyard hens. But they traveled far in surviving, learning to stretch the family rice, to quiet the demons, the noisy stomachs.

2
There is a sister across the ocean, who relinquished her name, diluting jade green with the blue of the Pacific. Rising with a tide of locusts she swarmed with others to inundate another shore. In America, there are many roads and women can stride along with men.

But in another wilderness, the possibilities, the loneliness, can strangulate like jungle vines. The meager provisions and sentiments of once belonging—fermented roots, Mah-Jong tiles and firecrackers—set but a flimsy household in a forest of nightless cities. A giant snake rattles above, spewing black clouds into your kitchen. Dough-faced landlords slip in and out of your keyholes, making claims you don’t understand, tapping into your communication systems of laundry lines and restaurant chains.

Text Features:
Why is this poem titled “Lost Sister”? Why is she lost? Why is there a #1 and #2 breaking up the poem?
You find you need China:
your one fragile identification,
a jade link
handcuffed to your wrist.
You remember your mother
who walked for centuries,
footless-
and like her,
you have left no footprints,
but only because
there is an ocean in between,
the unremitting space of your rebellion.

Answer Numbers 1 through 8 using the TEACH strategies. Base your answers on the poem “Lost Sister.”

1. “Lost Sister” is a poem about
   A. a Chinese child born in the United States.
   B. a Chinese child’s visit to the United States.
   C. a woman trying to understand her own cultural identity.
   D. a woman seeking to explain the contributions of other cultures.

2. What is most likely the author’s purpose for writing this poem?
   F. To describe the lives of peasants in China.
   G. To express regrets about the lives of Chinese women.
   H. To bring to light different struggles faced by Chinese women.
   I. To express feelings and concerns about ancient Chinese traditions.

3. Read the following lines from the poem.

   Rising with a tide of locusts
   she swarmed with others
   to inundate another shore.

   What type of literary device does the author use in the above lines?
   A. simile, comparing the Chinese immigrants to a flood
   B. personification, giving human characteristics to locusts
   C. symbolism, suggesting that the tide represents Chinese culture
   D. metaphor, saying the Chinese immigrated in mass, comparing them to a swarm of insects

4. In the first stanza, when the author says “to quiet the demons,” she means
   F. to calm the fear
   G. to ease the pain
   H. to relieve the hunger
   I. to banish the isolation
5. Which statement best describes the author’s attitude toward Chinese women?
A. The women in China were grateful to do the will of men to survive.
B. Chinese women in the past were not as strong as the Chinese women today.
C. The Chinese women who came to America were more content than those in China.
D. The women both in China and America have deep-seated values rooted in the past.

6. What does jade symbolize in this poem?
F. envy and regret
G. fear and loneliness
H. gratefulness and joy
I. hope and determination

7. When the author states, “A giant snake rattles above,” she is referring to
A. a busy street
B. a railway train
C. a Chinese dragon
D. a factory smokestack

8. Which lines from the poem most closely reveal its theme?
F. To move freely was a luxury/ stolen from them at birth
G. But they traveled far in surviving,/ learning to stretch the family rice
H. In America,/ there are many roads/ and women can stride along with men.
I. You find you need China: / your one fragile identification/ a jade link/ handcuffed to your wrist.

9. What TEACH strategies did you find helpful?
10. Which questions do you feel most confident about?
11. Which questions are you still unsure of your response?
12. Which strategies are you still unsure of?

Questions: ____/8  Annotations: ____/8  Reflection: ____/4  TOTAL: ____/20