

“Equal Opportunity” Questions

1. The speaker uses humour to tell how the Chinese people achieved a degree of social equality in Canada. Humour is one strategy that enables people to deal with uncomfortable, unpleasant, or unfair situations. How does the speaker create a humorous tone in this poem?

2. Identify the poetic device in the following line: “when railways were highways.” (2) What does this comparison suggest about the significance of railways in the early years of Canada?

3. According to the poem, in what way were Chinese people unjustly treated while riding trains in Canada? What impact do you think this discrimination had on the lives of these people?

4. Look at the structure of the poem. How does it add meaning to it?

5. Examine the title of the poem. How is it ironic?

6. What is the theme of this poem?