

“Gilded Age, Gilded Cage”

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National Geographic

1. Compare your educational experience to Zhou Jiaying, or “Bella”.
2. How does the author, Leslie Chang, draw you into the story? Do you think she uses the front door or back door approach in this piece?
3. How does the author describe a middle class family?
4. The author states: “pick up a Chinese newspaper, and what comes through is a sense of unease at the pace of social change.” Why do you think the increase in China’s middle class has contributed to social changes in China?
5. Note Bella’s relationship with her parents. **(a)**Why do you think they push her so hard and spoil her at the same time? **(b)**Compare your relationship with your parents to Bella’s.
6. What are the kids required to say when they give their election speech?
7. Describe the change between the younger Bella and the older one.