**5 Lessons & 9 Questions about Chinatown**

10:00/2009

(English transcript)

**關於唐人街的五堂課與九個問題**

5 lessons and 9 questions about Chinatown

(*italics = spoken language)*

(**bold** = written English)

*Start with a view*

*Start with a view*

*Looking south*

*Looking south*

*We’re looking south.*

*Once this wasn’t there*

*Wasn’t there.*

*Something else was*

*A hill, near a pond*

*Pond*

*Collect pond*

*Then, they drained the pond.*

*It started to smell.*

*It stank.*

On this poorly drained pond, they built brick tenements and wooden shacks.

*It was called five points. Five.*

**5**

*Part of it was called Mulberry Bend.*

*They say They say*

*It was one of the worst, most notorious slums in the world.*

*Irish, Italians, Jews, Chinese, African Americans all lived here.*

*You*

*all lived here*

**You** *You*

**Not me.**

**Who?**

*We all*

*All lived here*

*We all lived here*

In 1890, Jacob Riis writes a book called

**In 1890, Jacob Riis writes a book, accompanied by copious photographs, called**

**How the Other Half Lives**

*How the Other Half Lives*

*How the other half*

*which other*

**Other**

**the half**

*half*

**Half**

*lives*

**?**

*lives*

**8.**

*Chapter eight is called Chinatown*

**Chinatown**

**China**

*China, china*

*China, Town*

**Town**

*like the country*

**9.**

Chapter 9 is called Jew town.

**Jew**

**Town**

*Jew* **Town**

For the people, the Jews, the Jews.

For a people

**x**

not a country.

**He** *He*

**This man from Denmark**

*writes*

*One half of the world doesn’t know*

**One half of the world doesn’t**

**know**

how the other half lives

**how the other half**

**lives.**

*They don’t know*

*We don’t know*

**We**

**don’t**

**know,**

*we don’t*

**because**

*because*

**we don’t**

**care**.

*They don’t know*

*Know. No.*

*They don’t know, we don’t know, we don’t, because we don’t care*

*Don’t know. Don’t care.*

**Lesson 1:**

*Neighbor*

**Neighbor**

**hood**

*Possessive*

**My Neighborhood**

*My*

*Examples*

**My Bakery**

**My laundromat**

**My Door**

**My grocery**

**My fish store**

**Lesson**

*Lessons*

*Two*

*What was it like. before*

**1886**

**Before**

**YOU**

**CAN**

**GO,**

*you can go*

*or*

*you can stay*

**YOU**

**CAN**

**STAY.**

*BANG! BANG!*

**2.1 Before**

**THE GREAT FEAR**

*an old story*

**That Uncle Sam May be Swallowed By Foreigners.**

**Foreigners.**

*An Old story*

*in which the person with no power is shown*

*is shown*

*as having all the power*

*to justify to justify*

*expelling, eradicating, ejecting*

*excluding*

*you. you. you*

*them*

*us*

*Lesson 3*

*More history*

**1882**

**The Chinese Exclusion Act**

**Absolute 10-year ban on Chinese labor immigration**

**skilled or unskilled**

**1892**

**Extended 10 more years**

**1902**

**Made permanent**

**Lesson 4:**

*Lesson 4*

*Change*

**The average household income in Chinatown is $26,000**

**New Listings:**

**Mulberry Street Studio**

**Rent $1,775/month $21,300/year**

**Henry & Market Street Two Bedroom**

**Rent $26,400/year**

**Mosco Street Two Bedroom**

**Rent $30,000/year**

**ACT NOW (poster)**

**Protect our Homes and Communities**

**White Street and Baxter Loft**

**$96,000/year**

*Questions*

*awkward*

**(awkward)**

**Who belongs in a neighborhood?**

**Who controls a neighborhood?**

**Who should decide how a neighborhood changes?**

**The people who own the buildings? (many of whom don’t live here?)**

**Do they represent the community’s interests?**

**Or their own personal interests?**

**Should the government control the neighborhood?**

**Do we vote?**

**Can we vote?**

**Who are we?**

**Lesson**

*Lessons*

*Five*

**Inside**

*Inside*

Inside Dianna’s house

**Deanna’s House**

Barbie

**Cinderella Mickey Mouse Cookie Monster Little Mermaid Betty Boop**

**Deanna**

**Barney**

**the future.**

*Chorus*

*You are a part of it*

*You are a part of it*

(credits)

a film by Shelly Silver

producer Karin Chien

research Teri Chan

Nina Lam

translation Jeremy Chien

Lu Yu

voiceover Johnson Chong

Wai Ching Ho

Lu Yu

voiceover recording Ian Stynes

Great City Productions

color correction Larry Shore

Deluxe New York

archival material Museum of Chinese in America

The National Archives

This film is part of the Museum of Chinese in America’s Chinatown Film Project

[www.mocanyc.org](http://www.mocanyc.org)

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