Reeling for the Empire
by Karen Russell

A story of regret and revenge

Reading Schedule
Day 1 23-32 (break)
Day 2 32-45 (break)
Day 3 45-end

Vocabulary (define these words prior to reading)

1. kaiko
2. denier
3. haiku (haiku laureate)
4. indefatigable
5. dowry
6. narcolepsy
7. euphemistically
8. Samurai
9. ogling
10. palanquin
11. kimono
12. superfluity
13. furled
14. bile
15. obviates
Study questions

1. Who is the narrator and what voice is used (point of view)?

2. Where is the story set? Place, time. Be specific. Use story cues to help you.

3. What is the purpose of the “tea ceremony” in this story? Look up “Japanese Tea Ceremony” and explain what its purpose is.

4. What is it that makes the colors of each girl’s silk?

5. What does Kitsune come to understand about herself and how she is different from all the other girls?

6. On page 46, we learn about the life cycle of the silkworm. Why does the author tell us about it? What irony is exposed?

7. Kitsune learns (page 46) that she can now control the color of her silk. Explain.

8. What does the author of this story want us to understand or know?