**Title:** *Dreaming of my Father （梦中的父亲）* **Author:** Liglave A-Wu (利格拉乐-阿女乌) and translated by Kristen Pie

**Readership:** Key stage 4

**Summary:** A daughter dreams of her deceased father several times. These dreams bring back the memories of her father and his unrealized dream--- returning home. The father, then a teenager soldier, retreated to Taiwan with the Nationalist party and left his family behind. Although he started his own family in Taiwan, his longing for his “home” in China gnawed at him for the rest of his life. While alive, the martial law in Taiwan prevented him from visiting China. After his death, his relatives in China were not keen to receive his ashes, either. Home is a dream that he was never able to reach.

**Historical background:**

After World War II, Chinese Civil war continued in mainland China from 1945-1949. When Chiang Kei-Shei - led government (KMT, 国民党) was defeated by the communist party in 1949, KMT retreated to Taiwan with a large army. The father of this story was one of these soldiers. This group of “immigrants, “ who could not speak the local language, nor understand much of the local culture was often dubbed “mainlander” ( 外省人) by the local Taiwanese. As an immigrant, the father endured the feeling of rootlessness and yeaned for his home in mainland China, but the martial law implemented by KMT banned all the communication with China for 38 years (it ended in 1987). Like the father of the author, not everyone survived the long wait to set foot again on his yearned for homeland.

**Extra reading for Martial Law and everyday life in Taiwan**

http://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp/chinese-news-40593296

http://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp/indepth/2015/08/150813\_ww2\_taiwan\_sino\_japan\_family\_story

**Reading and discussion：**

1. 作者的父亲生前最希望做的事是什么？

2. 作者在思念父亲的时候为什么会抽烟？

3. 作者用那些词来形容她的父亲？ 你会如何形容你的父亲？

4. 从文本中，你觉得作者跟他父亲的感情如何？

5.“故乡”这个主题是中国文学里很重要的一部分。作者的父亲一辈子生活在台湾，却一生思念他在中国的故乡，为什么“故乡”对作者的父亲有如此重要的意义？

6. 你有读过其他跟故乡有关的作品吗？ 请介绍一个中文作品以及一个英文作品。