1. Responding to the Story
a. How would you describe Sek-Lung’s relationship with his grandmother?
b. Why did the rest of Sek-Lung’s family feel embarrassed by his grandmother’s actions?
c. How does finding the jade peony at the end of the story help Sek-Lung with his grief?
d. How does this story reflect the theme All That I Am?
e. If you were to interview Wayson Choy, what three questions would you like to ask him about this story or how it was written?

2. Writing Descriptive Paragraphs
Think about a family member who has had an impact on your life. What memories stand out in your mind? Jot down words or phrases that describe the person. Consider character traits and physical appearance, as well as memories you have of the person. Write a descriptive paragraph using these details. Will your readers be able to picture the person you describe? Use concrete nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs to create your description.

3. Language Conventions Effective Adjectives
Adjectives are words that describe, limit, or identify a noun or pronoun. There are two types of adjectives—descriptive and limiting. Both types can make your writing more realistic and interesting.

Descriptive adjectives add details and answer the question, What is it like? For example:

The red apple fell from the tree.

Limiting adjectives make nouns and pronouns more concrete and specific, and answer the questions Which one?, How many?, and How much? For example:

I saw two movies last week.

Self-Assessment: Examine a story or poem that you’ve written, and analyse how you’ve used adjectives. Are they the best words you could have chosen? Are they specific enough? Have they made the sentences stronger? Do they give an accurate, clear description of what you are describing?