

## **Possibly helpful links**

### Original text and online English translation

Full Chinese text (reliable) and old English translation (E. C. Bowra, 1868-79). This is the Virginia Text Project, a high-quality site

<http://etext.virginia.edu/chinese/HLM/caohome.html>

Downloadable full English translation from the Gutenberg Project is on our bSpace resources site

Online html link to the same text (big file, might take some time):

<http://worldebooklibrary.com/eBooks/Adelaide/c/c2359h/c2359h.html>

### Wiki:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream\\_of\\_the\\_Red\\_Chamber](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_of_the_Red_Chamber)

### Cliff Notes with chapter summaries (a bit messy but OK):

[http://education.yahoo.com/homework\\_help/cliffsnotes/dream\\_of\\_the\\_red\\_chamber/](http://education.yahoo.com/homework_help/cliffsnotes/dream_of_the_red_chamber/)

### Reading Notes:

<http://faculty.vassar.edu/brvannor/Phil210/storyofthestone.html>

### Complete Review:

<http://www.complete-review.com/reviews/orientalia/tsots.htm>

### Rice University prof's short outline but great bibliography:

<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~asia/DreamRedChamberOutline.html>

### Films & images

#### **1977 version**

1977 movie of Dream of the Red Chamber good image search example:

<http://images.google.com/images?client=safari&rls=en&q=dream+of+red+chamber+1977&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&um=1&sa=N&tab=wi>

1977 movie photo gallery

<http://www.hkcinemagic.com/en/gallery.asp?fid=6257&pid=&type=0&id=19989#pic>

random film review with lots of pics but all unlabeled

<http://www.brns.com/pages4/blin16.html>

another review:

[http://www.dragonsdenuk.com/reviews/dream\\_of\\_red\\_chamber.htm](http://www.dragonsdenuk.com/reviews/dream_of_red_chamber.htm)

#### **new movie project site**

<http://www.spcnet.tv/forums/showthread.php?p=785942>

## Some random images



## Some important characters related to amorous storylines in chapters 1-13 of volume one of *Story of the Stone*

### Bao-yu

Jia Bao-yu, the principal character of *The Story of the Stone*, is a reincarnation of the magical stone originally cast aside and deemed unfit for celestial repairs. He is born with an inscribed jade, and though intelligent, Bao-yu dislikes the company of men and their intellectual endeavors. Instead, he prefers women, stating that "girls are made of water and boys are made of mud. When I am with girls I feel fresh and clean, but when I am with boys I feel stupid and nasty" (p.76 of Penguin Classics). Thus, he finds women purer than men. He is sensitive and spends time catering to the needs of women. Although Bao-yu and Bao-chai are considered a perfect match for each other based on complementing inscriptions on their jade and gold pendant (p.189-190), Bao-yu cannot help but also love Dai-yu. Torn by his love for Dai-yu, Bao-yu eventually gives up all worldly ties to become a monk.

### Another account

Bao-yu is a very interesting character because he is the incarnation of the Stone. The Stone was originally molded by Nu-wa to repair the sky, measuring seventy-two feet by a hundred and forty-four feet square. Later on, there was an inscription of its story on the stone. This stone has magical properties, and as a result, can shrink down in size. When Bao-yu was born, there was a jade piece in his mouth with inscriptions on it. As a child, he was often coddled by his grandmother and maids. In addition, he was not as ambitious as the family had expected him to be. When he was a boy, he met Lin Dai-yu, who is the incarnation of the Crimson Pearl Flower. They were meant to be with one another, as shown in their previous life. However, in his mortal life, there is a love triangle between Bao-yu, Dai-yu, and Bao-chai. Although in his past life, he was fated to be with Dai-yu, in his mortal life, he marries Bao-chai. One thing to note is that Bao-yu had a dream of the red chamber in which the future is foreshadowed. In addition, Bao-yu prefers the company of females, thinking that they are more pure than men, who are considered dirty. As a result, he often prefers to join the females and play games with them as opposed to studying. Overall, Bao-yu is handsome and talented. He is considered an amorous man.

He was the stone left unused by Nu-wa when the goddess was repairing the sky. Since he was moulded by a goddess it had magical powers and could shrink and expand as it wished and it could also speak. Essentially, "the Story of the Stone" can also be taken as "the Story of Jia Baoyu" because he is an incarnation of the stone. His story as a mortal is inscribed on the stone and a quatrain on it reads: "Found unfit to repair the azure sky/ Long years foolish mortal man was I. My life in both worlds on this stone is writ: Pray who will copy out and publish it?" When he was incarnated into a mortal man, he was born with a stone in his mouth with inscriptions that perfectly complement the inscriptions on Baochai's locket. This suggests that their relationship was destined by the heavens. Contrary to Confucian values (values held by majority of the people) at that time, Baoyu considered men to be morally and spiritually inferior to women. He believes that likens women's purity to water and men to mud. Baoyu is handsome and smart and is very compassionate. He values his relationships with the women in the household and considers them to be more gifted and deserving than men. He is the heir apparent and the son of Jia Zheng and Lady Wang.

### Lin Dai-yu (Miss Lin; Cousin Lin)



Dai-yu is a very pretty woman. She is Bao-yu's cousin and she is like the author's ideal woman. She's well educated, yet very sick ever since she's born. She always gets sick and has to keep eating medicine every day. When Dai-yu was born, there's a lock in her mouth. In comparison, Bao-yu was born with stone in mouth. When Dai-yu and Bao-yu first meet, they both feel like already seeing each other before. Those incidents might indicate the fate between them. Yet, Dai-yu is a very emotional girl. She either hates a lot or loves a lot, and she's like the opposite of Bao-chai.

Another account:

Dai-yu was born from the flower that the magic stone (Bai-yu) watered with the sweet dew and must repay that debt of water to the stone by spending her mortal lifetime crying. Dai-yu and her extensive family are introduced in Chapter 2, and we first learn about her character in chapter 3. Ever since birth, she has been frail and sickly, and her parents were once told by a monk that the only way her sickness can be cured is if she becomes a nun or cuts off all contact with the outside world and people besides her parents. Of course they ignore those instructions and she's doomed to not only live an unhappy life, but she's going to die. Unlike the other women in the house, Dai-yu is well educated and is mature for her age. Despite being warned to stay away from Bao-yu (Chapter 3) they

form something of a love-hate relationship with the two either friendly, or fighting. And true to her fate, Dai-yu cries a lot.

Another account:

She is a really young and pretty woman. She was born in an educated family but she has lost both of her parents at very young age, therefore she lived with Bao-yu. Because of the absence of her parents, Dai-yu becomes a negative and sensitive woman. She cries over little things, and she has dramatic mood swings. She loves a lot and hates a lot, and she is a very emotional woman. She is total opposite from Bao-chai.

### Bao-chai

She's a very learned, smart, sensible, kind-hearted, independent, beautiful, healthy girl. As opposed to Dai-yu who weeps a lot, emotionally unstable, haughty-ish, easy to get jealous, Bao-chai is pretty much the exact opposite. She doesn't think much of Dai-yu's mood swings and odd behavior, especially concerning Bao-yu. Bao-chai is a very harmonious person and doesn't have much to say on love (she doesn't hate strongly or love strongly). Her position in the family: cousin of Bao yu. Their mothers are sisters. Bao-chai has an older brother- Xue Pan.

Another account:

Bao-chai is also a beautiful, well-educated and talented girl like Dai-yu, but unlike Dai-yu, she is emotionally stable, strong and independent. She is not passionate about love.

### Wang Xi-feng (Peppercorn Feng <91>, Sister Feng, Cousin Feng <267> Mrs. Lian)

Our very first impression of her is through Dai-yu. She's contrasted with all the other women, who seem to 'go around with bated breath', and makes Dai-yu wonder who can this 'brash and unmannerly' person be? Dai-yu is told she was brought up like a boy, and Grandmother Jia says 'she's a holy terror this one'. The author gives her a lot more color than all the other women we come across.

One of the things about her that stands out is her ability to control and change her emotions and manner. When she starts talking about how sorry she is for Dai-yu and Grandmother Jia tells her she's only just recovered from being sad, she's able to 'exchange her grief for merriment'. We see this again when she first tells off Bao-yu for asking what Big Jiao is talking about when he said 'Father-in-law pokes in the ashes' and then switches to become soothing and indulgent. Makes you wonder if she just has iron control over how she reacts to things so that she can always react 'appropriately', or if there's an insincerity to her that's always present.

She's very beautiful, and very *capable*. As soon as Dai-yu arrives she's giving orders on what needs to be done to accommodate her. Zhou Rui's wife says she's very young, but has an older head on her shoulders than anyone she's ever come across. Aside from descriptions of her beauty, I thought this one was an interesting one: 'her back was straight as a ramrod.' It sort of characterizes her strength and discipline, and her expectations of everyone around her. In the Big Jiao incident, she's angry at all that he's spouting, but her concern is that the family will become a laughing stock if people found out.

She's also got a cruel side to her. Aside from the more obvious storyline with Rui, and her encouraging him while looking down on him, and feigning interest she doesn't feel,

provoking him and then setting him up to be ridiculed to teach him a lesson, she also laughs at Grannie Liu's discomfiture when Jia Rong shows up, and is described as smiling 'maliciously' at her nephew when he tries to borrow the glass screen. She has the feeling of being the one in power in most situations, having the upper hand. When it says Rui is 'obedient to his goddess' command' that characterizes her having him wrapped around her pinky, and totally ready to destroy him for his foolishness.

Another account:

Xi-feng is married to Jia Lian, the oldest Jia of Bao-yu's generation, so she is able to head the Rong-guo branch, with authority over the house members as well as power over the house's purse strings.

She's also smart in a business sense and is therefore in charge of the household since she knows how to get on Grandma's good side by telling them jokes.

She is related to Bao-yu as his cousin in law.

She's pretty much a very charismatic character in the novel with two sides to her. Either she's very nice or she's very mean.

Xi-feng can be kind, as illustrated by accommodating nature towards Dai-yu in Chapter 3 and her charity to Grannie Liu in Chapter 6.

More importantly, she can be very cruel, especially in the area of love. When Jia Rui falls head over heels for her, Xi-feng advertently provokes his desire even more, only to make him suffer and cause him to die.

So basically, if how would I portray Xi-Feng while reading The Story of the Stone? I would label her as a "don't mess with her and do not get on her bad side" character. I can see her causing some more conflict in the future.

In childhood, she was brought up like a boy, and her name itself is masculine. These hint at and may even be the cause of her decisive, businesswoman nature – characteristics that stand in stark contrast to the rest of the women in the household, who tend to be passive. However, she still retains feminine grace and outstanding beauty.

### Aroma

Aroma is the maidservant appointed to Bao-yu by Grandmother Jia, who intended for her to "belong to him in the fullest" possible. She is one to two years older than Bao-yu, which is perhaps why she is more knowledgeable about the life. She also introduces Bao-yu to sex. Aroma is also an observant, clever girl, who is loyal to Bao-yu and wishes to serve him as best she can. She can be flirtations at times as well, particularly with Bao-yu.

Aroma was given to Bao-Yu by Grandmother Jia to be his maid. She's an intelligent, beautiful girl, and is a year or two older than Bao-Yu. She is very coy, as evidenced by the scene in chapter 8 where she pretends to be asleep, hoping to capture his attention. Aroma introduces Bao-Yu to sex in chapter 6. She is very faithful and loyal to Bao-Yu, and becomes even more devoted to him after they sleep together.

Aroma is not a prominent character in the first 5 chapters of Story of the Stone. There are a number of events that led up to his sexual encounter with Aroma iterated in chapter 6. The fairy of disenchantment attempts to enlighten Bao-Yu by giving him his first sexual experience. This was supposed to counter his 'lust of the mind', which makes him a friendly advocate for women and teach him that lust and love are illusions. All of her work was for naught, however, because son afterwards he walks too close to the Ford of

Error and loses all of the enlightenment he received. He awakes in Chapter six and beds his maid Aroma as a consequence.

### Qin Zhong

Qin Zhong is the study partner for Bai Yu. His timidity and beauty are highly admired by Bai Yu's grandmother. He is found with Darling by Jokey Jin who accuses them of kissing each other when they sneak away when the tutor/supervisor leaves and leaves Jia Rui in charge. He mostly discussed in chapter 9 and a little bit earlier with Qin Shi and Bai Yu when Bai Yu sleeps in Qin Shi's quarters. Qin Zhong may have future troubles because of his affiliation with Bai Yu that makes him a target by other members of the family since he's not (by blood) part of the Jia side of the family. He is only "high ranked" from his friendship with Bai Yu. This could also make him a sought after bachelor.

I think that Qin Zhong is loyal and generally a good "confucian" type of son because he follows orders and reminds me of Mong Ryong from Chunhyang. He seems a bit naive and sheltered, but eager to love. He is reserved and follows tradition. I don't think there's a romantic relationship between Qin Zhong and Bai Yu. It's purely friendship.

Portrait of Qin Zhong

Reading "The Story of Stone" I was so sad because of the character, Qin Zhong who was dead beating by his step father. He had a beautiful appearance and brightness as much as Bao-yu. Although Qin Zhong and Bao-yu's rank (social position) was different they became a best friend. Bao-yu treated Qin Zhong like his own brother and he always wanted to be with Qin Zhong so he made Qin Zhong study in the clan school together. Qin Zhong had a prominent exterior but he was timid and shy like girls. When Bao-yu noticed that Qin Zhong was attracted by the Sapiaentia who was a regular visitor at the Rong-guo mansion and he helped Qin Zhong to approach her. Qin Zhong's step father became to know the little nun, Sapiaentia and Qin Zhong loved each other and moved her away from his house and beat his son severely. Qin Zhong was dead by physical pain and mental shock and desperation. I think his weak nature could not endure the bad situation. Honestly, I don't like his fragility and passivity but the friendship with Bao-yu was jealous.

### Qin-shi (Lady Shi, Qin Ke-qing when young)

She is a beautiful, trustworthy, and charming woman. Because of her adopted father's connections she is married into the Jia family. Her husband is Jia Rong but she is seduced by her father-in-law. She suddenly becomes ill and soon after dies. She visits Xi-Feng in a dream warning her about the impending downfall of the Jia clan. She advises that the family invest in as much property as possible (land, farm, houses, & the clan school) so that when all is confiscated the young have a place to farm and study.

Another account:

A. Non-romantic relationships:

1. Sister to Qin Zhong
  - a. she is adopted into Qin family
2. Best friend of Xi-Feng

B. Romantic Relationships:

1. Wife of Jia Rong

- 2. Illicit relationship with Father-in-law, Cousin Zhen (Jia Zhen)
  - a. Jia Zhen is not to be confused with Jia Zheng, Bao-Yu's father
- C. Characteristics:
  - 1. Kind, beautiful, smart, perfect daughter-in-law
  - 2. Too steeped in the Land of Illusion
    - a. lavish, ostentatious decoration in room (Pg. 126-7)
      - i. borders on lasciviousness because of the sexual themes
    - b. too prideful
      - i. "My room is fit for an immortal to sleep in" (127)
- D. Nature of Illness:
  - 1. she is too high strung, over sensitive, worries too much
  - 2. caused by imbalance of humors
    - a. imbalance causes Death
- E. Role in Foreshadowing:
  - 1. Death caused by imbalance
    - a. why Dai-Yu will ultimately die
  - 2. How the mighty will fall
    - a. Dream sequence in warning Xi-Feng to prepare for the inevitable fall of the Jia House
      - i. "The higher the climb, the harder the fall" (255)
      - b. overarching theme through the book of the mighty falling
        - i. everything is but an illusion

### Cousin Zhen

Cousin Zhen (aka Jia Zhen) is the nominal head of the family of the Ning-Guo branch; he's in charge of all the clan's affairs. His father relinquished his title as the head of the family in order to pursue a more religious lifestyle, while Jia Zhen lived his life in a slanderous manner. He was sexually unrestrained, having an adulterous relationship with his daughter in law, Qin-chi. He may appear to be polite and show generous kindness to those who do not know his alternative motives. In the case for his incentive to help Qin-chi with her mysterious illness, he was concerned because of their illicit relationship together. As for Qin-chi's funeral, he purchased a position for his son so that she could have a more respectable funeral. Jia Zhen's apparent generosity is generated by his alternative motives to help his lover Qin-chi.

## Some amorous subgroups in chapters 1-13 of volume one of *Story of the Stone*

The main triad: Bao-yu, Dai-yu (Miss Lin), Bao-chai



### Chpts 1-5

Bao-yu and Dai-yu are the destiny made in heaven. They first meet in **Chapter 3** and when they do, they feel like they've seen each other before and they feel as though they've known each other. (This sense of knowing before meeting probably resulted from how Bao-yu was the stone that protected Dai-yu, the flower in a previous life.) They live together with their Grandmother and they become very close. Bao-yu and Dai-yu both know that their relationship is different from other's but it's mostly because they spend so much time together that they have conflicts (catfights) that otherwise would not happen. Bao-chai is older than both Bao-yu and Dai-yu. Although they all know each other, there is not much going on in the first five chapters. However, Dai-yu feels somewhat inferior to Bao-chai but she doesn't say anything and Bao-chai doesn't notice Dai-yu's feelings. Bao-chai, is introduced in **Chapter 4** when she arrived to the Rong house with her mother and brother. In **Chapter 5**, Bao-chai was described as so perfect a lady that sort of made Dai-yu felt inferior when placed next to her, which kind of overshadows the beginning of a triangle relationship.

### Chpts 6-10

Ch. 6: N/A. This chapter tells the story of Grannie Liu's visit and we hear nothing of our amorous trio. (Though the first scene features Bao-yu, neither of his cousins is mentioned.)

Ch. 7: When Mrs. Zhou finds Dai-yu to present her with the artificial flowers from Mrs. Xue, she finds her playing with Bao-yu in his room. Bao-yu inquires about Bao-chai's health and dispatches one of his maids to send her his good wishes.

Ch. 8: Bao-yu and Dai-yu go with Xi-feng to see the "dramatic entertainment" that she had won in a game of cards with Qin-shi and You-shi. After returning home, Bao-yu goes to check up on Bao-chai's health and they share some rather intimate moments inspecting each other's talismans, which turn out to have (nearly) matching inscriptions. Dai-yu appears just as Bao-yu has complimented Bao-chai's fragrance (apparently produced by the Cold Fragrance Pills she's taking for her illness) and has some sassy things to say about Bao-yu's presence. Since it's snowing outside, Bao-yu and Dai-yu stay at Aunt



Xue's for dinner; Bao-yu asks for wine with his meal, and Aunt Xue obliges despite Nannie Li's objections. Dai-yu intercedes for Bao-yu (effectively asserting control of her territory in front of the more demure Bao-chai) and Bao-yu proceeds to get a bit drunk. As they prepare to leave, Dai-yu places Bao-yu's rain hat on his head and the description of the scene is unmistakably sexual (see the second paragraph on p. 196). Returning home, Dai-yu sees some of Bao-yu's characters and praises his skill with the brush.

Ch. 9: N/A.

Ch. 10: N/A.

A separate accounting of the same events as above:

Bao-yu and Bao-chai are both sick; however Bao-chai is more sick than Bao-yu and has not been able to visit him. Bao-yu learns of Bao-chai's sickness and sends someone to check up on her. Later, he visits her personally but lets few people aware of this. At the same time Dai-yu visits and the three spend most of the day together. Bao-yu seems to be happy that both of them are there to see her. There is some tension between them because it seems Bao-yu didn't want Dai-yu there at the same time. Bao-yu gets drunk because Dai-yu convinces everyone else that it is OK.

Just before Bao-yu starts school, he visits Dai-yu to say goodbye and flirts with her. He does not see Bao-chai before leaving.

### Chpts 11-13

There is limited interaction between Bao-yu, Dai-yu, and Bao-chai during these three chapters. At the end of chapter 12, it is mentioned that Dai-yu's father Lin Ru-hai has fallen ill and requested to see his daughter. Bao-yu is unhappy that she must go, but concedes that the wishes of a dying father supersede his own desires.

Two important things to note about this scene:

—Bao-yu's love for Dai-yu as a cousin is viewed as inferior to Ru-hai's dying love for his daughter. There are two potential factors at play here: the fact the Ru-hai has seniority, and the fact that Ru-hai is dying. These two factors are judged as more important than the fact that Bao-yu is a member of the main family, and the son of Lady Wang, no less.

(Lady Wang outranks Xi-feng in terms of the household affairs of the Jia family. On page 156, Zhou Rui's wife tells Granny Liu that Xi-feng, not Lady Wang, runs household affairs now. Lady Wang, however, is seen to have "ordered" Xi-feng on page 250. While this order is not carried out, Xi-feng must at least give the appearance that it is. It may not exactly be clear what role Lady Wang plays, but importance in the affairs of Jia household is difficult to deny.)

—Dai-yu is the one actively traveling away from Bao-yu. This behavior of actively harming Bao-yu is consistent with the five phases chart that we have seen in class.

### Zhen and Qin-shi

#### Chpts 1-6

#### Chpts 7-13

The relationship between Cousin Zhen and Qin-shi is not surprising to come across – it seems to fit well in this novel of many familial romantic relationships. It falls in the "illicit love" amorous subgroup. Between chapters 7 and 13, we are made well aware of the illicit secret brooding romance between Cousin Zhen and his daughter-in-law, Qin-shi

(who is married to Cousin Zhen's son, Jia Rong). In chapter 7, their situation is broadcasted to many by Big Jiao, an inebriated servant who talks of "father-in-law pokes in the ashes," alluding to the forbidden affair. In chapters 9 and 10 we read of Qin-shi falling ill to a mysterious disease. A friend-of-the-family doctor comes to visit her and implies her illness to be connected to her illicit love affair with her father-in-law. In Chapter 13, Qin-shi meets falls victim to the disease and Cousin Zhen goes to great lengths to prepare for her burial. He constantly breaks down when speaking of her, purchases rare and expensive wood for her coffin, and when referring to her after her death, he is quoted saying she was "ten-times better than any son" (259). His affections for her are made quite clear by this point.

Character bios:

Qin-shi comes from a poor scholarly family, is the beautiful wife of Jia Rong and daughter-in-law of Cousin Zhen, with whom she has an illicit love affair. She is liked by many of the family for her delightful manner and air. She is visited often by her Auntie Xi-Feng, with whom she confides her secrets. Qin-shi is very humble and kind and even in her ailing state, she makes it a point to care about others, for example she worries that her death will make it impossible to repay the love her parent-in-laws and family have given her.

Cousin Zhen is the husband of You-shi, father to Jia Rong, and the father-in-law of Qin-shi, with whom he shares and illicit romance. He is the head of his family and delegates much work and communication through his son Jia Rong. His intense feelings for Qin-shi are not made blatantly apparent until her death, but are usually alluded to through preceding chapters by big-mouthed drunk servants or doctors attributing Qin-shi's illness to that of their secret love affair.

## Xi-feng and Jia Rui

### Chpts 1-10

Nothing really happens between this pair in chapters 1-10. However, we have some clue and foreshadowing about transgressive behaviors and inappropriate relationships going on in the family.

In chapter 5, one of the many poems foreshadows Xi-feng's fate and characterized her:

"This Phoenix in a bad time came;

All praised her great ability.

'Two' makes my riddle a man and tree;

Returning south in tears she met calamity" pg.135

Also, in chapter 7, we read about Xi-feng's angry reaction to Bao-yu's questions about the meaning of "Father -in-law pokes in the ashes" (pg. 183). This gives us a big clue about what inappropriate relationships going on in the family.

### Chpts 11-13

Jia Rui sees Xi-feng in the garden after she returns from visiting Qin-Shi. He is clearly enamored with her and she pretends to be coy.

After this encounter, Jia Rui starts visiting Xi-feng frequently, and she times it so she is always gone. In Chapter 12 Jia Rui continues to want to see Xi-feng, and tries to visit her.

She decides to set a trap for him and tells him to meet her in the south wing after dark. He goes and gets locked in, without any sign of Xi-feng. He stays there in the cold the whole night, only to return and be severely punished by his grandfather.

He still doesn't get the hint though, and keeps going to see Xi-feng, so she sets another trap for him, which involved him going to another room to meet her. He finds someone there, but it turns out to be Jia Rong and Jia Qiang. They blackmail him and tells Jia Rui to hide, in a place where they pour the slops.

Humiliated, Jia Rui returns home and falls ill.

A Taoist monk visits and says that he can be saved by a magic mirror but only if he looks in the back and not the front. Jia Rui does not heed this advice and he looks in the front, where he sees Xi-feng beckoning to him. He goes in and has sex with her three times and on the last time is dragged away by two figures. He dies.

Another account of the same chapters:

In chapter eleven, Xi-feng and Jia Rui truly meet and have a conversation. Xi-feng is visiting Qin-shi because she's sick when she runs in Jia Rui, who is immediately taken in by her looks. When she leaves Qin-shi, Jia Rui keeps looking back to her as she is walking back to her home. She realizes that he's enthralled by her, so she teases him by slowing down, giving him the impression that she also likes him and is possibly open to having a tryst. He goes to call on her quite often after that, but she's always busy.

In chapter twelve, Xi-feng finally allows Jia Rui to see her. Xi-feng is still annoyed with his attentions and Jia Rui is still very much infatuated with her. To teach Jia Rui a lesson, Xi-feng implies that she will be most willing to meet with him a night and tells him to come to see her later. However, she is actually playing a trick on him, and when he goes to see her, he gets locked in the room and needs to escape quickly in the morning so he will not get caught (he still gets in trouble with his grandfather, though). Xi-feng tricks him a second time by apologizing and giving him an excuse, telling him that they will definitely meet this time. After this, he never tries to visit her again but he is still so infatuated with her that he becomes sick. A Taoist visits and tells him that if he looks into the back of the mirror and never the front, he will get better. Unfortunately, he looks into the front of the mirror and sees Xi-feng. After that, he can't stop looking into the front of the mirror and ends up dying.

## Bao-yu and Aroma

### Chpts 1-5

### Chpts 6-10

Aroma is introduced in the beginning of Chapter 6 and is the first person to interact with Bao-yu after he has his sexual dream/emission. She is his maid, and as she changes his clothes she discovers his emission and recognizes what happened because she has already started to mature. Bao-yu tells her about the dream and then shows her what he learned in the dream (by sleeping with her), which she accepts.

Aroma then shows up again in Chapter 8, and appears to have some feelings for Bao-yu because in two instances she appears to act in a way that demonstrates that she wants her to care for him. The first time, she feigns being asleep, and the second time she sits by his bed looking a bit worried as she's afraid of being left alone while he's out.

## Chpts 11-13

Aroma only appears for about three paragraphs in chapter 13.

Since Dai-yu left to visit her ailing father, Bao-yu had been going to bed early and "sleeping disconsolately on his own", i.e. presumably not with Aroma. When Bao-yu learns of Qin-shi's death (it is unclear whether he learns of it /in/ a dream or is woken /from/ a dream), he bolts upright and starts coughing blood. Aroma and the other maids are scared and want him to tell Grandmother Jia and see a doctor, but Bao-yu ignores them and begins to rush over to Qin-shi's house. Aroma in particular was worried about him, "but seeing him so determined, allowed him to have his way".

Although there's not much here, there is a bit to be drawn from it.

Bao-yu's temperament is drawn from Dai-yu, not Aroma at all, and she, being merely a "loyal" maid, has no real control over him. However, that "allowed" seems notable, in that she has in some sense appointed herself his primary caretaker. She does care about /him/ and /his/ welfare.

## Bao-yu and Qin Zhong

### Chpts 1-6

I am supposed to talk about the relationship between Bao-yu and Qin Zhong in the first six chapters; however, Qin Zhong does not show up in the story until chapter seven. So there isn't really anything to talk about concerning their relationship in the first six chapters.

Another account:

Bao-yu and Qin Zhong do not actually meet in the first 6 chapters, however, Bao-yu does come into contact with Qin Zhong's older sister, Qin-shi. In chapter 5, Bao-yu attends a flower viewing party with Grandmother Jia. During the party, Bao-yu becomes quite drowsy and is excused from the party to rest. Qin-shi offers to take him to her home so that he can rest. When Bao-yu refuses to sleep in the bedroom offered him, Qin-shi playfully offers her bedroom to him which Bao-yu obligingly takes. Her nurses express shock at the notion of this young man sleeping in Qin-shi's bedroom, but Qin-shi dismisses them by comparing him to her younger brother. Upon hearing this, Bao-yu demands to meet this younger brother, but finds out he lives far away. Qin-shi foreshadows these two men's meeting by saying, "But I expect you'll meet him one of these days." (pg. 126) The two meet face-to-face in chapter 7.

### Chpts 7-10

### Chpts 11-13

Between these chapters, there are no particular relationships or interactions between these two. In the situation of Bao-yu, in Chapter 11, he is crying and shocked when he sees the state of Qin-shi. In Chapter 12, Bao-yu is crying because he misses Dai-yu and in the same chapter 12, Bao-yu foresees the death of Qin-shi.

Between Chapters 11~13, Qin-Zhong is not mentioned at all. Overall, both Bao-yu and Qin-Zhong are not that important and are not the main characters in these chapters.

Another account

Interaction between Bao-ya and Qin Zhong is non-present in these three chapters. After the schoolyard incident, they temporarily fall out of the picture. Qin Zhong's is not even mentioned in these chapters, and Bao-yu is only briefly mentioned in unrelated matters.

## **Other relationships proposed by students (for extra credit)**

### Jia Qiang and Cousin Zhen

in Chapter 9 rumours concerning those two are referred to, because of which Jia Qiang gets moved from his cousin's house). Also there is Xue Pan and the other students, and Darling and Precious.

## **Topics that might be fruitful comparisons of *Tale of Genji* and *Story of the Stone* proposed by students (for extra credit)**

### Status (centrality, size) of women generally speaking in the two texts

For a comparison to *Genji*, it seems to me that in this book [I think this refers to *Stone?* – jrjw], the women play a much bigger part. In fact, they are the center of the story. In the *Story of the Stone* it is the men who are more ineffectual, or worthless and the women who show the good virtues. Xi-Feng and Lady Jia seem to have more power than a lot of the men. The women in this book all have distinct personalities and form relationships with one another, whereas in *Genji* they seemed to be isolated from one another and only relate to each other through the men.

### Qin Zhong and Utsusemi's brother

A partial parallel between *The Tale of Genji* and *Story of the Stone* worth looking at is the comparison between Qin Zhong and Utsusemi's younger brother.

*Genji*:

- He is attracted to Utsusemi. The relationship, I believe, is consummated.
- He is shunned from Utsusemi and takes her younger brother into his household. Their relationship is consummated.
- Utsusemi's younger brother becomes a messenger between their households.

Bao-yu:

- He is promised "Ke-qing" (Qin-Shi's name prior to marriage was Qin Ke-qing) in a dream. The relationship is consummated in a dream.
- He is immediately attracted to Qin-Zhong, and takes him under his wing at school. Their relationship is possibly consummated. Qin-Zhong is accused of homosexuality in school.
- As Bao-yu's friend, Qin-Zhong possibly serves as a tie for Bao-yu to the Ning-guo household. (I don't know if this will play out)

What I find particularly interesting is the fact that the consummation with Ke-qing occurs in a dream and has no noticeable impact on their social lives. This seems to mirror the ideal in *Genji* - that an affair is conducted in an almost dreamlike state that is separate from the social identities of the individuals involved.

As for factual parallels, the sexual aspects of both relationships is strongly suggested. Both involve an older sister, and the statuses of both Qin-Zhong and Utsutemi's younger brother are lower than Bao-yu and Genji, respectively. They also serve as links to parts of their social worlds, though the case is much more pronounced in Genji, since Bao-yu seems to be free to visit the Ning-guo house as he pleases.

There are also significant differences in that Bao-yu and Qin-zhong seem similar in age, while Genji is clearly the elder of the two. Genji takes Utsusemi's younger brother almost as a consolation for his temporary failure in pursuing her; Bao-yu does not outwardly harbor such feelings for Qin-shi.

Anyway, I'm sure there is much more to be said on the topic, but such a comparison could fill many, many pages. Hopefully this will yield a fruitful discussion in class.

### Male-to-male relationships at the school

I guess this is pretty obvious and it might have been on the list presented to the class, but another amorous subgroup is the whole Jia clan school. It seems to me that every boy in that school has some sort of romantic/sexual affairs going on with each other. We have the alpha male of the group, Xue Pan, who reminds me of a male gorilla and his harem of young females. We have the two young, beautiful couples of Darling and Precious, and Bao-yu and Qin Zhong. And then we have the rest who play tricks on those who are favored (ie Qin Zhong and Darling) from sheer jealousy, kind of like those courtesans who made life hell for Kiritsubo in Genji. This homoerotic love circle(?) is not always explicit, but with terms like "friends" being used, it seems obvious.