

Name _____ Date _____

The Willow Way

Often, as Granna and I sit in her dining room, she tells me a story based on her collection of Blue Willow plates. Each plate is the same, but each story is different—and Granna always says, “That’s the Willow Way.”	16 30 41
I gazed down at the plate in my hands and felt a warm breeze on my face as my eyes slowly closed. When I opened my eyes, there was Princess Yen-Jen, the main character of Granna’s Blue Willow stories!	58 71 80
“Hi,” I said, “I’m Annie. Granna told me you had a little dog named Yi, but in the last story, poor Yi ran away. Would you like me to help you find your dog, Princess Yen-Jen?”	95 112 116
We decided it would be best to split up. Yen-Jen hurried toward the river, and I headed for Ya-sen, the most ancient section of town. As I scurried along, I noticed that the pebbles under my feet were a brilliant blue. I couldn’t resist scooping one up one of the pebbles and slipping it into my pocket.	129 142 156 171 173
I turned onto a deserted street with only one solitary cottage. Suddenly, I heard a little whimper and then a <i>sniff, sniff, sniff</i> . Peeking around the corner of the cottage was a little dog and its yippy barking assured me that it was Yi.	185 199 215 217
Yen-Jen thanked me for finding her dog. “That’s the Willow Way!” I said. Then I noticed that the sun was getting lower in the sky, and blue shadows were forming everywhere around us. Suddenly, Granna was gently shaking my shoulder. Had I really been dreaming this whole time?	230 245 255 265
“Annie, something’s fallen out of your pocket!” Granna exclaimed. I gasped in surprise as I reached down and scooped up a bright blue pebble. When I looked up at Granna, I was certain that I caught a small twinkle in her eyes.	275 289 305 307

