

Bookfolio for **The House of Sixty Fathers**

Author: [Meindert DeJong](#)

Illustrator: Maurice Sendak

First Publication Date: 1956

Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN: 0060214813

Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Realistic Fiction](#)

Story Summary: When the Japanese attacked their small Chinese village, Tien Pao, his father, mother, and baby sister frantically fled up the river in a small boat. Paddling night and day, they finally reached safety. Alone in the docked sampan while his parents sought work, Tien Pao dozed while the sampan broke loose from its mooring and sped down the river back toward the Japanese. Hiding in caves by day and traveling at night, Tien Pao and the family pig, whom he named Glory-of-the-Republic, endured great hunger and exhaustion in crossing the arduous mountain paths. When his screams saved an American airman's life, Tien Pao placed himself in grave danger. With the help of Chinese guerrillas, Tien Pao finally made it back across enemy lines. Sixty American airmen wanted to adopt the lost, starving boy, but he was determined to find his family. The airman whose life Tien Pao saved repaid him by making the joyful reunion possible.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 4, pages 58-78

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

The House of Sixty Fathers - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Survival Story (Comparing survival stories)	D , S
2. Tien's Journey (Making a map)	D , R , W
3. Share Your Story (Assuming role of character)	R , S
4. The Airman's Diary (Writing journal entries)	W
5. The Secret Errand (Writing a story)	W
6. Tien Pao's Homeland (Making a map)	D , R
The House of Sixty Fathers - Group Activities	Skills
1. Historical Background (Comparing settings)	S
2. About the Illustrator (Reviewing the illustrator)	R , S
3. Powerful Emotions (Expressing feelings)	S , W
4. Fact and Fiction (Matching story events with history)	R , S , W
5. Communicate Without Words (Using body language)	S
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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