

Vocabulary List: *Dreams to Ashes* / 夢成灰燼

For Heritage Speakers · Weekend Chinese School · Taiwan Mandarin · HSK 3.0 (2021)

● HSK 1–2 · Beginner

● HSK 3–4 · Lower Intermediate

● HSK 5 · Intermediate

● HSK 6 · Upper Intermediate

● HSK 7–9 · Advanced

● Beyond HSK

HSK 1–2 · Beginner

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
移民 / 移民 <i>yí mín</i>	immigrant; to immigrate	作為移民。作為人。 <i>zuò wéi yí mín. zuò wéi rén.</i> As immigrants. As humans.
战乱 / 戰亂 <i>zhàn luàn</i>	war and disorder; years of conflict	連年的戰亂、天災，讓那裡的人們生活艱難。 <i>lián nián de zhàn luàn, tiān zāi, ràng nà lǐ de rén men shēng huó jiān nán.</i> Years of war and natural disasters made life difficult.
财富 / 財富 <i>cái fù</i>	wealth; riches; fortune	對所有前來的人都承諾著財富。 <i>duì suǒ yǒu qián lái de rén dōu chéng nuò zhe cái fù.</i> A rich land with treasure for all who came.
尊严 / 尊嚴 <i>zūn yán</i>	dignity; self-respect	他們為尊嚴而奮鬥。 <i>tā men wèi zūn yán ér fèn dòu.</i> They fought for dignity.

HSK 3–4 · Lower Intermediate

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
干预 / 干預 <i>gān yù</i>	to interfere; to meddle in someone else's affairs	外國政府的干預，讓那裡的人們生活艱難。 <i>wài guó zhèng fǔ de gān yù, ràng nà lǐ de rén men shēng huó jiān nán.</i> Meddling from foreign governments made life difficult.
互助 / 互助 <i>hù zhù</i>	mutual help; helping each other	華人移民組成了互助團體——會館。 <i>huá rén yí mín zǔ chéng le hù zhù tuán tǐ—huì guǎn.</i> Chinese immigrants formed mutual aid societies — huiguan.
指责 / 指責 <i>zhǐ zé</i>	to accuse; to blame; to criticize	報紙指責他們搶走了白人的工作。 <i>bào zhǐ zhǐ zé tā men qiǎng zǒu le bái rén de gōng zuò.</i> Newspapers accused them of taking jobs from white citizens.
谣言 / 謠言 <i>yáo yán</i>	rumor; false story that spreads	消息和謠言像火焰一樣蔓延。 <i>xiāo xī hé yáo yán xiàng huǒ yàn yí yàng mǎn yán.</i> Reports and rumors spread like flames.
无辜 / 無辜	innocent; not guilty	Tong Won 和他的朋友們聲稱自己是無辜的。

wú gū

Tong Won hé tā de péng yǒu men chēng zì jǐ shì wú gū de.
Tong Won and his friends pleaded their innocence.

正义 / 正義
zhèng yì

justice; fairness

這個國家期待著正義。
zhè gè guó jiā qī dài zhe zhèng yì.
A country hoped for justice.

奋斗 / 奮鬥
fèn dòu

to strive; to struggle; to fight for something

他們繼續為夢想而奮鬥。
tā men jì xù wèi mèng xiǎng ér fèn dòu.
They continued to strive for their dreams.

HSK 5 · Intermediate

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
定居 / 定居 dìng jū	to settle; to make a permanent home somewhere	已有一百七十二名華人在洛杉磯定居。 yī yǒu yī bǎi qī shí èr míng huá rén zài Luò shān jī dìng jū. 172 Chinese people had settled in Los Angeles.
殖民 / 殖民 zhí mín	colonization; the takeover of land and people by an outside power	大多數已因疾病和殖民統治而失去生命。 dà duō shù yī yīn jí bìng hé zhí mín tǒng zhì ér shī qù shēng mìng. Most had been killed by disease and colonization.
仇恨 / 仇恨 chóu hèn	hatred; deep hatred toward a person or group	那些充滿仇恨的話語，像乾燥的柴火在烈日下堆積。 nà xiē chōng mǎn chóu hèn de huà yǔ, xiàng gān zào de chái huǒ zài liè rì xià duī jī. Hateful words built up like dry kindling on a hot day.
暴民 / 暴民 bào mín	a mob; a violent, out-of-control crowd	一群暴民圍了上來。 yī qún bào mín wéi le shàng lái. A mob formed and surrounded it.
遇难 / 遇難 yù nàn	to be killed; to die in a disaster or violent incident	十八名華人男子遇難。 shí bā míng huá rén nán zǐ yù nàn. Eighteen Chinese men were killed.
幸存者 / 倖存者 xìng cún zhě	survivor; someone who lived through a disaster or attack	倖存者不知道，留下來還安不安全。 xìng cún zhě bù zhī dào, liú xià lái hái ān bù ān quán. The survivors wondered whether it was safe to stay.
谴责 / 譴責 qiǎn zé	to condemn; to publicly denounce something as wrong	各地報紙紛紛譴責這場暴力。 gè dì bào zhǐ fēn fēn qiǎn zé zhè chǎng bào lì. Newspapers from across the country condemned the violence.

HSK 6 · Upper Intermediate

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
低劣 / 低劣 dī liè	inferior; of low quality or worth (used here as a racist slur)	文章稱華人移民低劣、不道德。 wén zhāng chēng huá rén yí mǐn dī liè, bù dào dé. Articles called Chinese immigrants inferior and immoral.

蔓延 / 蔓延
màn yán

to spread; to grow and expand (like fire, disease, or rumor)

消息和謠言像火焰一樣蔓延。
xiāo xī hé yáo yán xiàng huǒ yàn yī yàng màn yán.
Reports and rumors spread like flames.

定罪 / 定罪
dìng zuì

to convict; to find someone guilty in court

八人被定罪，但加州最高法院一年後推翻了判決。
bā rén bèi dìng zuì, dàn jiā zhōu zuì gāo fǎ yuàn yī nián hòu tuī fān le pàn jué.
Eight men were convicted, but the Supreme Court overturned their sentences.

中伤 / 中傷
zhōng shāng

to slander; to say false, harmful things about someone

報紙回過頭來繼續中傷華人。
bào zhǐ huí guò tóu lái jì xù zhōng shāng huá rén.
Newspapers returned to slandering the Chinese.

HSK 7-9 · Advanced

WORD

MEANING

EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY

悲痛欲绝 / 悲痛欲絕
bēi tòng yù jué

overcome with grief; devastated beyond words

悲痛欲絕的華人社區將遇難者葬在了墓園中。
bēi tòng yù jué de huá rén shè qū jiāng yù nàn zhě zàng zài le mù yuán zhōng.
A grief-stricken Chinese community buried the victims.

技术性漏洞 / 技術性漏洞
jì shù xìng lòu dòng

a legal technicality; a technical flaw in the law that lets someone escape punishment

理由是什麼？一個法律上的技術性漏洞。
lǐ yóu shì shén me? yī gè fǎ lǜ shàng de jì shù xìng lòu dòng.
The court's reason? A legal technicality.

Beyond HSK · Historical & Cultural

WORD

MEANING

EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY

金山 / 金山
Jīn Shān

"Gold Mountain" — the name Chinese immigrants gave to California during the Gold Rush era

他們聽說了加州——金山。
tā men tīng shuō le jiā zhōu—Jīn Shān.
They'd heard news of California, the land of the Gold Mountain.
舊金山 (Jiù Jīn Shān, "Old Gold Mountain") is still the Chinese name for San Francisco today.

会馆 / 會館
huì guǎn

huiguan — a mutual aid association formed by Chinese immigrants to support one another in a new country

華人移民組成了互助團體——會館。
huá rén yí mín zǔ chéng le hù zhù tuán tǐ—huì guǎn.
Chinese immigrants formed mutual aid societies, huiguan.

华裔美国人 / 華裔美國人
huá yì měi guó rén

Chinese Americans — people of Chinese heritage who live in or are citizens of the United States

但華裔美國人繼續過著自己的生活。
dàn huá yì měi guó rén jì xù guò zhe zì jǐ de shēng huó.
But Chinese Americans kept living their lives.
Compare: 華人 (huá rén) — Chinese person anywhere; 華裔 (huá yì) — of Chinese descent; 華裔美國人 — Chinese American specifically.

排华法案 / 排華法案
pái huá fǎ àn

the Chinese Exclusion Act — a US law passed in 1882 that banned Chinese laborers from immigrating

國會通過了《排華法案》。
guó huì tōng guò le 《pái huá fǎ àn》.
Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act.

排 (*pái*) means to exclude or push out. 排華 literally means "exclude the Chinese." This law was not repealed until 1943.

唐人街 / 唐人街

táng rén jiē

Chinatown — a neighborhood where Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans live and work

他們在屠殺後重返唐人街，重新開始經營。

tā men zài tú shā hòu chóng fǎn táng rén jiē, chóng xīn kāi shǐ jīng yíng.

They moved back into Chinatown after the massacre and restarted businesses.

唐人 (*Táng rén*) literally means "people of the Tang Dynasty" — an older term for Chinese people, still used in 唐人街.

屠杀 / 屠殺

tú shā

massacre; the killing of many people, especially those who cannot defend themselves

這場屠殺漸漸被人遺忘。

zhè chǎng tú shā jiàn jiàn bèi rén yí wàng.

The massacre faded from memory.