Sold by Patricia McCormick
Study Guide Questions

Please answer these questions for each section in your notebook. These will be used for an open-note test at the end of the unit.

Pages 1-24
1. Who is the main character in this book (age, gender, name)? What is her life like? What point of view is this story told from?
2. What are the gender roles in Nepal, where Lakshmi lives? What are the expectations of men and women?

Pages 25 - 37
3. What is Lakshmi’s life like living in poverty in Nepal?
4. The author writes, “Then the baby awakes. And with each drip and plink and plop and ping he laughs and claps his hands. Each drip new. Each plink and plop and ping fresh and strange and musical to his tiny ears” (McCormick 26). What literary device is the author using in this passage? Explain how you know what it is.
5. The author writes, “She twirls him in the air, her skirts flying around her ankles the way the clouds swirl around the mountain cap” (McCormick 26). What literary device is the author using? Explain how you know what it is.

Pages 38 – 66
6. Now, Lakshmi has been sold at the age of thirteen. Why was she sold? Predict what will happen; what will this mean for her life?
7. The author writes, “The news is like a tiny earthquake, shaking the ground beneath my feet” (McCormick 48). What literary device is the author using? Explain how you know what it is.

Pages 67 -109
8. Lakshmi compares herself to a water buffalo. What is the significance of this?
9. At this point in the story, what has happened to Lakshmi?
10. What is the significance of the line: “Not one looks up” (McCormick 109).
11. The author writes, “She is, under the folds of her yellow dress, frail as a baby bird” (McCormick 92) What literary device is the author using? Explain how you know what it is.
12. Find an example of imagery on pages 98-99. Quote the line(s). Write a lead-in and two-part commentary for the quote you chose.

Page 110 – 134
13. How did you feel after reading these pages? Find a passage from this section that affected you. Quote the line(s). Write a lead-in and two-part commentary for the quote you chose.

Pages 135 – 155
14. After finally being released from the room she was locked into, Lakshmi is moved downstairs with the other girls. The girls in the Happiness House watch American television and have pictures of movie stars hanging on their walls. What is the significance of this?
15. What happened to the new girl who came to the house after Lakshmi?
16. Compare the vignette on pages 15-16 entitled, “Everything I need to know” with the vignette on pages 141-143 entitled, “Everything I need to know now.” How does this show the transformation of Lakshmi’s life throughout the book? How is her life different from the beginning of the book?

17. The act of pretending comes up throughout the book. Explain what Lakshmi pretends. Choose a quote that supports your answer. Include a lead-in and two-part commentary in your response.

18. Explain what the other girls in the house pretend. Choose a quote that supports your answer. Include a lead-in and two-part commentary in your response.

Pages 156 – 168

19. Reread the vignette “Two Worlds” on page 166-168. What two worlds is the vignette referring to?

20. What is the difference between these two worlds? Cite one quote that supports your response. Include a lead-in and two-part commentary in your response.

21. What are your thoughts on this vignette?

22. What point is the author trying to make through this vignette?

Pages 169 – 183

23. What does the old yellow pencil symbolize on page 163?

24. The symbol of a pencil comes back on page 182. What does the new yellow pencil symbolize?

Pages 184 – 202

25. What happened to Monica?

26. What happened to Harish and his family?

Pages 203 – 215

27. Explain the meaning of the symbol of the shattering of the TV screen and the ripping of the movie star posters. Cite quotes from the section to support your explanation. Include a lead-in and two-part commentary in your response.

Page 216 - 231

28. What has Lakshmi turned into?

29. What are your thoughts about this development?

Pages 232- 263

30. At the very end of the book, Lakshmi found her voice. What are your thoughts about the way the book ended?

31. Holocaust survivor and author of Night Elie Wiesel said, "Let us remember: what hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander." What does this quote mean? How does this statement relate to the book Sold? Explain.

32. How would you describe the mood and tone of this book? Explain how the events of the story and the author’s style contributed to the mood and tone.

33. Write a one-sentence theme for this book. Support your theme with specific details from the book.