

Discussion Questions for “Coming Home, Again”

1. What event is Chang-rae Lee describing in this essay?
2. What techniques does Chang-rae Lee use to describe his parents?
3. What is the nature of Chang-rae Lee’s relationship with his parents?
 - What details reveal that relationship?
4. What do you learn about Chang-rae Lee as you read this essay?
5. What is the effect of the image of his parents at the side of the road with which Chang-rae Lee ends his essay?
 - Why do you think he chose to end it this way?
6. Copy one or two sentences that you find especially powerful.
 - What makes them powerful? (Some suggestions might be: powerful words, rhythm of the sentences, details, images.)
7. Is Lee’s essay a successful memoir? Why or why not?