

## Reading Passage

When my grandmother was 8, her mother contracted **tuberculosis**<sup>2</sup> and died. Her dad hired a caretaker to take care of my grandmother and her brother. On nice days, the caretaker would send my grandmother out to the **rice paddies**<sup>3</sup> to collect slugs. Then the caretaker would fry the **slugs**<sup>4</sup> with peppers. Peach trees provided another source of food. My grandmother would climb the sticky trees to get the fruit. She stated this was the one time during the war when she actually enjoyed herself.

During her time in Chongqing, there were many **air raids**<sup>5</sup>. The city had a detailed plan in the event of an air raid. If the siren went off and only one ball was placed on top of the pole on the mountain, it meant school was over. If a siren went off and two balls were on top of the mountain, everyone ran to the man-made tunnels in the mountain for shelter.

During one of these attacks, bombs destroyed the tunnel next to the one my grandmother was in. She said that everybody inside was killed.

The war ended in 1945, when my grandmother was 12. On the return trip to Shanghai, her family took the direct route, along the Yangtze River.

**Conclusion:** This story taught me how terrible war can be. I learned that Chongqing was bombed more than 5,000 times during a five-year period. I never realized how much war could change everyday life. I believe my grandmother learned many valuable lessons in a difficult way. I hope these events have taught the world the terrible outcomes of war.

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<sup>2</sup> **tuberculosis:** a disease that affects the lungs

<sup>3</sup> **rice paddies:** irrigated or flooded fields where rice is grown

<sup>4</sup> **slug:** a long wormlike land mollusk that is related to the snail but has an underdeveloped shell or no shell

<sup>5</sup> **air raid:** an attack by airplanes (as bombers) on a surface target