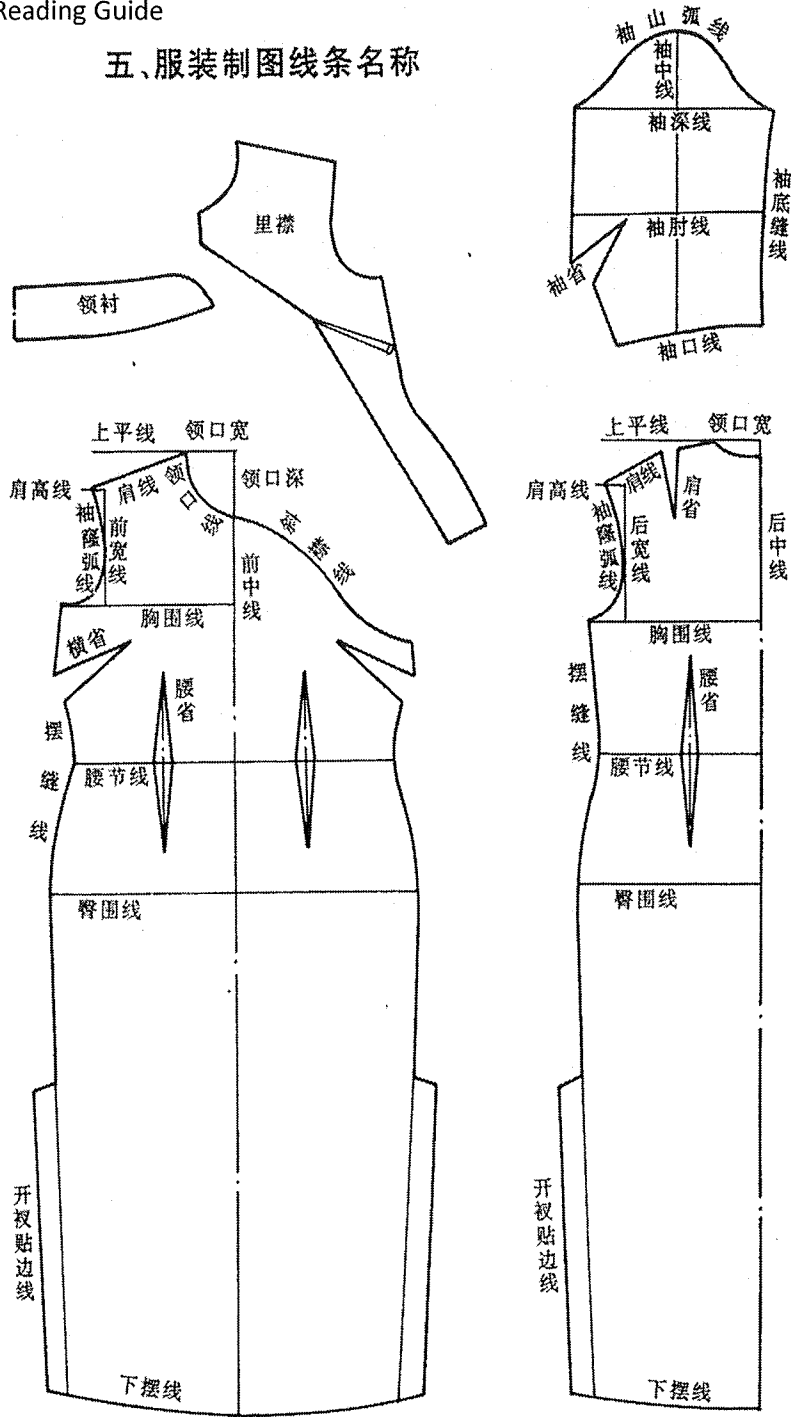


# Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress

By Dai Sijie

Summer Reading Guide

## 五、服装制图线条名称



# Exploring the Text

As you read the novel complete the chart below. Write down the main events in the book. Remember to complete each chapter's entry as you read to keep everything fresh in your mind. These notes will help you become more familiar with the flow of the story, and help you recall the information for future discussions and Essays.

## Part I

Chapter	The Main Events
1.	The two boys arrive in the village....
2.	
3.	Details about the Little Seamstress...
4.	
5.	Luo sick with malaria...

Part III

Chapter	The Main Events
13.	Suitcase of books...
14.	
15.	
16.	Old Miller tells a story...
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	
21.	

## Luo Continued

6. How is Luo's gift for storytelling described by the narrator? Find two examples of his storytelling.

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7. Is Luo's capacity to lie to get them out of difficult situations to be admired or deplored? Find examples to support your point of view.

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8. What does the scene with the Old Miller teach us about Luo?

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9. What do we learn about Luo from his individual story in Part III?

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10. To what extent is Luo partly responsible for the departure of the Little Seamstress?

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# Narrator Continued

6. When he is with the Old Miller the narrator says, "I almost envied him his complete ignorance of the outside world." What do you think he means by this?

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7. Explain the narrator's outburst when dealing with Four-Eyes at the end of Part II.

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8. In Part III the narrator begins to take more individual action. How does he use this growing confidence in connection with the Little Seamstress? Does Luo's absence empower the narrator?

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9. Explain the narrators possible reasons for helping the Little Seamstress with her growing problem in Part III.

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10. How can you reconcile the narrator's choices at the end of the novel given his clear love for the Little Seamstress

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# Romantic Love

6. Is love between characters mentioned in Sijie's novel or only in the context of the French novels Sijie's characters themselves read?

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7. How would you define the relationship between Luo and the Little Seamstress compared to that of the narrator and the Little Seamstress?

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# Fashion and Beauty

8. What happens to the tailor's designs once he has started listening to the tales from French novels?

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9. 'It would evidently take... more than dire poverty to stop a woman from wanting to be well dressed.' In What way does this apparently innocent observation by the narrator link to the Little Seamstress' departure?

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10. How and why does the Little Seamstress' appearance change at the end of the novel?

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11. What other themes can you find in the novel?

- 1. 

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- 2. 

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