My name is Thaïs Fondeville. I am a Politics and International Studies with Chinese student at the University of Warwick. I am French, so English is my second language but, I can also speak Chinese and Spanish. For this project, I decided to talk about my trip to a Chinese minority group. It happened when I was living in China. I thought it pictured well the experience of a foreigner in the middle of nowhere. This trip was part of a project I had to do for the French baccalaureate. I am sure that as you read it, you will understand what it means to dive into the unknown.

2. Travelling late into the night (KS2-5)
Thaïs Fondeville

I have been to Guangxi before with two friends, and we did some research there. Dear friends, I want to tell you what it means to travel to China as a foreigner.

Our trip started at the airport with a three-hour flight, and then we had to change trains twice. In China, people always talk about foreigners behind their backs, so it was not surprising for us that people would stare at us, especially the children who were seeing a foreigner for the first time.

When we arrived at the second train station, everyone stared at us. Needless to say, our group was quite eye-catching. One of us was of mixed Swiss and English descent and a black woman, another was of mixed French descent, while I was

French with a little Italian heritage. It was funny, but it felt strange to be stared at and pointed at by everyone in the station. Pretending nothing was wrong, we decided to buy some noodle soup to escape everyone's gaze, but the people's eyes were following us, and we could feel it.

Once we had arrived at the terminal, someone was waiting for us at the station already. The real adventure had just begun. We got in the car and were driven along deserted country roads. It was already midnight, and outside the windows it was pitch black... it felt as though we were in a horror movie. We didn't know where we were being taken, our mobile phones couldn't connect to the Internet, and we couldn't determine our location.

My friends and I all panicked, thinking we had been kidnapped. The fear reached a climax when we arrived at a riverside. I remember that we looked at each other in fear, our faces pale. Imagine, three young 15-year-old girls standing in the dark and being driven aboard a boat to cross from one side of the river to the other. After reaching the other side, we continued the journey, and after another hour, we finally reached the village in the early hours of the morning. When we got out of the car, our fearful expressions frightened the people who had come to greet us. Eventually, in no danger at all, we ended this eccentric adventure.

QUESTIONS:
KS2 & 3

1) As a foreigner in China, what would you do if people stared at you and talked about you behind your back?
2) Why did the writer describe the journey as an adventure?
3) What kind of place did the author and her friends go to in China? How do you know?
4) Imagine that you are one of the locals who is waiting for the arrival of the writer and her friends. Describe your anticipation, the scene the moment they get out the car, and what you would do.

KS4 & 5

1) In what context should the following phrases be used? Please explain the meaning of each phrase by working out the meaning of each character. 下面的词和短语在什么情况下使用？请逐字解释每个词和短语的意思。
   指指点点，扎眼，伸手不见五指
2) Find the four-character idioms in the story and work out the meaning of them. 找出文章中用到的四字成语，并解释它们的意思。
3) Why in the last paragraph, did the author use the word 驱赶? 为什么在最后一段中作者用"驱赶"这个词？

4) As a foreigner in China, what would you do if people stared at you and talked about you behind your back? 作为一个外国人，当你在中国遇到有人在你背后指指点点时，你会怎么做？

5) Why did the writer describe the journey as an adventure? 为什么作者把自己的旅程称为探险？

6) Imagine that you are one of the locals who is waiting for the arrival of the writer and her friends. Describe your anticipation, the scene the moment they get out of the car, and what you would do. 想象一下，如果你是迎接作者和她的朋友们的当地人，描述你在等待她们时的心情。看到她们从车里出来时的表情，你会怎么做？