

## Lesson Guide

### *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the First Asian Superhero*

#### Vocabulary List

Masculinity  
Effeminate  
White-washing  
Narrative  
Perpetual foreigner  
Complicit  
Stereotype  
White Colonialism  
Wuxia  
Toxic Masculinity

#### Suggested Discussion Topics

How have Asians men and women been portrayed in film prior to *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*?

Does Shang-Chi provide you with a different image of Asian Americans? What was your image before and after? What surprised you?

Compare *Black Panther* with *Shang-Chi, and the Legend of the Ten Rings*:

- What are the similarities and differences between how a Black superhero and an Asian superhero are portrayed? How are those traits similar or different from a White superhero such as Captain America or Ironman?
- Identify the female superheroine in those two movies (Black Panther, Shang-Chi). Are they similar or different from a White superheroine?
- Do you see a “formula” in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) movies? What are the common elements you can count on in the MCU movies?

What are some of the Asian cultural moments shown in the movie?

There are mythical animals protecting the village, what are they and what do they represent?

Are you familiar with the Fu Manchu characterization of Asians? Fu Manchu was the father in the Marvel’s Shang-Chi comic. Why did MCU choose to change this character?"

What do you consider masculine traits? Feminine traits?



## Suggested Activities

After watching the movie, how do you think Asians are now being depicted on screen? How would you describe the male roles and the female roles? Have students do a comparison presentation.

Can you recommend movies with Asian leads in which the character is not a superhero?

Look for examples in movies and TV shows where Asian characters are portrayed as meek or emasculated for males and sexual objects for females.

Look for movies where Asian characters are White-washed.

Name five “heroes ” in your life. They can be real people, or fictitious characters in comics, tv shows, books. Why do you admire them?

## Suggested Filmography

These are films and television series that represented AAs in positive or negative ways that's related to the video topic.

*Always Be My Maybe*  
*A Simple Favor*  
*Better Luck Tomorrow*  
*Blue Bayou*  
*Breakfast at Tiffany's*  
*Charlie Chan's Secret*  
*Chen is Missing*  
*Crazy Rich Asians*  
*Dr. No*  
*Doctor Strange*  
*Enter the Dragon*  
*Flower Drum Song*  
*Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*  
*IP Man*  
*Joy Luck Club*  
*Kim's Convenience*  
*Minari*  
*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*  
*Revenge of the Nerds*  
*Rush Hour*  
*Saving Face*

*Searching*  
*Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*  
*Sixteen Candles*  
*Snake Eyes*  
*Sound of Metal*  
*The Big Sick*  
*The Brides of Fu Manchu*  
*The Cheat*  
*The Crow*  
*The Farewell*  
*The Goonies*  
*The Grandmaster*  
*The Green Hornet*  
*The Green Knight*  
*The Hangover*  
*The Replacement Killers*  
*The Wedding Banquet*  
*Warrior*  
*Who Killed Vincent Chin?*  
*Yellow Earth*