**The role of school and education plays a huge part in Adeline's life. Choose three educational institutions that Adeline attends. Describe each one and relate how school became a saving place and significant part of Adeline's world.**

He Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah, published in 1999, is an autobiographical novel following Adeline’s depressing childhood as “An Unwanted Daughter”. The novel follows a young Chinese girl frowned upon as “Bad luck” in a toxic and rejecting household as she pursues acceptance and admiration. The author explores the themes of acceptance and friendship through utilization of Adeline’s educational Institutions to highlight how schools and friendships can retrieve someone from sinking into despair and feeling meritless.

Yen Mah utilizes academic achievements to display to the audience Adeline’s desperation for her father’s admiration and acknowledgement through the use of St Joseph. As the youngest of the stepsiblings Adeline was often overlooked by her father causing Adeline to feel unwanted, which added to her feelings of loneliness. This is evident when Father proclaims, “Continue studying hard and bringing honour to our Yen family name so we can be proud of you.” This quote suggests the only unequivocal way Adeline will ever get praised is if she is successful in school, forcing Adeline to think she is meritless if she does otherwise. This can further be supported by Adeline when she exclaims “I must study harder and keep wearing this medal so I can go on pleasing Father". Taking everything into account the audience can deduce that the author does this to elucidate Adeline’s battle with self-worth and further illustrate her toxic childhood which subsequently alters her psyche from a helpless girl to an admiration Vulture, thus leaving the audience to interpret whether it is for the better or worse. This links back to the theme of acceptance and how St Joseph’s plays a key role in what Adeline defines as acceptance.

The author utilizes friendships to exhibit to the audience Sheng Xin’s role in creating a haven for Adeline. While attending Sheng Xin Adeline was able indulge in a friendly environment which she had sought for so long, through her best friend, Wu Chun Mei who gave her affection and admiration. The author displays this when Adeline says, “For a few hours I had been a normal little girl attending a birthday party” This quote illustrates to the audience how something as simple as a birthday party was able to relieve Adeline of her constant stress and perturbation that forbid her from being a “normal little girl.” In addition to this Adeline recalls, "my friend had immediately nominated me as a candidate and volunteered to be my campaign manager.” This quote highlights Wu Chun Mei’s admiration for Adeline which comes as a surprise to Adeline because no one in her family has ever thought of her as anything besides an “ugly unwanted daughter”. Adeline further substantiates this when she announces to her classmates “Compared to her, I am truly a nobody.” The author does this to display to the audience how a toxic family and childhood can demolish a child's self-esteem which can lead to real world problems like self-abuse and in an extreme case suicide. The author also shows the audience a friend or relative’s love and admiration can build someone's self-esteem back as shown when Adeline becomes class president “I've proved them wrong!... I’m not worthless. They respect me.” This links back to the themes of self-worth and acceptance and how Sheng Xin created an environment in which Adeline was able to flourish.

Yen Mah employs the playwriting competition to elucidate to the audience Sacred Heart’s impact on Adeline's growth and perseverance. This is evident when Mother Louisa evokes “remember the old adage, genius is ten per cent inspiration, ninety per cent perspiration.” This quote displays to the audience Mother Louisa’s love for Adeline as she takes time out of her day to advise Adeline even though she is on her holiday which makes Adeline finally feel accepted as another human being, rather than a punching bag for her family to unleash their resentment upon. Furthermore, Sacred Heart created an environment in which Adeline was accepted and motivated her into becoming the successful women she is today. The audience can make this assumption when Adeline’s classmates vote her to be “most likely to succeed.” The combination of Ye Ye’s words of motivation and Adeline’s classmates' faith in her allowed the young girl to triumph in the playwriting competition which compelled Father to see her potential and be proud to call Adeline his daughter. The author utilizes Sacred Heart to show the audience that any predicament can be overcome with persistence and being in the presence of people who want the best for you.

In conclusion, Yen Mah utilizes Adeline’s educational institutions to show the audience how they have created a haven in which Adeline is able to prosper and find acceptance in who she is. The Author application of friendships, academic achievements, and competition as well as the themes of friendship and acceptance elucidate Adeline’s growth from a young vulnerable girl to an intelligent loving young woman. The memoir Chinese Cinderella emphasizes that only you can dictate what your limitless future holds in store.