

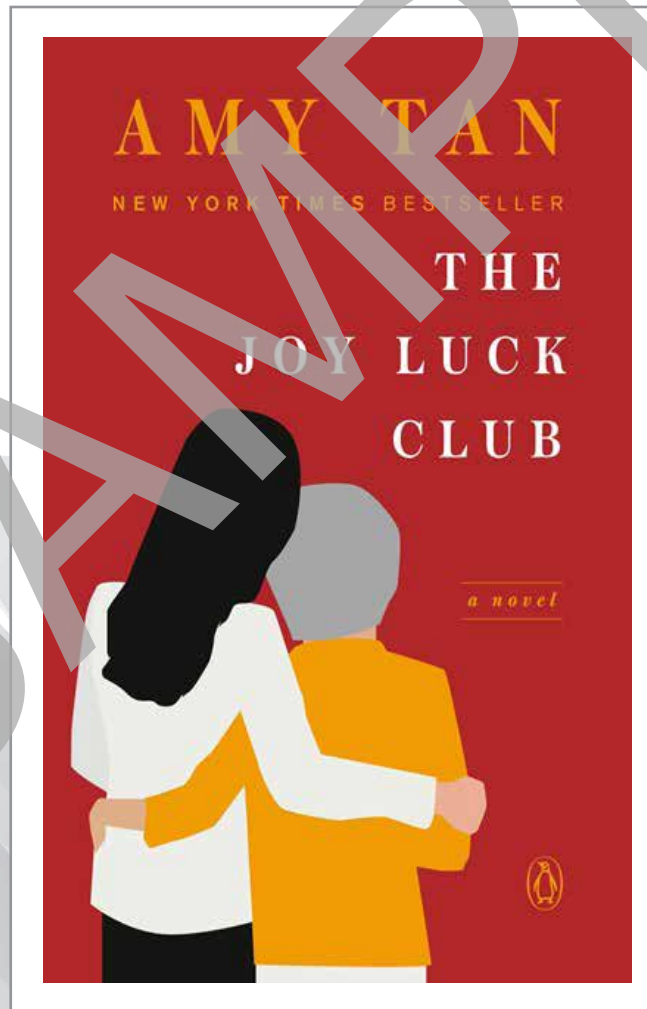


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Joy Luck Club

Amy Tan



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Joy Luck Club

Amy Tan

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50204-717-5

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Name _____

The Joy Luck Club
Study Questions
Use During Reading

Directions: Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your novel test. (Asterisks indicate open-ended questions with no right or wrong answers.)

“Jing-mei Woo: The Joy Luck Club,” pp. 3-32

1. Why does the old woman (p. 3) want to give her daughter a swan feather?
2. Who is narrating the first story (p. 5)?
3. Why has Jing-mei come to play mah jong?
4. What is the San Francisco version of the Joy Luck Club?
5. How did Jing-mei’s mother meet the Hsus, Jongs, and St. Clairs?
6. Why did Suyuan’s husband take her to Kweilin?
7. What sort of parties did Jing-mei’s mother organize in Kweilin?
8. Why did Auntie An-mei cry when she returned from her trip to China?
9. What is in the envelope Auntie Ying-ying and the others give June?
10. What do the women want June to tell her half-sisters?
- *11. How would you feel about going to China if you were June?
- *12. **Prediction:** What do you think happened to the twin babies?

“An-mei Hsu: Scar,” pp. 33-41

1. Why did An-mei’s grandmother consider An-mei’s mother a disgrace?
2. Why did Popo tell An-mei about the girl with the fat belly?
3. What story did Popo tell An-mei so she would listen to her elders?
4. Why did An-mei hide from the picture of her father?
5. How did An-mei and her brother learn why their mother left?
6. How did An-mei receive the scar under her chin?
7. Why did Popo tell An-mei the girl’s funeral would be very small?
8. Why did An-mei’s mother leave when An-mei was so sick?
9. What did Popo mean when she said that losing face is like dropping a necklace down a well (p. 36)?
10. What did An-mei see her mother do at Popo’s deathbed?
- *11. How do you think An-mei felt after Popo’s death?
- *12. **Prediction:** Who do you think raised An-mei after Popo died?

Name _____

The Joy Luck Club
Activity #6 • Vocabulary
Use After Reading pages 159-236

Directions: Circle the word or phrase in each group that does not belong with the others — and briefly explain why.

1. puritanical karma reincarnation Buddhism fate

2. manipulative intuitive insight reasoning truth

3. sound resonant garish loud sonorous

4. emotion concern indifferent sullied apathetic

5. indirect insults innuendoes derogatory sentimental

6. stalemate refuge safety asylum sanctuary

7. vulnerable susceptible disarmed defenseless acquiescent

8. deception pretext subterfuge ruse foyer

9. obsessively carcasses careless compulsions fastidious

10. uncanny supernatural ordinary weird amorous

Name _____

Writing Project: Pretend that you are June. You have just returned from your trip to China. Write a thank-you letter to the members of the Joy Luck Club.

1. Use the graphic organizer below to organize details about the trip you want to share with your aunts.

Who? _____

When? _____

Trip to China

What? _____

Where? _____

2. Here is a three-part form your thank-you note might take. Assume June’s persona and write your note.

Your Address _____
Date _____
Dear _____

Body: (A) General thanks for the gift (mentioning the check) and reference to the circumstances under which it was given. (B) A description of the trip — why you liked it, who else enjoyed it, what it taught you, how it enriched your life, how you will use it in the future. (C) “Connect” directly with those you are thanking. (Mention the last time you were together; anticipate pleasure at next meeting, etc.)

Appropriate Closing (Love, Sincerely, etc.)
June

Name _____

Writing Project: You are Lena. Write to an advice columnist (“Dear Gabby”) about problems in your marriage that come to a head when your mother visits and you shout at Harold. Then have a partner write “Gabby’s” letter of response. Before drafting your letters, work with your partner to complete the graphic organizer, below. Add to the list of choices Lena has and to the criteria for measuring each. Then rate each choice (1=yes, 2=maybe, 3=no).

Problem: Lena’s marital problems

Possible Choices ↓	Criteria			
	Will this make me happier?	Will this improve my marriage?	Will this please my mother?	other:
Leave Harold.				
Choose one battle and try to win: ice cream, exterminator, table.				
Refuse to do all the things that annoy you.				
See a marriage counselor.				
other:				
other:				

Write your letter to “Dear Gabby.” Use a made-up name for Lena (like “Blue in the Bay Area”). Switch papers with your partner, and write Gabby’s responses. Compare the “advice” you each gave Lena. Did you agree?