

# The Joy Luck Club

## by Amy Tan

### English 10 Honors: Summer Reading Assignment

**Directions:** During the summer break, you are to read *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. Please note: you do not need to submit these questions; they are merely guiding you through each set of chapters. Upon our return to school, we will have several writing assignments pertaining to this novel, along with a test.

#### Significance of Title

Briefly discuss the significance of the title. Is it an allusion to an event or another work? How is it thematically connected to the body of the work? Does it have multiple meanings?

#### Setting

Describe the time and place in which the action occurs. How is it related to the time period in which the work was written? What is significant about the setting? How is the setting connected to thematic concerns?

#### Plot

Briefly summarize the plot, using standard formats of basic plot structure as they may apply: exposition, initial incident, rising action, turning point, climax, falling action, denouement (resolution). Discuss conflict and any other devices that significantly impact plot.

#### Point of View

From what perspective is the story told (novel)? From what perspective does the playwright approach the story (drama)? How does point of view affect your understanding of the work? How does the choice of narrator impact the theme(s) of the work?

#### Characterization

Identify the top five characters in order of importance (starting with protagonist and antagonist) and describe them and their role in the work. Discuss any characters that have a significant impact on the work.

#### Theme

Identify and discuss any important messages and ideas the author communicates in the work. Remember that themes are important *ideas* conveyed. In order for an idea to be important (and, therefore, thematic) it must be *repeated*.

### **Symbols & Literary Devices**

Identify and discuss any symbols and literary devices used in the work. How did these affect your understanding of the work? How are they important in their connection to theme and meaning in the work? You should consider such devices as symbolism, diction, metaphor, imagery, irony, humor, etc. as they have a meaningful impact on any part of the work.