The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan Vocabulary 2

Rules Of The Game

malignant: evil

saffron: expensive yellow spice

pungent: strong smelling (usually in the positive sense)

benevolently: kindly

etiquette: rules of proper behavior

vanity: pridefulness

humility: opposite of vanity - not being prideful

phlegmy: full of mucus

malodorous: bad smelling

The Voice From The Wall

Cantonese, **Mandarin** - different dialects of Chinese

Half And Half

chagrine: shame

UC Berkeley (University of California, Berkeley) - a first rate college

verbatim: word for word, exact quote

UCSF - University of California, San Francisco, not as highly rated as Berkeley

malpractice: errors in one's job performance that could cause a lawsuit

celestial: heavenly

fate: a theoretical force that causes things to happen outside of our control; what is destined to happen

Two Kinds

prodigy: one who is accomplished at a surprisingly young age
reverie: a very happy day dream, happy fantasy

Stanford - an excellent private college in California near San Francisco

Name: Trials 4 **Due by class time on Sept. 24**

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan Worksheet 2a Rules Of The Game

What important lesson did Lindo (Waverly's mother) teach Waverly? How did she do this? What does this lesson really mean?

Describe the atmosphere of Waverly's childhood.

What do you learn about Lindo from hearing about her as a mother?

What appealed to Waverly about chess? Why was she successful at it?

How does Waverly manipulate her mother? What does this tell you about Waverly?

How did Waverly's life change after she began playing chess? Why did these things happen?

Why did Waverly and her mother get into a confrontation? How did Lindo deal with it?

How is chess an appropriate symbol for this chapter of the book? Explain how it fits these characters and whether Lindo seems the same as in her own story.

Name_____ Trials 4 **Due by class time on Sept. 28**

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan Worksheet 2b The Voice From The Wall

What is Lena's attitude toward her mother? How has her mom influenced her in her childhood? How does this fit with what we learned about Ying-Ying in her own story?

Why was Lena something of a misfit as a child? How do you think this affected her?

What problem did Ying-Ying have when Lena was a child? How did this affect her life? How did Lena utilize this?

How did Ying-Ying react to the family's move? Why do you think she expressed herself this way?

How does the life of Lena's neighbor compare to hers when she is growing up?

What did Lena learn about her mother at the hospital? What did she tell her father, and why?

What was the family like after the baby's death? Be specific.

What do you think Lena learned from the family across the wall? What did she wish to do to improve her own family?

Name_____ Trials 4 **Due by class time on Oct. 1**

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan Worksheet 2c Half And Half

What is going on in Rose's life now? How does she think her mother will feel about it?

How are Rose's and Ted's backgrounds and personalities different? Be specific.

What bound Ted and Rose together?

Why and how did their relationship change? Was a good or a bad thing? Why?

What does nengkan mean and how is it significant in Rose's family?

What was An-Mei's philosophy about child rearing, and what influenced it? How does her mothering seem similar to that of Ying-Ying?

How did the family react that night to the tragedy at the beach? What does this tell you about them, especially about An-Mei as a mother?

What does An-Mei do the next day? How does this day change her perspective on life? How firmly does it do this?

How did this incident affect the way Rose now looks at her own life and situation?

Name_____ Trials 4 **Due by class time on Oct. 5**

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan Worksheet 2d Two Kinds

What was Suyuan's (Jing-mei's mother's) attitude toward America?

What did Suyuan want Jing-mei to be? Why? How did Jing-mei (June) feel about this at first? What changed her attitude?

What was Suyuan's plan after watching The Ed Sullivan Show, and how did she try to achieve it?

What went wrong with her plan to make June a pianist?

How did June feel about Waverly when they were growing up? Why?

What happened at the talent show and what effect did it have on Suyuan?

What happened a couple of days after the talent show? What was central to the conflict between Suyuan and Jing-mei?

How does Jing-mei feel about her childhood now? What's your evidence?

What do the four mother-daughter relationships have in common?