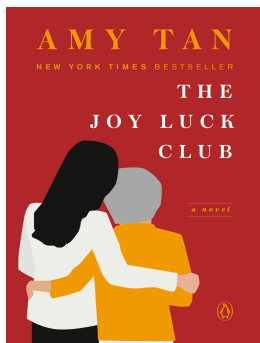


**Chapel Hill High School**  
**Honors American Literature and Composition**  
**Summer Assignment**



### **Summer Reading Text**

Over the summer, you are **required** to read Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* in preparation for your Honors American Literature and Composition course. The best options for purchasing this text are Amazon and Barnes and Noble; you are welcome to purchase a used copy or the Kindle/ebook version of the novel if you prefer to do so. There is a film adaptation of the novel, but it is not a suitable substitute for reading the novel, nor will it serve you in being able to complete your tasks.

**Recommended Version:** ISBN-10: 0143038095. ISBN-13: 9780143038092.

### **Annotations (25 points)**

**While you read the text, you are required to make at least 50 annotations.** Think of annotations as “showing your work” while you read just as you sometimes show your work in a math problem. You are showing what you are thinking while you read and analyze. Your annotations should be spread out through the novel (start to finish), as well as be unique to you.

Your annotations can be on sticky notes or page markers that you stick to the pages. If you would prefer to keep an annotation log, you should create a three-column chart--column one for page #, column two for a quote from the text, column three for your annotation. If you purchase your own copy of the text, you are welcome to write on the pages of the text for your annotations.

### **Show What You Know (25 points each)**

Once you have finished reading and annotating *The Joy Luck Club*, you will complete each of the following three tasks. Be sure to follow the specific directions for each task.

#### *Plaracter Chart*

Amy Tan structures the action of *The Joy Luck Club* in a very unique way: four large sections split into four vignettes (small stories that are a part of a larger work) for a total of sixteen stories, reflecting a standard game of mahjong, i.e. the four corners of the table and the sixteen rounds of play. This unique plot structure impacts how Tan develops the characters and their relationships with each other. Your task is to describe how the structure of the novel's plot helps to develop the characters. You should describe how the characters individually develop and how the mother daughter relationships develop through each vignette. Your descriptions should be 2 to 3 complete sentences.

**You will need to create four different Plaracter (Plot-Character) Charts, one for each of the four major sections of the novel.** [Here](#) is an example of what a Plaracter Chart would look like for “Feathers from a Thousand Li Away,” the first section of *The Joy Luck Club*. Use it as a guide for all four Plaracter Charts.

#### *Discussion Questions*

**Select a mother daughter pair from the novel, and then develop at least five discussion questions about them.**

Strong discussion questions never have the following qualities: one word answers; yes or no answers; or right or wrong answers. By asking your questions, you will allow yourself and others to connect to the text on a personal level and to explore each other's values. Below are some examples of weak discussion questions and how you can revise them to be strong discussion questions using the father son pair from Elie Wiesel's *Night*. Use the strong examples as models for your own questions.

### *Weak Discussion Questions*

- Where do Elie and his father live?
- Does Elie's father support his desire to study the Cabbala?
- What is the "family inheritance" that Elie's father gives him?

### *Strong Discussion Questions*

- How does living in Auschwitz impact Elie's relationship with his father? Do you think your relationship with your parent would be impacted the same way? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Elie's father does not support Elie's desire to study the Cabbala? Have you ever had a disagreement with a parent like Elie does with his father about Cabbala? Explain.
- Do you think Elie's father should feel guilty about only giving Elie a knife and spoon as his inheritance? Why or why not?

### *Original Parable*

Each of the four sections of *The Joy Luck Club* begins with a parable, which is a short story, typically with a moral lesson at the end. Parables use symbolism and metaphor to demonstrate the moral lesson intended to be taught. **Using the four parables from the novel as a guide, write an original parable that teaches a lesson on the topic of parent-child relationships.** Your parable should be 150 to 300 words in length. Refer to the Writer's Checklist as you write and proofread your parable.

#### **Narrative Writer's Checklist**

Be sure to:

- Write a narrative response that develops a real or imagined experience.
- Include a problem, situation, or observation and its significance.
- Establish one or more points of view.
- Introduce a narrator and/or characters.
- Organize events so that they progress smoothly.
  - Use a variety of techniques consistently to sequence the events to build toward a particular tone and outcome.
- Use dialogue, description, pacing, reflection, and/or multiple plot lines to:
  - develop events.
  - develop characters.
  - develop experiences.
- Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to create a vivid picture of the events, setting, and/or characters.
- Include a conclusion that reflects on what has been resolved, experienced, or observed in your narrative.
- Use ideas and/or details from the passage(s) to inform your narrative.
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

### **Assignment Due Date**

Your reading, annotations, and Show What You Know activities should be complete by **the first day of the 2023-2024 school year: Wednesday, August 2, 2023**. This assignment will count as **10% of your grade in the course**. Do not procrastinate on these tasks. Allow yourself at least two weeks to complete.

## How to Submit your Assignment

Once you have completed your summer assignment, you will need to join the Honors American Lit. Summer Assignment Google Classroom. The class code is **14hzhcz**. Every student, regardless of teacher or class period, should join this classroom to submit your work. Each of the Show What You Know activities will be a separate assignment. Be sure to submit every assignment by the due date. You will turn in your annotations in person on the first day of school. Late work will not be accepted.

## Academic Dishonesty

According to your course syllabus, actions such as cheating, comparing answers, copying homework, plagiarism, and the use of AI technology will result in a zero and disciplinary action. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE EXAMINED USING A PLAGIARISM PROGRAM AND AI DETECTION SOFTWARE. ANY INSTANCE OF PLAGIARISM OR AI TECHNOLOGY USE WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC ZERO, AND A REFERRAL.**

## Need Help?

If you have any questions over the summer, feel free to email Mrs. Morgan Murphy at [morgan.murphy@dcssga.org](mailto:morgan.murphy@dcssga.org) or Ms. Holly Morton at [holly.morton@dcssga.org](mailto:holly.morton@dcssga.org). We will do our best to reply in a timely manner.