

THE JOY LUCK CLUB  
by Amy Tan

PICTURE BRIDE  
by Yoshiko Uchida

WHEN THE RAINBOW GODDESS WEPT  
by Cecilia Brainard

Background: These novels are well worth reading and will give you insights into three distinctly different cultures - Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese. As you read you should notice parallels in family relationships and how various important historical events have affected their way of life.

In The Joy Luck Club Amy Tan shows us a fascinating picture of the Chinese culture as well as Chinese-American women and mother-daughter relationships. The focus is on women and their relationships as they struggle to understand, respond, and communicate in diverse worlds. Notice the references to troubled relationships involving characters of different generations as well as diverse cultures.

Picture Bride tells the story of a Japanese immigrant, one of several hundred "picture brides," whose arranged marriages brought them to America in the early 1900's. Her experience culminates in an account of her struggle to survive internment camps during World War II. It is a testimony to her strength of spirit, as she learns to adjust to a new culture and language, as well as cope with stressful events of history which directly impact her life.

When the Rainbow Goddess Wept introduces the Filipino culture with events of World War II as the backdrop. It is a story of a nine year old girl and her family as they struggle to survive the trauma of the Japanese invasion of their country. As they try to cope when major events unfold, the young girl uses ancient fables to bolster her courage. Like their epic legends, this story tells the tale of the dauntless spirit and wisdom of the Filipino people.

Please read the three summer novels prior to our first class in the fall. There will be both essay and objective tests and creative writing within the first few weeks of school. **We will be discussing Joy Luck Club first.** Most titles are easy to find at local book stores like Borders or Barnes and Noble or purchase them online.

When the Rainbow Goddess Wept may be more difficult to find, so try to get a copy from Mrs. Mountain at Mercy **before** you leave for summer. She has 18 copies of the novel which are **on loan** for your convenience. If you are interested, see her ASAP. Be sure to return the book to Mrs. Mt. after reading it over summer vacation.

You will need to keep a reading journal where you will **TYPE** your responses to the following questions. Your written work will be graded so it must be accurate and complete. The grade will be equal to a test grade. It should be typed, double-spaced. Do **NOT** encase each page in plastic. Please use **12 font**. Only original work will be acceptable. No material from either Cliff /Spark Notes or other guides will be accepted. **In case of plagiarism, no credit will be given.** Place the written work in a simple folder, one with pockets. Staple the work for each book separately and place in the pockets.

### **NOTEBOOK DUE ON FIRST DAY OF CLASS!**

Write response to the following: (please do each book separately and attach work with a staple) Read carefully; there will be different instructions for each of the novels.

#### **THE JOY LUCK CLUB:**

1. QUOTATIONS: Choose **two** significant and profound quotations which reveal the personality of any of the characters. They should be two different characters, giving the page number for each quotation. For **each character** first write a brief paragraph analyzing the significance of the quote as it relates to the novel and then write a longer paragraph describing how it could relate to you personally. (For example, if the quote describes how a character felt "vulnerable" in a certain situation, describe a time in your life when you also felt that way.)

2. SYMBOLISM: Amy Tan uses **symbolism** effectively to make her story points more vivid and dramatic. Choose **one** important symbol from her novel and interpret its meaning in a response of at least five sentences. Then relate the impact of symbolism to you **personally** by choosing a symbol from your life (not from the novel) that has a particular significance to you and/or your family. How has it inspired or affected you? (use 8 to 10 sentences for this personal response)
3. VOCABULARY: Find **ten** words from The Joy Luck Club which were previously unfamiliar to you - list the words and give their definitions. Choose **useful** English words, not words that have specific meaning only to this novel.
4. PERSONAL OPINION: Was this novel worth reading? Why or why not? Since these summer reading selections have been changed from year to year, we are interested in the student response to the new selections. Your opinions are valuable to the English teachers. Please write a paragraph evaluation with concrete detail and some specific examples.

### **WHEN THE RAINBOW GODDESS WEPT:**

NOTE: For this novel please read the attached information on the historical background of the relationship between the United States and the Philippines. It will help you to understand the novel.

1. THEME: Explain **one** major theme which you discovered in this novel and give specific examples to support it. Remember that a theme is **not** just one word like “love” or “good vs evil” - you need to make a **statement** (complete sentence) about what the author is trying to convey.

What “message” comes across?

2. CREATIVE RESPONSE: Choose only **ONE** of the following writing prompts to develop into a full page.
  - “Like Yvonne, we have all experienced a story that needs to be told, that needs never to be forgotten.” You may respond to this with a personal story or family story that you feel is worthwhile to tell.
  - Much of this novel focuses on Yvonne’s growing acknowledgment that the women who surround her in her daily life are indeed “women warriors”- Choose two women who are a part of your everyday world and explain why you see them as women warriors.
  - Write a monologue for any of the major characters in this novel. (For example, you may want to write Yvonne’s thoughts as she endures different frightening experiences in the story or Max when he returns to his home in Mindanao to find that his beloved family members have been murdered or Nida when she considers how she will tell Max about her unplanned pregnancy.)
3. VOCABULARY: Find **ten** words from Rainbow Goddess which were previously unfamiliar to you - list the words and give their definitions. Choose **useful** English words, not words that have specific meaning only to this novel.
4. PERSONAL OPINION: Was each novel worth reading? Why or why not? Please write a paragraph evaluation with concrete detail and some specific examples.

**PICTURE BRIDE:**

1. Create a LETTER written by Hana Takedo to her family in Japan in which she describes the conditions at the Topaz and Tanforan internment camps. Include specific details from the story and any examples of prejudice she felt from living through this experience. Please use one full page response.
2. As you are reading the novel, think of Hana's personality. Choose **two** adjectives to describe Hana. Type the adjectives and find evidence in the novel for each adjective to verify your selections. (For example, Hana is "compassionate" because she offered to help certain characters in the novel at different times - explain when that happened specifically) Add a **supporting quote and examples** from the novel as evidence for each adjective you discuss. Your quote can be either a direct dialogue **OR** a description of the character. Please write a well-developed paragraph for each different adjective you relate to Hana.
3. VOCABULARY: Find **ten** words from the novel which were previously unfamiliar to you – list the words and give their definitions.
4. PERSONAL OPINION: Was this novel worth reading? Why or why not? Please write a paragraph evaluation with concrete detail and some specific examples.

NOTE: You will have a **TEST** on **The Joy Luck Club** during the first few days of school so be prepared for that.