

**CLOSE READING AND ANNOTATION**

*Staple this sheet to the printed source.*

Annotate each piece (poem, article, excerpt from novel) using the **Says/Does** method. Identify **four Says** phrases or words in the document. In the first column, identify what the text **SAYS**. This is the content of the piece. In the second column, explain what the text **DOES**. These are the **writing techniques** used by the author to convey his/her message. In the **BECAUSE** column, explain the **impact** the author is trying to make through the text.

<b>Title of the piece:</b> Joy Luck Club			
<b>Author:</b> Amy Tan			
<b>Format (circle one):</b>	Poetry	Magazine article	<b>Book</b>

Paragraph/ stanza numbers	<b>SAYS</b> (content)	<b>DOES</b> (writing techniques used to convey the message)	<b>BECAUSE</b> (impact on the reader)
1	<i>“My mother believed you could be anything you wanted to be in America. You could open a restaurant. You could work for the government and get good retirement. You could buy a house with almost no money down. You could become instantly famous. “Of course you can be prodigy, too,” my mother told me when I was nine. You can be best anything.”</i>	<i>Introduces the idea that is the basis for the entire chapter.</i>	<i>Suyan is Jing-Mei’s mother. She believes that anything is possible in America. This is the basis of her efforts to make Jing-Mei into a child prodigy.</i>
2	<i>“We didn’t immediately pick the right kind of prodigy. At first my mother thought I could be a Chinese Shirley Temple. We’d watch Shirley’s old movies on TV as though they were training films.”</i>	<i>Uses Shirley Temple to create a visual image.</i>	<i>Shirley Temple was an important child movie star. The author’s mother believes that Jing-Mei can be trained to be a child star just like Shirley Temple.</i>
3	<i>“Soon after my mother got this idea about Shirley Temple, she took me to beauty training school in the Mission district and put me in the hands of a student who could barely hold the scissors without shaking. Instead of getting big, fat curls, I emerged with an uneven mass of crinkly black fuzz. “</i>	<i>The image of Jing-Mei with crinkly hair creates a contrast between herself and the image of Shirley Temple.</i>	<i>This passage shows that it is difficult to become a child movie star and how unlikely it was that she would be a star.</i>

8	<i>“Every night after dinner, my mother and I would sit at the Formica kitchen table. She would present new tests, taking her examples from stories of amazing children she had read about in Ripley’s Believe It or Not, or Good Housekeeping, Reader’s Digest, and a dozen other magazines.”</i>	<i>Creates the image that her mother is using the tests/quizzes in popular magazines.</i>	<i>The mother is trying to find the daughter’s hidden talents. She believes the tests/quizzes in the magazines will help reveal her daughter’s talents. She takes the tests/quizzes much more seriously than they should be.</i>
14	<i>“And after seeing my mother’s disappointed face once again, something inside of me began to die. I hated the tests, the raised hopes and failed expectations.”</i>	<i>Jing-Mei fails another talent test.</i>	<i>Up until this point, Jing-Mei had gone along with her mother trying to develop her talent. At this point she decides that she does not want to be a prodigy.</i>

Use these <b>verbs</b> to describe <b>what the text does</b> .				
Analyzes	Concludes	Details	Justifies	Proves
Argues	Connects	Develops	Lists	Qualifies
Asks	Contradicts	Distinguishes	Narrates	Questions
Asserts	Contrasts	Discusses	Offers	Reflects
Challenges	Debates	Dramatizes	Opposes	States
Clarifies	Demonstrates	Elaborates	Predicts	Suggest
Compiles	Defines	Establishes	Presents	Summarizes
Compares	Describes	Evaluates	Proposes	Traces

Use these <b>Creative Writing Techniques</b> to describe <b>what the text does</b> .		
Anecdotes	Figures of speech	Point of view
Character development	Heavy description	Plot development
Dialogue	Imaginative language	Underlying theme
Emotional appeal	Metaphors/similies	Vivid setting

<p>Who is the <b>audience</b> for this piece: How do you know? Explain.</p> <p><i>I think this book is written for a female <b>audience</b>. Female readers would relate to the strong relationships between the women of the Joy Luck Club and their daughters. The audience is more likely to be educated. An uneducated audience might lose interest in the explanation of Chinese culture and might have difficulty navigating between flashbacks and the present.</i></p>
<p>What is the <b>purpose</b> of this piece? How do you know? Explain.</p> <p><i>This book is an exploration of the hardships endured by Chinese women who immigrated to the United States. It is also a celebration of Chinese culture.</i></p>
<p>Based on the <b>audience</b> and purpose, to what extent does this piece connect to your thematic statement? Explain.</p> <p><i>This book shows the struggles of Chinese women who immigrated to the United States. It’s a reflection of their hopes and aspirations for themselves and their daughters. Each story shows how</i></p>

*these women supported their daughters and worked to give them the best possible life in this country. One of Suyan's beliefs was that she could make give her daughter a better life by making her into a prodigy. Her daughter, Jing-Mei, rebelled against that, but later realized that her mother had good intentions.*

*As the reader understands these women, he/she better understands the hopes and aspirations that are universal to all parents.*

What is the **organizational structure** of the writing? Explain.

*This book is written as **eight first person narratives**. The narration switches between four Chinese girls and their mothers so it is really told by eight different women.*

*The book utilizes **flash backs** between China before World War II and San Francisco from 1949 to the present.*

Why did the writer develop his/her theme using this **organizational structure**?

A **first person narrative structure** makes it possible to have the story told by eight different women. It makes the viewpoints unique and the stories very personal.