

Hayfield Secondary School
Mrs. Oliva and Ms. Lofton



PRE-AP ENGLISH 10 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

THE BONESETTER'S DAUGHTER

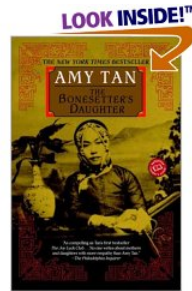
BY AMY TAN (ISBN # 0-345-45737-4)

NOVEL INTRODUCTION

The *Bonesetter's Daughter* is a structurally complex novel with a multi-faceted thematic approach. The mother/daughter relationships are intensified by both generational and cultural conflicts. Through the storytelling, each mother and daughter in the novel attempts to further explain themselves to one another. As the novel develops, each character endures a journey to find her personal identity among the cultural disparity. This disparity exists because the Chinese heritage that each character was born with is challenged daily by the American culture in which they presently exist.

"Amy Tan's novels concerning the bonds between Chinese-American mothers and daughters have earned her a worldwide audience. Although immersed in the rich lore of Chinese myth and history, Tan's works transcend the par-

ticular and become testaments to the universal themes of love and forgiveness. Tan introduces characters who are ambivalent, as she once was, about their Chinese background, but who move to a deeper understanding of themselves as they confront their ancestors' struggles in China and America. According to Susan Balée in a *Philadelphia Inquirer* review, all of Tan's



novels 'explore the same subject--mother/daughter relationships, with a side focus on the problems of sisterhood--but they don't grow stale with repetition. In this, Tan is perhaps like Jane Austen. . . . After all, [Austen's] details vary from

novel to novel; she found new ways to approach and explicate her subject. Tan does the same thing with another archetypal subject, and . . . like Austen, she will enjoy a secure place in the literary canon 200 years after the ink dries on the last page of her last book. ' "

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

As you read this novel, you are encouraged to take note of the cultural differences Tan presents between the Chinese and American culture. Tan is a critically acclaimed Asian-American author and

widely read in the high school classroom. Your reading focus should be to familiarize yourself with the structure of the novel and the author's style while completing the attached assignment. Upon

return to school, your active participation in the class discussion on this novel will convey your accomplishment of the above stated goals.

Assignment Evaluation:

This assignment is worth 50 points. Maximum points will be earned for having:

- a complete thesis statement for each of the 5 questions
- 3 pieces of textual evidence (with page citations) for each of the 5 questions
- a detailed explanation written in the student's own words for each piece of textual evidence (a total of 3 per question equaling 15 for the entire project)
- No repetitive information found in other answers (be sure each question has a new answer)

DIRECTIONS

For each question, write a thesis statement and make a T-chart by drawing a line down the center of the page. On the left-hand side of your chart, provide a direct passage from the text complete with page citations (you need to have 3 different citations for each question). On the right-hand side of your chart, write commentary explaining how your chosen passages answer the question and thus support your thesis.

1. Analyze the theme of identity and the loss of identity. Focus on one character in detail.
2. Describe the generational conflicts between Americanized daughters and their immigrant mothers.
3. Amy Tan says, “Orchids look delicate but thrive on neglect.” Illustrate this statement with three different characters.
4. Describe LuLing ’ s culture as she grew up in China by describing at least 3 of the cultural experiences she had (such as beliefs, language, occupation, treatment of family members, marriage customs, etc.)
5. What is Amy Tan ’ s message regarding language and communication?



Formatting Instructions:

Be sure to give your best effort, as this assignment will be your teacher’s first impression of you.

Please type your responses using Times or Times New Roman, size 12

- Double Space
- Use an MLA header on the top left corner of your first page

EXAMPLE:

Joe Student

English 10 Honors

Ms. Lofton

5 September 2006

- Please note that this is an individual assignment and it is expected that the work you submit is your own.

**All work is due the
first day of class.**

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT US
(BY AUGUST 28)

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