

## **Joy Luck Club Excerpts Focus Questions**

Note there are a lot of FLASHBACKS in these readings

### **“Joy Luck Club”- page 19-26**

1. Jing-Mae is supposed to take her mother's place doing what? P. 19
2. What happened to Jing-Mae's mother? (Jing Mae is the narrator of the “Joy Luck Club” chapter. She is the daughter in the story.) p 19
3. How does Jing-Mae perceive her mother's story for most of her life? In other words, does she think it's highly accurate? Explain why or why not. P 25
4. Life was very hard for her mom when she was living in a war torn country. List four traumatic things her mom experienced or witnessed. – p 24 - 26

5. List two adjectives (descriptive words) to describe her mother who left China and the kind of person she is.
  
6. Re-read the final paragraphs on p 26. Use inference skills to explain what happened to the babies.
  
7. How might Jing-Mae's (the narrator/daughter) perception of her mother have changed when she hears the real ending of the story? Why?
  
8. How might Jing-Mae's mother's experiences in China shape her new life in America (think about how it may have affected her parenting).
  
9. Explain the significance of the title. What was The Joy Luck club? AND why do you think they selected THAT name?
  
10. What **point of view** is this story told? First person or third person?

11. What is the **theme** of this story / “The Joy Luck Club Chapter?” (Reminder a theme is a general, universal message or life lesson. A theme is NOT just one word)

12. Provide two pieces of **textual support** / DIRECT QUOTES w/ CITATIONS to support your theme for “The Joy Luck Club.” Example: (Tan 20).

13. How might Jing Ming's mother's experiences in China shape her new life in America.

## “The Red Candle”

### Vocab Heads Up:

- **Betrothed means to be engaged OR to arrange a marriage**
- **Dowry is money or possessions paid to a family in exchange for the right into that family**

1. Before the author tells about the **flashback** she tells one way the American culture and Chinese cultures vary. How are they different? P 49

2. How old was the author when she was betrothed? (p 50)  
How old was she when she finally met her husband? (p 52)
  
3. How did her mom treat her differently after she was betrothed? (p 51)
  
4. How old was the narrator when she had to separate from her family? Where did she go? What incident caused the need for the separation? P 53
  
5. Select two adjectives to describe Tyan-yu (the boy the author was betrothed to) p 55
  
6. What news did the author receive at age 16? (p 56)
  
7. Why did so few people attend the wedding? (p 57)

8. Why is this chapter titled "The Red Candle?" (p 59).  
Explain the significance of the red candle.
  
9. Did the candle stay lit? Was the matchmaker honest?  
Explain (p 59-60)
  
10. Why was Huang Taitai (the mother) so upset w/ Lindo? ( p 61)
  
11. Use your inference skills to determine who got the servant girl pregnant. (p 65) Explain
  
12. List two adjectives (descriptive words) that describe Lindo (the narrator/girl who was forced into marriage)
  
13. List two adjectives that describe Huang Taitai (the mother in law)
  
14. What's the theme of this chapter "The Red Candle?"  
(A theme is a general, universal message or life lesson and is NEVER a single word and are in GENERAL terms)
  
15. Provide two pieces of textual support / DIRECT QUOTES w/ CITATIONS to support your theme. Example:

(Tan 20).