

LESSON PLAN

November 2018

Amy Tan

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MARY ANNING: THE FOSSIL LADY



ADVANCE

Stages	Procedure	Time
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To practice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. identifying main ideas of paragraphs b. making inference based on comprehension of the text c. discussing and responding to content of the text 	
Warmer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher writes the title 'The Joy Luck Club' on the board and asks if they have read this book and if they know what the book is about. 2. Teacher elicits for response. If majority of the students have not read the book before, teacher can play the following video clip to the class: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nYDMp1LdT8 3. Tell students that the book has been made into a movie. 	5 mins
Pre-reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher then asks students what they think the book is about and where Amy Tan got her writing idea from. 2. Teacher elicits for response and asks students what they think they are going to read in the article. 	5 mins
While-Reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher distributes Task 1 and gets students to work with a partner to match the main ideas to the correct paragraphs. 2. Teacher elicits and confirms answers. 3. Next, teacher distributes Task 2. 4. Students continue to work with their partners to make inferences based on the questions in the task. 5. Teacher elicits and confirms answers. 	15 mins
Post-reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next, teacher put students into small groups and distributes Task 3. 2. Teacher gets students to discuss about the questions in task 3. 3. Elicit answers from each group. 	12 mins
Wrap	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher summarises discussion and wraps up lesson. 	3 mins

TASK 1

Read the main ideas below and match each main idea to the correct paragraph.

Paragraph 1	
Paragraph 2	
Paragraph 3 & 4	
Paragraph 5	
Paragraph 6	
Paragraph 7 & 8	
Paragraph 9	
Paragraph 10	
Paragraph 11	
Paragraph 12	
Paragraph 13 & 14	
Paragraph 15	

- A breakthrough with the help of the mother
- The theme Amy Tan embodies through her works
- Amy Tan's determination in novel writing
- The desire to look more Caucasian
- Struggling with difference as a child
- Losing the ability to produce new work
- How the writer came to know about Amy Tan
- High expectations from the mother
- Amy Tan's love for writing
- A deepened self-understanding through Amy Tan's work
- The success of Amy Tan's work
- Amy Tan's struggles within the family

TASK 2

What can you infer from these statements? Select the best inference from the list provided.

1. Unlike the usual novels I read that were clichés, Tan’s works were unique because they explored the very thing I had been exploring myself – my identity.

- a) Amy Tan’s work has helped the writer to better understand herself.
- b) Amy Tan’s work is different from other novels because it tells the story of the writer.
- c) Amy Tan’s work explores different ideas unlike other novels that lack original thought.
- d) Amy Tan’s work is not boring because it is not cliché like most novels.

2. As a child, Tan had always felt alone and odd as she did not belong to the typical American society. The main source of this dissatisfaction sprouted from her Asian appearance and heritage compared to her American counterparts.

- a) Amy Tan had difficulty fitting in to the American society because others thought she was different.
- b) Amy Tan had difficulty fitting in to the American society as she felt ashamed of her own heritage.
- c) Amy Tan had difficulty fitting in to the American society due to her strange and introverted behaviour.
- d) Amy Tan had difficulty fitting in to the American society mainly due to her own uncertainty and confusion.

3. Tan however, took the road less travelled and in fact, feared by many of us. She bravely rebelled and did what she wanted instead although not right away. She became a writer.

- a) Many people don’t want to be a writer as it is a long career path and requires a lot of courage and patience.
- b) Many people don’t want to be a writer partly because it is not easy to become popular and make a living.
- c) To become a writer, one needs to be rebellious and stubborn like Amy Tan.
- d) To become a writer, one needs to travel to places that not many people want to go to.

4. “When my mother read *The Joy Luck Club*,” Tan said, “she was always complaining to me how she had to tell her friends that, no, she was not the mother or any of the mothers in the book ... So she came to me one day and she said, ‘Next book, tell my true story.’”

- a) Amy Tan’s mother disagreed with how a Chinese mother was being portrayed in *The Joy Luck Club*.
- b) Amy Tan’s mother discovered that her daughter didn’t write about the truth in her novel.
- c) Amy Tan’s mother believed she could tell a better story than her daughter.
- d) Amy Tan’s mother was ashamed of how her daughter wrote about her in *The Joy Luck Club*.

5. Personally, reading Tan’s work has always been an eye-opener and a mirror for me to reflect upon my life – the values, traditions and peculiarity of it.

- a) Amy Tan’s work has helped the writer to see her own past better.
- b) Amy Tan’s work has helped the writer to learn about her culture and tradition.
- c) Amy Tan’s work has helped the writer to know and love her heritage better.
- d) Amy Tan’s work has helped the writer to appreciate and love her own life.

TASK 3

Discuss the questions below in your group and present your opinions to the class.

“Unlike the usual novels I read that were clichés, Tan’s works were unique because they explored the very thing I had been exploring myself – my identity.”

“As a Chinese person growing up in Malaysia, I understand the struggles that the protagonists go through in Tan’s works. ... Cheers to Tan for helping me with my identity crisis when I was a young adult.”

The writer of the article had her own identity crisis and she could understand the struggles that the protagonists go through in Amy Tan’s works.

In your opinion,

1. what kind of identity crisis would the writer face?
2. what kind of struggles did the writer have to go through?
3. how can a person resolve an identity crisis?

ANSWERS

Task 1

Paragraph 1	How the writer came to know about Amy Tan
Paragraph 2	The theme Amy Tan embodies through her works
Paragraph 3 & 4	Struggling with difference as a child
Paragraph 5	The desire to look more Caucasian
Paragraph 6	High expectations from the mother
Paragraph 7 & 8	Amy Tan’s love for writing
Paragraph 9	Amy Tan’s struggles within the family
Paragraph 10	Amy Tan’s determination in novel writing
Paragraph 11	The success of Amy Tan’s work
Paragraph 12	Losing the ability to produce new work
Paragraph 13 & 14	A breakthrough with the help of the mother
Paragraph 15	A deepened self-understanding through Amy Tan’s work

Task 2

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. a
5. c

Task 3

(Students’ answers may vary – get students to share and discuss answers in class)