

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

The Big Read: Amy Tan
Video Notes

1. According to Tan, where is the best place to start a story?
2. How did Amy's childhood impact her storytelling career?
3. What impact did moving often have on Amy Tan's childhood?
4. What book made Tan feel really grown up as a child?
5. What was significant about *Jane Eyre* for Tan?
6. What book was important to Tan as a writer? Why?
7. What was the author's childhood career path? When and how did she decide to change?
8. According to Tan, what is one of the most important parts of a writer's imagination? Why?
9. What is the significance of the words "joy luck"?
10. How is being an artist and being a writer the same thing?

11. Why does Tan write?
12. Why did Tan structure *The Joy Luck Club* book the way she did?
13. What tragedy did Tan's mother experience that she used as a central conflict in her tale?
14. What is the significance of the swan story, the first in *The Joy Luck Club*?
15. Describe Tan's relationship with her mother.
16. When she finished reading *The Joy Luck Club*, what did Amy Tan's mother say to her? Why?
17. What is the book about, according to Tan?
18. What did Tan's mother "believe in" (be specific)? To what were all of her beliefs connected?
19. Comment on the following statement: "Imagination is the closest thing we have to compassion. We certainly need a lot of compassion in this world."
20. Comment on the following statement: "You have a way of looking at the world that's different from anybody else."