

## Is that a symbol? Sure it is.

*“Reading is an event of the imagination; our creativity, our inventiveness, encounters that of the writer, and in that meeting we puzzle out what she means, what we understand her to mean. A reader’s imagination is the act of one creative intelligence engaging another.”*

~Dr. Thomas Foster

### *The Joy Luck Club Chapter 1*

*Respond to ONE of the following prompts below in your journal.*

1. Characters are often revealed through the **symbols** that are associated with them. In a well-written paragraph, choose a character from chapter 1, “The Joy Luck Club,” and analyze how the reader’s impression of that character is colored by the symbolic objects and actions associated with him or her. Cite at least one piece of evidence from the novel in your analysis.
2. A parable is a story or narrative designed to reveal, **symbolically**, a moral lesson or general truth. In a well-written paragraph, analyze the impact of Tan’s use of the swan parable as an introduction for chapter 1, “The Joy Luck Club.” How do the two selections work together to reveal, symbolically, a moral lesson or general truth? Cite at least one piece of evidence from the novel in your analysis.