



[The Joy Luck Club](#), by Amy Tan

In A Nutshell

Partly inspired by Amy Tan's own relationship to her mother, *The Joy Luck Club*, Tan's debut novel, was published in 1989. It tells the stories of four immigrant women from China – their hopes, fears, and tragic pasts – as well as the stories of their four American-born daughters. This mother-daughter story encompasses numerous universal themes, such as family, hope, love, sacrifice, strength, and wishes for a better life.

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Big Picture Study Questions

- 1 Which generation of women do you like better? Why? Which generation is stronger?
- 2 What do you think of the parenting in this novel? Which mother do you like best?
- 3 How is America portrayed? Americans?

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