

Response to Literature Essay

A Big Lesson

<p>The autobiographical narrative, "Fish Cheeks," by Amy Tan, is about a fourteen-year-old girl named Amy who lives in America. The problem Amy experiences is that she is ashamed of her family. Amy wishes that she and her family were more American so she could fit in. She has a crush on a boy named Robert, and is terrified when she finds out that his family is invited to her Chinese Christmas Eve dinner. In the <i>begining</i> of the story, Amy is embarrassed of her heritage, but she eventually realizes how her parents are trying to help her, and she ends up feeling proud to be Chinese.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Circle the author's name and the story title.2. Underline the main character's name.3. Put a squiggly line underneath the story's setting.4. Put a box around the summary statement – where the writer gives us background information about the story and its conflict.5. Highlight (or double-underline) the thesis statement.6. Spell "begining" correctly in the space below.7. What is the purpose of the introduction in the response to literature essay?
<p>At first, Amy wishes that she wasn't Chinese. To begin with, Amy wanted to go out with a blond American boy named Robert. However, Amy believes that he won't like her because her Chinese heritage makes her different. She also prays to have a slim, American nose because she thinks that this will help her to fit in.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Underline the topic sentence.9. Number the evidence 1, 2, 3.10. Circle the transitional words and phrases.
<p>Soon, Amy finds out that her parents had invited Robert's family over for her traditional, Chinese Christmas Eve dinner. Amy is mortified and even cries when she thinks of how Robert will react to her strange Chinese customs. When Amy walks in the kitchen to see her mother preparing strange food such as "fleshy prawns" and "tofu, which looked like stacked wedges of rubbery white sponges," Amy can't believe her eyes.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Circle transitional words and phrases.12. Put parentheses around words and phrases in this paragraph that describe how Amy <i>feels</i> about what's happening in this event.

<p>During dinner, Amy is very embarrassed. Her relatives reach over each other and grab the plates of food, while Robert's family sits politely waiting their turn. As her relatives lick their chopsticks and dig them back into the food, as Amy slinks down in her chair in astonishment. Amy's mother gives her a skirt at the end to make up for this. At the end of the meal, Amy's father belches loudly to show his appreciation towards the cook. Robert's father was able to force out a small burp to please him. Amy felt totally humiliated.</p>	<p>13. What character trait is being discussed in this paragraph?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>14. Underline the evidence from the text that shows us why Amy feels embarrassed.</p> <p>15. Write the transitional words and phrases that are being used.</p> <p>16. Cross out the sentence that is off-topic.</p>
<p>Although nothing could change what happened at dinner that evening, in the end, Amy's mother gives her two gifts that would eventually become significant to Amy. First, her mother gives her a beige American skirt. This helps Amy to see, years later, that her mother did understand Amy's yearning to be more American. Secondly, Amy's mother tells Amy that she can be an American on the outside, but she will always have to be Chinese at heart. Also, Amy's mother agrees to let her have plastic surgery to fix her nose in order to make it more "American-looking." It isn't until Amy grows older that she begins to understand her mother's love and lessons. After all, she had made all of her favorite foods for dinner.</p>	<p>17. Circle the transitional words in this paragraph.</p> <p>18. What does Amy's mother do that shows Amy that she understands her?</p> <p>19. Cross out the sentence that is NA (not accurate.)</p> <p>20. There are two vague pronouns in the last sentence of this paragraph. Cross them out and replace them so we know who is being referred to.</p>
<p>Even though in the beginning Amy is ashamed about being Chinese, she learns to appreciate her heritage. Throughout the story, Amy learns that even though her family may have a few strange points here and there, they still deserve her full respect. Although Amy never goes out with Robert, she realizes that changing who you are to impress others isn't really worth it. By the time she is an adult, she understands that everyone is unique and different. Amy may have wanted to look American, but she will always stay true to her Chinese heritage.</p>	<p>21. Highlight the restatement of the thesis.</p> <p>22. Underline the part where the writer summarizes the theme of the story.</p> <p>23. What is the purpose of the concluding paragraph?</p> <p>24. What is the purpose of a response to literature essay?</p>