**The Joy Luck Club
Teacher's Guide - Schedule / Lesson Plans**

This is a suggested teaching schedule for a 10 day class study of Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*. Lesson plans and handouts can be downloaded individually by clicking on the name of the file in the schedule below. [Adobe Acrobat Reader](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html) is required to view these files.

**Audio Guide CDs are available only for the communities participating in The Big Read.** If your community is participating, contact the [lead community organization](http://www.neabigread.org/communities.php) to receive a free Audio Guide CD. Non-participating communities can [listen to the full audio online.](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/radioshow.php)

Day One

**FOCUS: Biography**[Day One Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson01.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Listen to The Big Read CD, Track One. Read Reader's Guide essays, "Introduction to the Novel," "Amy Tan (b. 1952)," and "World War II and Sanfrancisco's Chinatown," [Handout One](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_handout01.pdf) [PDF], and [Handout Two](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_handout02.pdf) [PDF]. Write a short story.
**Homework:** Read the first two chapters (pp. 17-48).

Day Two

**FOCUS: Culture and History**[Day Two Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson02.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Create a virtual tour of San Francisco. Analyze the prologue "Swan Story."
**Homework:** Read "Amy Tan's Style and Her Other Works" in the Reader's Guide. Finish the section "Feathers from a Thousand Li Away" (pp. 49-83).

Day Three

**FOCUS: Narrative and Point of View**[Day Three Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson03.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Explain Tan's use of interlocking narration. Describe and evaluate one character's perspective.
**Homework:** Read the next two chapters (pp. 87-115).

Day Four

**FOCUS: Characters**[Day Four Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson04.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Explain protagonist and antagonist. Introduce foil. Write a story that captures a family member.
**Homework:** Finish the section "The Twenty-Six Malignant Gates" (pp. 116-144).

Day Five

**FOCUS: Figurative Language**
[Day Five Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson05.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Document figurative language in assigned chapters. Create metaphors and similies.
**Homework:** Read the next two chapters (pp. 147-184).

Day Six

**FOCUS: Symbols**
[Day Six Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson06.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Analyze the symbols of book, section, and chapter titles. Explore the Chinese concept of "ghost."
**Homework:** Finish the section "American Translation" (pp. 185-209).

Day Seven
 **FOCUS: Character Development**
[Day Seven Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson07.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Role-play mothers and daughters. Explore cultural values through profession and marriage.
**Homework:** Read the next two chapters (pp. 213-252).

Day Eight

**FOCUS: The Plot Unfolds**
[Day Eight Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson08.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Chart a time line of the novel. Explore plot through Tan's choice of self-contained stories.
**Homework:** Finish the novel.

Day Nine

**FOCUS: Themes of the Novel**
[Day Nine Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson09.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Develop an interpretation based on a theme: fate, memory, or transformation.
**Homework:** Write outlines and begin essays.

Day Ten

**FOCUS: What Makes a Great Book?**
[Day Ten Lesson Plan](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_lesson10.pdf) [PDF]
**Activities:** Explore the qualities of a great novel and the voice of a generation. Examine qualities that make Tan’s novel successful. Have students review each other's paper outlines or drafts.
**Homework:** Essays due next class period.

HANDOUTS

Handout One: [From China to Gold Mountain](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_handout01.pdf) [PDF]
Handout Two: [A Chinese Glossary](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_handout02.pdf) [PDF]
Handout Three: [Ghosts](http://www.neabigread.org/books/joyluckclub/teachers/joyluck_handout03.pdf) [PDF]