

**RIISING 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE/AMERICAN LITERATURE – HONORS**  
**SUMMER READING**  
**AND**  
**SUMMER JOURNAL**

Dear Student:

Welcome to 11<sup>th</sup> American Literature – Honors. Please read the information contained in this letter as it explains the reading and journal assignment for the summer.

One of the themes we will explore this year will be immigrant experience. Below are listed the titles of the two works to be read over the summer:

- Chang-Rae Lee *Native Speaker*
- Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*

These works are available in hardback and paperback, and may be available online or on Kindle. You may prefer hard copies since with those, you will be able to highlight and annotate. In addition to reading these three works, you will keep a guided response journal. The completed journal is due the first day of the new school year and will not be accepted late. It will be assessed for a grade.

**JOURNAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONTENT**

The journal should be formatted according to the following criteria:

- Either a spiral notebook of 8 ½ X 11 paper or, on the same sized loose-leaf paper secured in a binder, ringed or tabbed (no loose pages or pages stapled at the top);
- Either a typed copy or handwritten. If handwritten, it should be completed in BLACK ink.

The journal should contain the following contents for **EACH** of the two works:

1. Title, author, and original date of publication at the top of the first page;
2. Three paragraphs, each on a different character, describing the traits of the characters (physical & nonphysical);
3. Two quotations that address significant issues/themes/ideas (NOT plot details) and a paragraph (6 sentences) explanation for each quotation;

4. An additional quotation that you feel makes a bold statement; then write a **one page** response in which you explain why you agree or disagree with this statement;
5. At least a **one page** response that addresses the following topic:

Both novels address conflicts between immigrant parents and first generation Americans. Explain the source of these conflicts and how such conflicts lead the characters to a greater appreciation of their heritage and their own identities.

(No credit will be given to responses that are merely plot summary [i.e., what happened], though plot should be used discreetly to support ideas.)

This assignment is a journal, so you may be slightly informal in your discussions, but never should you skimp on ideas and insights. Make sure your writing is clear and interesting

Have a great summer! I hope you enjoy both of these works.

“Now, voyager,  
Sail thou forth to seek and find.”

-Walt Whitman