***The Joy Luck Club* Close Reading #2**

**Excerpted from Chapter 1 “**Twenty-six Malignant Gates**”**

**Focus:**

*Review the following questions, then read the passage. As you read, annotate the text with the questions in mind. Then come back up here and write thoughtful responses to these questions.*

**Questions:**

1. **What do the mother’s concerns suggest about her perceived role in her daughter’s life? What does the daughter’s reaction suggest about her relationship with her mother?**
2. **Compare and contrast the views that the mother and daughter hold in regards to the weight of Chinese traditions, exemplified by the book “The Twenty-Six Malignant Gates.”**
3. **Explain how irony is used at the end of the passage.**
4. **What could the daughter’s “hurry to get away” symbolize?**
5. **Write a statement that reflects the theme of the passage. Where does this theme begin to emerge? Where is this theme solidified? Support your answer with details from the text.**

**“The Twenty-six Malignant Gates”**

"Do not ride your bicycle around the corner," the mother had told the daughter when she was seven.

"Why not! " protested the girl.

"Because then I cannot see you and you will fall down and cry and I will not hear you. "

"How do you know I'll fall? " whined the girl.

"It is in a book, The Twenty-Six Malignant Gates, all the bad things that can happen to you outside the protection of this house. "

"I don't believe you. Let me see the book. "

"It is written in Chinese. You cannot understand it. That is why you must listen to me. "

"What are they, then? " the girl demanded. "Tell me the twenty-six bad things. "

But the mother sat knitting in silence.

"What twenty-six! " shouted the girl.

The mother still did not answer her.

"You can't tell me because you don't know! You don't know anything! " And the girl ran outside, jumped on her bicycle, and in her hurry to get away, she fell before she even reached the corner.

**Based on your analysis of the prologue to the second section of *The Joy Luck Club,* how do you think the relationships between the mothers and daughters of the remaining families with compare to those you have already read?**

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