***The Joy Luck Club* Close Reading #3**

**Excerpted from Chapter 1 “**American Translation**”**

**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 is the symbolic meaning of the mirrored armoire in the story? Support your answer with details from the text.**
2. **What is the effect of the author’s excessive use of “haule” in the selection?**
3. **What does the daughter’s reaction to her mother’s warning reveal about their relationship? What assumptions can the reader make about the daughter? Support your answer with details from the text.**
4. **In the text, the author, uses the phrase “twice-used ” to describe the mother’s Macy’s bag? How does the author’s choice of words show the contrast between the lifestyle of the daughter and mother? Support your answer with details from the text.**
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.**

“American Translation”

"Wah! " cried the mother upon seeing the mirrored armoire in the master suite of her daughter's new condominium. "You cannot put mirrors at the foot of the bed. All your marriage happiness will bounce back and turn the opposite way. "

"Well, that's the only place it fits, so that's where it stays, " said the daughter, irritated that her mother saw bad omens in everything. She had heard these warnings all her life.

The mother frowned, reaching into her twice-used Macy's bag. "Hunh, lucky I can fix it for you, then. " And she pulled out the gilt-edged mirror she had bought at the Price Club last week. It was her housewarming present. She leaned it against the headboard, on top of the two pillows.

"You hang it here, " said the mother, pointing to the wall above. "This mirror sees that mirror-haule! -multiply your peach-blossom luck. "

"What is peach-blossom luck? "

The mother smiled, mischief in her eyes. "It is in here, " she said, pointing to the mirror. "Look inside. Tell me, am I not right? In this mirror is my future grandchild, already sitting on my lap next spring. "

And the daughter looked-and haule! There it was: her own reflection looking back at her.