**Who’s Who--Jongs**

***Directions:*** *Fill in the following chart. Be descriptive in your identifications; do not merely put family relationships. Under “Traits,” for the starred names, give as many traits as possible. For the others, give the predominant trait if there is one, but also tell the character’s purpose in the book.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **People** | **Identification** | **Traits or Purpose** |
| \*\*\*Lindo |  |  |
| \*\*\*Waverly (Meimei) |  |  |
| \*\*\*Rich Schields  |  |  |
| \*\*\*Tyan-yu |  |  |
| Lindo’s mother |  |  |
| Lau Po |  |  |
| Shoshana |  |  |
| Marvin Chen |  |  |
| Tin Jong |  |  |
| Winston and Vincent |  |  |
| Huang Taitai |  |  |
| **Place** | **Who lived here?** |
| Taiyuan-- “Bing” (Yangku) |  |

**Lindo**

***Directions:*** *Answer the following.*

**Part A: In China**

Why does Lindo’s mother treat her as if she is a visitor to the house?

Tyan-yu is given his real name at a red-egg ceremony. What red items are involved in his marriage to Lindo? What might red represent to the Chinese?

How does Lindo manipulate her future on her wedding night?

Why doesn’t Lindo tell her mother-in-law of Tyan-yu’s disinterest?

Why does Lindo envy the servant girl?

How does she prove to Huang Taitai that her supposed dream is real?

What reward does Lindo get?

**Part B: In America**

What is the significance of her present-day bracelets?

She says she sacrificed her life when she married Tyan-yu. Later she says she must sacrifice either her American or Chinese face when she shows the other. What does she mean by *sacrifice*?

Her mother says her straight nose was good: “a girl with a crooked nose is bound for misfortune.” In America she smashes her nose. Does she suffer misfortune? Give proof.

What is her major goal in America? Why?

What point about translations is made in the reading aloud of the fortunes in the cookies?

How does Lindo start trouble in order to make Tim Jong propose?

She named her daughter Waverly so Waverly could eventually leave Waverly Place and “take a piece of me with you.” What does this mean?

What does she say makes up Chinese character?

Why does she object to the chess set as a gift? What does her objection reveal about her?

Reread her comments on American rules in “Rules of the Game.” What point does she make? How does she apply her experience?

How do you explain her actions that embarrass and anger her daughter?

When Waverly returns home after running away, her mother says triumphantly (in Waverly’s imagination), “Strongest wind cannot be seen.” What does this mean?

Lindo ignores Waverly when she quits practicing and is angry when she is ready to start again. She warns, “It is no so easy anymore.” What does this mean?

What does Lindo do concerning Waverly’s friends that bothers her immensely?

What is she waiting for the entire time?

Why does she go to Mr. Rory? What does the last sentence of her final story reveal?

What piece of jewelry does her mother give Lindo?

**Waverly**

***Directions:*** *Answer the following.*

**Part A: As a child**

Waverly studies the rules, the opening moves, and everything connected with chess, but what really makes her successful?

What does Waverly’s description of her thoughts and actions at the annual Christmas party reveal about her character?

In what ways does her gift help her in chess? How does it figuratively help her?

What gift does her mother give her for luck?

What about her mother irritates her?

When she returns home after running from her mother, she sees on the dinner table the remains of a fish, “its fleshy head still connected to bones swimming upstream in vain escape.” Explain the significance of this image.

Explain the “dream” Waverly has when she goes into her room.

When she is ten years old, Waverly tries to punish her mother by quitting chess for a few days. Who wins this encounter? In what way?

After Waverly recovers from the chicken pox, how does her mother change?

What change occurs in Waverly’s playing?

What in her character defeats her?

**Part B: As an adult**

Why does Waverly take her mother to her apartment?

Name several nerves her mother hits after Waverly is an adult.

After her mother points out Marvin’s faults, what happens to Waverly’s feelings for him?

Why does she fear telling her mother about her engagement to Rich?

The day after the disastrous dinner, Waverly goes to her mother’s house to tell her off. What stops her?

After she tells her mother of the approaching marriage and tells her she thinks Lindo hates Rich, her mother is greatly offended. Waverly thinks, “Oh, her strength! her weakness!--both pulling me apart. My mind was flying one way, my heart another.” Explain both sentences.

According to her mother, what good quality does she inherit from the Sun family?

For what does Waverly realize she has been fighting?

Are these barriers lowered? Give proof.

Several times in the two Waverly stories black and white imagery is used. Find the images and explain their meaning.

**Mothers and Daughters**

***Directions:*** *Discuss the two types of conflicts shown in the stories. Tell when and how the conflicts arise and what the resolution is, if any.*

Mother versus daughter (Huang Taitai and Lindo, Lindo and Waverly)

China (East) versus America (West)

Lindo wants her children to have a double face, American circumstances and Chinese character, but she realizes that the two do not mix. Read her description of Chinese character at the beginning of “Double Face.” Using examples from the stories, show how Waverly does *not* learn these things.

Is Lindo responsible for Waverly’s loss of chess ability? Why or why not?

When Lindo is at Mr. Rory’s, at her daughter’s request, the two women compare their faces. Lindo sees her daughter’s nose as crooked like her own. Why does she see it that way? Waverly says they are two-faced; Lindo thinks about her American and her Chinese faces and what she has lost and received by gaining an American face. Discuss this two-sidedness as shown in their stories.

In chess terms, what piece is Lindo? Waverly? Why?

How does Waverly feel about her own daughter?

**Marriages and Affairs**

***Directions:*** *Both Lindo and Waverly have had one relatively unpleasant marriage before their current marriage or affair. Respond to the following regarding the men involved.*

**Tyan-yu**

Occupation:

Age at marriage:

Happiness of marriage:

**Tin Jong**

Occupation:

Reason for proposal:

Happiness of marriage:

**Marvin Chen**

Occupation:

Intelligence:

Weaknesses:

**Rich Schields:**

Occupation:

Happiness of relationship:

Threat to happiness

Would you consider Lindo’s premarital and marital life with Tyan-yu tragic in any sense? Explain.