

Amy Tan's "Rules of the Game"

Questions: Write one to two sentences. When possible provide details from the text and specific page numbers to support your answers.

1. What useful information did MeiMei's mother teach her when she was six years old? How did she learn it?

On page 112, her mother taught her invisible strength. She learned this lesson when she wanted salted plums and her mother told her to "bite back her tongue". She learned that she must not protest when she could not have things she wanted.

2. When does MeiMei first become interested in chess? Through what means does she learn to play the game?

3. As a first-generation Chinese immigrant, what challenges does the mother face? Explain her attitude toward "American Rules"

4. What special treatment does MeiMei receive in her home?

5. What conflict arises then the mother and daughter go shopping?

6. Explain how MeiMei applies her mother's strategy to "winning arguments, respect for others andchess games"

7. In your opinion, why does the narrator enjoy chess so much? Support you answer with evidence from the story.

8. How does MeiMei trick her mother into letting her play in her first chess tournament?

9. How does the mother feel about her daughter's success? How can you tell?

10. What are MeiMei and her mother really arguing about when they are shopping? Explain.

11. Do you think the mother is justified in being angry? Is MeiMei? Support your opinion with examples from the story.

12. At the end of the story, MeiMei considers her "next move." What move would you make if you were MeiMei? What move do you think she will make?

13. How is MeiMei's relationship with her mother like a game of chess?

14. At the Christmas party, MeiMei's mother acts very grateful for the chess set. However, when they get home she tells Vincent to throw the set away. What message is the author trying to convey about the mother? Explain.

15. What do you think is Lau Po's motivation for teaching all of his knowledge about chess to MeiMei? Explain.