

# Writing Strategy for Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*

**Purpose:** Students will use the double-entry journal to help them to enhance their thoughts and connections to the book by elucidating them and drawing them out through writing and interaction with the text. This strategy is intended to be used as a during reading strategy.

**Context:** This strategy can be used at any point in the novel, for any length of time. The teacher can use it for only one or two chapters to help students to really focus on the events and their own thoughts for that particular chapter, or the double-entry journal can be introduced at the very beginning of study and used throughout the entire novel. It really depends on the depth and quality of entries the teacher wants her students to develop. For the purposes of this example, only one chapter, "Rice Husband", located midway through the novel, is used.

**Directions:**

1. The teacher will pass out 3-4 pages of the worksheet for the double-entry journal (attached). One column is labeled "Quotes," the other, "Reflections".
2. The teacher will instruct students to look for quotes from the chapter that seem important to the novel or to their own lives. They will need to collect a predetermined amount of quotes per chapter—probably around 7-15. The student will copy down the quotes, cite the page number they found it on, and write that all in the left hand column.
3. On the right-hand column of the page, students will write down their reflections and personal connections to the quote on the corresponding lines to each quote.
4. The teacher will model one or two quotes on an overhead before letting the students read the chapter and work on their own double-entry journals.



**Double-Entry Journal for *The Joy Luck Club***

<b>My Quotes</b>	<b>My Reflections</b>

**Double-Entry Journal for *The Joy Luck Club*  
“Rice Husband”**

<b>Quotes</b>	<b>Reflections</b>
<p>p. 161 “To this day, I believe my mother has the mysterious ability to see things before they happen.”</p> <p>p. 168 “Isn’t hate merely the result of wounded love?”</p>	<p>Sometimes I really do think my mom knows what’s going to happen before they really do, especially if it has something to do with my life. I’m not sure if it’s just the wisdom that she’s gained because she’s lived a long life, or if she knows me so well that I’m absolutely predictable to her, or if it’s just some kind of mother’s instinct. Sometimes it really bothers me because she predicts a little too honestly...she’ll tell the good and the bad, sometimes accompanied with unwanted (but usually right) advice.</p> <p>It seems that love and hate are two of the deepest emotions we feel, and it’s funny that such opposites can be so closely linked. The only person I’ve ever felt I’ve hated is also the one person that I really loved. And on a smaller scale, the only people that are capable of causing really bitter feelings in my heart are the ones that I truly care about. To have someone that close to heart and soul also leaves them a spot to</p>

