

To: Rising Sophomores  
From: Mr. Geron Spray  
Re: Summer Reading

Greetings.

I am excited to be your sophomore English teacher when we return in August. I enjoyed teaching your group during your freshman year, and am anxious to see what we can accomplish with another year together.

It would be nice if we could completely turn our backs on school over the summer, but alas, our work is never done. So, this summer, you'll need to read *The Joy Luck Club*, by Amy Tan.

*The Joy Luck Club* is a very popular book, and you can easily find copies at the public library or online retailers like Amazon. If you do not wish to purchase a copy of the novel, several copies will be available, in the front office, to loan to students. Contact the front office about a good time to come pick up a copy.

As you read, please keep your eye out for the following themes:

1. Mother-daughter relationships
2. Storytelling
3. Communication and language
4. Fate and autonomy

I suggest you get four different colors of highlighters, and assign one color to each theme. When you see evidence of the "storytelling" theme, for example, highlight it in yellow, or when you see evidence of the "fate and autonomy" theme, highlight it in blue. If you have a book that does not belong to you or you do not wish to highlight, use loose-leaf paper to create a separate note page for each theme, and write a quick note when and where you identify that theme. Keeping track of the themes will make writing about them and discussing them much easier.

Please make sure you read the novel. Students start the year already behind when they come back to school in August having not completed their summer reading

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [gspray@nmschoolforthearts.org](mailto:gspray@nmschoolforthearts.org).

Sincerely,

Geron J. Spray