Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Assignments are due according to the schedule distributed in class. If you have any questions, please speak with the instructor.

Chapter 1 – The Chinese Mother

1. What were the girls never allowed to do?
2. How does she differentiate between “Western” and “Chinese”?
3. List three things that “the Chinese mother believes” and respond with your opinion of each.

Chapter 2 – Sophia

1. What are two things that Chinese parents have over their Western counterparts? Do you agree?
2. Describe Sophia.

Chapter 3 – Louisa

1. Describe the face-off between Louisa and Amy.

Chapter 4 – The Chuas

1. What influences did Amy’s parents provide?
2. Amy stated that “America changes people.” What was she talking about?
3. “My daughters don’t feel like outsiders in America. I sometimes still do. But for me, that is less a burden than a privilege.” What do you think Amy means by this?

Chapter 5 – On Generational Decline

1. What is one of Amy’s greatest fears?
2. Briefly describe the pattern she declines.
3. What were the elements of Amy’s “anti-decline campaign”?

Chapter 6 – The Virtuous Circle

1. What were the key features of the Suzuki method?
2. Describe the virtuous circle?

Chapter 7 – Tiger Luck

1. Where did Amy struggle?

Chapter 8 – Lulu’s Instrument

1. How did Lulu challenge Amy at the pre-school interview?
2. What was the new instrument for Lulu? Why?

Chapter 9 – The Violin

1. What two points did Amy make defending parental favoritism?
2. Why was Mr. Shurgart successful where Amy was not?
3. What was the positive byproduct of Amy’s extreme parenting?

Chapter 10 – Teeth Marks and Bubbles

1. What are the three big differences between the Chinese and Western parental mind-sets?
2. What were some differences between Amy’s parents and Jed’s parents?
3. Why did Amy and Jed end up adopting the Chinese parenting model?

Chapter 11 – “The Little White Donkey”

1. Explain the interaction between Jed and Amy when Lulu couldn’t “get” The Little White Donkey?

Chapter 12 – The Cadenza

1. Why was there no pet in the household?
2. What was the expectation regarding extra credit?
3. Why was “the cadenza” so important? What did Amy promise if Lulu did it really well?

Chapter 13 – Coco

1. How did Amy apply Chinese parenting to Coco? What was the response from Jed and the girls? What ended up happening?

Chapter 14 – London, Athens, Barcelona, Bombay

1. What did the girls have to do on vacation? How did Amy make that happen?

Chapter 15 – Popo

1. Who was Popo?
2. How did Florence and Amy differ? Provide a number of examples.

Chapter 16 – The Birthday Card

1. What did Amy do in response to the original birthday cards from the girls? Why?
2. How did Sophia challenge Amy when she asked her to write a short speech for Popo’s funeral?

Chapter 17 – Caravan to Chautauqua

1. What was the life changing conversation with Peter?
2. What challenges existed for the trip to the Chautauqua Institution?

Chapter 18 – The Swimming Hole

1. How did the lesson with Mrs. Vamos go? Did Lulu practice after it? Explain.

Chapter 19 – How You Get to Carnegie Hall

1. How did Amy and Jed feel about “expertise”?
2. What was hard about recording the pieces for Sophia?

Chapter 20 – How You Get to Carnegie Hall, Part 2

1. While waiting to hear back about Sophia, what were Amy’s plans for Lulu?

Chapter 21 – The Debut and the Audition

1. What were the outcomes of the “debut” and the “audition”?

Chapter 22 – Blowout in Budapest

1. When is the Chinese parent approach the weakest?
2. What’s the answer to the “Who are you doing this for?” question?
3. Why was the experience with Lulu and Mrs. Kazinczy important for Lulu and Amy?

Chapter 23 – Pushkin

1. What are the two huge differences between Chinese parenting and dograising?
2. Why do you think Amy treated her graduate students the opposite of her daughters?
3. Why couldn’t Amy trust the girls to d this if she could trust the dogs?

Chapter 24 – Rebellion

1. How did Lulu start rebelling?
2. How did Lulu go “public with her insurgency”?

Chapter 25 – Darkness

1. What had happened to Katrin?

Chapter 26 – Rebellion, Part 2

1. When did Amy feel like she had lost?
2. How had Amy’s relationship with Lulu changed by this point?
3. Why was the Bat Mitvah a point of conflict?

Chapter 27 – Katrin

1. What is the update regarding Katrin?

Chapter 28 – The Sack of Rice

1. What was Sophia’s response to Amy when she got angry over the spilled rice?

Chapter 29 – Despair

1. How was Katrin’s condition?

Chapter 30 – “Hebrew Melody”

1. Did Lulu play “Hebrew Melody”? Why do you think that was?

Chapter 31 – Red Square

1. What happened in Red Square?

Chapter 32 – The Symbol

1. How was the violin a positive and negative symbol?

Chapter 33 – Going West

1. What was the irony regarding Amy’s father?
2. What changes were made regarding Lulu’s schedule?

Chapter 34 – The Ending

1. How had the Chinese parenting model impacted tennis?
2. How was Lulu doing with tennis?

Chapter 35 – Coda

1. How did the family contribute to the book?