



EduVision

Year 3 English

Term 1, Week Seven

Student Name: _____

Activity One

Skill focus: **Vocabulary**

Word	Part of speech	Definition
strategy	noun	a carefully developed plan or method for achieving a goal
imparted	verb	make known; share
specialising	verb	concentrate on and become expert in a particular subject or skill; OR confine oneself to providing a particular product or service
pungent	adj	having a sharply strong taste or smell
doomed	adj/verb	likely to have an unfortunate and inescapable outcome

Using our new vocabulary in sentences

Skill focus: Idiom Inference



Activity Two

Skill focus: Reading Comprehension and Language Analysis

“Rules of The Game” (part 1) by Amy Tan

¹ I was six when my mother taught me the art of invisible strength. It was a strategy for winning arguments, respect from others, and eventually, though neither of us knew it at the time, chess games.

² "Bite back your tongue," scolded my mother when I cried loudly, yanking her hand toward the store that sold bags of salted plums. At home, she said, "Wise guy, he not go against wind. In Chinese we say, Come from South, blow with wind—*poom!*—North will follow. Strongest wind cannot be seen."

³ The next week I bit back my tongue as we entered the store with the forbidden candies. When my mother finished her shopping, she quietly plucked a small bag of plums from the rack and put it on the counter with the rest of the items.

⁴ My mother imparted her daily truths so she could help my older brothers and me rise above our circumstances. We lived in San Francisco's Chinatown. Like most of the other Chinese children who played in the back alleys of restaurants and curio shops, I didn't think we were poor. My bowl was always full, three five-course meals every day, beginning with a soup of mysterious things I didn't want to know the names of.

⁵ We lived on Waverly Place, in a warm, clean, two-bedroom flat that sat above a small Chinese bakery specializing in steamed pastries and dim sum. In the early morning, when the alley was still quiet, I could smell fragrant red beans as they

were cooked down to a pasty sweetness. By daybreak, our flat was heavy with the odor of fried sesame balls and sweet curried chicken crescents. From my bed, I would listen as my father got ready for work, then locked the door behind him, one-two-three clicks.

⁶ At the end of our two-block alley was a small sandlot playground with swings and slides well-shined down the middle with use. The play area was bordered by wood-slat benches where old-country people sat cracking roasted watermelon seeds with their golden teeth and scattering the husks to an impatient gathering of gurgling pigeons. The best playground, however, was the dark alley itself. It was crammed with daily mysteries and adventures. My brothers and I would peer into the medicinal herb shop, watching old Li dole out onto a stiff sheet of white paper the right amount of insect shells, saffron-colored seeds, and pungent leaves for his ailing customers. It was said that he once cured a woman dying of an ancestral curse that had eluded the best of American doctors. Next to the pharmacy was a printer who specialized in gold-embossed wedding invitations and festive red banners.

⁷ Farther down the street was Ping Yuen Fish Market. The front window displayed a tank crowded with doomed fish and turtles struggling to gain footing on the slimy green-tiled sides. A hand-written sign informed tourists, "Within this store, is all for food, not for pet." Inside, the butchers with their bloodstained white smocks deftly gutted the fish while customers cried out their orders and shouted, "Give me your freshest," to which the butchers always protested, "All are freshest." On less crowded market days, we would inspect the crates of live frogs and crabs which we were warned not to poke, boxes of dried cuttlefish, and row upon row of iced prawns, squid, and slippery fish. The sanddabs made me shiver each time; their eyes lay on one flattened side and reminded me of my mother's story of a careless girl who ran into a crowded street and was crushed by a cab. "Was smash flat," reported my mother.

⁸ At the corner of the alley was Hong Sing's, a four-table cafe with a recessed stairwell in front that led to a door marked "Tradesmen." My brothers and I believed the bad people emerged from this door at night. Tourists never went to Hong Sing's, since the menu was printed only in Chinese. A Caucasian man with a big camera once posed me and my playmates in front of the restaurant. He had us move to the side of the picture window so the photo would capture the roasted duck with its head dangling from a juice-covered rope. After he took the picture, I told him he should go into Hong Sing's and eat dinner. When he smiled and asked me what they served, I shouted, "Guts and duck's feet and octopus gizzards!" Then I ran off with my friends, shrieking with laughter as we scampered across the alley and hid in the

entryway grotto of the China Gem Company, my heart pounding with hope that he would chase us.

⁹ My mother named me after the street that we lived on: Waverly Place Jong, my official name for important American documents. But my family called me Meimei, "Little Sister." I was the youngest, the only daughter. Each morning before school, my mother would twist and yank on my thick black hair until she had formed two tightly wound pigtails. One day, as she struggled to weave a hard-toothed comb through my disobedient hair, I had a sly thought. I asked her, "Ma, what is Chinese torture?" My mother shook her head. A bobby pin was wedged between her lips. She wetted her palm and smoothed the hair above my ear, then pushed the pin in so that it nicked sharply against my scalp.

¹⁰ "Who say this word?" she asked without a trace of knowing how wicked I was being. I shrugged my shoulders and said, "Some boy in my class said Chinese people do Chinese torture." "Chinese people do many things," she said simply. "Chinese people do business, do medicine, do painting. Not lazy like American people. We do torture. Best torture."

¹¹ My older brother Vincent was the one who actually got the chess set. We had gone to the annual Christmas party held at the First Chinese Baptist Church at the end of the alley. The missionary ladies had put together a Santa bag of gifts donated by members of another church. None of the gifts had names on them. There were separate sacks for boys and girls of different ages. One of the Chinese parishioners had donned a Santa Claus costume and a stiff paper beard with cotton balls glued to it. I think the only children who thought he was the real thing were too young to know that Santa Claus was not Chinese. When my turn came up, the Santa man asked me how old I was. I thought it was a trick question; I was seven according to the American formula and eight by the Chinese calendar. I said I was born on March 17, 1951. That seemed to satisfy him. He then solemnly asked if I had been a very, very good girl this year and did I believe in Jesus Christ and obey my parents. I knew the only answer to that. I nodded back with equal solemnity.

¹² Having watched the older children opening their gifts, I already knew that the big gifts were not necessarily the nicest ones. One girl my age got a large coloring book of biblical characters, while a less greedy girl who selected a smaller box received a glass vial of lavender toilet water. The sound of the box was also important. A ten-year-old boy had chosen a box that jangled when he shook it. It was a tin globe of the world with a slit for inserting money. He must have thought it was full of dimes and nickels, because when he saw that it had just ten pennies, his face fell with such

undisguised disappointment that his mother slapped the side of his head and led him out of the church hall, apologizing to the crowd for her son who had such bad manners he couldn't appreciate such a fine gift.

¹³ As I peered into the sack, I quickly fingered the remaining presents, testing their weight, imagining what they contained. I chose a heavy, compact one that was wrapped in shiny silver foil and a red satin ribbon. It was a twelve-pack of Life Savers and I spent the rest of the party arranging and rearranging the candy tubes in the order of my favorites. My bother Winston chose wisely as well. His present turned out to be a box of intricate plastic parts; the instructions on the box proclaimed that when they were properly assembled he would have an authentic miniature replica of a World War 11 submarine.

¹⁴ Vincent got the chess set, which would have been a very decent present to get at a church Christmas party, except it was obviously used and, as we discovered later, it was missing a black pawn and a white knight. My mother graciously thanked the unknown benefactor, saying, "Too good. Cost too much." At which point, an old lady with fine white, wispy hair nodded toward our family and said with a whistling whisper, "Merry, merry Christmas."

¹⁵ When we got home, my mother told Vincent to throw the chess set away. "She not want it. We not want it." she said, tossing her head stiffly to the side with a tight, proud smile. My brothers had deaf ears. They were already lining up the chess pieces and reading from the dog-eared instruction book. I watched Vincent and Winston play during Christmas week. The chessboard seemed to hold elaborate secrets waiting to be untangled. The chessmen were more powerful than old Li's magic herbs that cured ancestral curses. And my brothers wore such serious faces that I was sure something was at stake that was greater than avoiding the tradesmen's door to Hong Sing's.

¹⁶ "Let me! Let me!" I begged between games when one brother or the other would sit back with a deep sigh of relief and victory, the other annoyed, unable to let go of the outcome. Vincent at first refused to let me play, but when I offered my Life Savers as replacements for the buttons that filled in for the missing pieces, he relented. He chose the flavors: wild cherry for the black pawn and peppermint for the white knight. Winner could eat both.

¹⁷ As our mother sprinkled flour and rolled out small doughy circles for the steamed dumplings that would be our dinner that night, Vincent explained the rules, pointing to each piece. "You have sixteen pieces and so do I. One king and queen, two bishops,

two knights, two castles, and eight pawns. The pawns can only move forward one step, except on the first move. Then they can move two. But they can only take men by moving crossways like this, except in the beginning, when you can move ahead and take another pawn."

¹⁸ "Why?" I asked as I moved my pawn. "Why can't they move more steps?" "Because they're pawns," he said.

¹⁹ "But why do they go crossways to take other men? Why aren't there any women and children?"

²⁰ "Why is the sky blue? Why must you always ask stupid questions?" asked Vincent. "This is a game. These are the rules. I didn't make them up. See. Here in the book." He jabbed a page with a pawn in his hand. "Pawn. P-A- W-N. Pawn. Read it yourself."

²¹ My mother patted the flour off her hands. "Let me see book," she said quietly. She scanned the pages quickly, not reading the foreign English symbols, seeming to search deliberately for nothing in particular.

²² "This American rules," she concluded at last. "Every time people come out from foreign country, must know rules. You not know, judge say, Too bad, go back. They not telling you why so you can use their way go forward. They say, Don't know why, you find out yourself. But they knowing all the time. Better you take it, find out why yourself." She tossed her head back with a satisfied smile.

²³ I found out about all the whys later. I read the rules and looked up all the big words in a dictionary. I borrowed books from the Chinatown library. I studied each chess piece, trying to absorb the power each contained.

²⁴ I learned about opening moves and why it's important to control the center early on; the shortest distance between two points is straight down the middle. I learned about the middle game and why tactics between two adversaries are like clashing ideas; the one who plays better has the clearest plans for both attacking and getting out of traps. I learned why it is essential in the endgame to have foresight, a mathematical understanding of all possible moves, and patience; all weaknesses and advantages become evident to a strong adversary and are obscured to a tiring opponent. I discovered that for the whole game one must gather invisible strengths and see the endgame before the game begins.

²⁵ I also found out why I should never reveal "why" to others. A little knowledge withheld is a great advantage one should store for future use. That is the power of chess. It is a game of secrets in which one must show and never tell.

²⁶ I loved the secrets I found within the sixty-four black and white squares. I carefully drew a handmade chessboard and pinned it to the wall next to my bed, where I would stare for hours at imaginary battles. Soon I no longer lost any games or Life Savers, but I lost my **adversaries**. Winston and Vincent decided they were more interested in roaming the streets after school in their Hopalong Cassidy cowboy hats.

1. What was the 'invisible strength' Waverly's mother taught her?

- A. good manners
- B. mind reading
- C. strategy
- D. compassion

2. When Waverly's mother buys her the salted plums, what is she rewarding her for?

- A. not asking for them
- B. doing her homework
- C. doing her house chores
- D. winning at chess

3. The narrative is written in

- A. first person, present tense.
- B. first person, past tense.
- C. second person, past tense.
- D. third person, past tense.

4. What two details show Waverly has a comfortable existence?

- A. a clean, warm apartment and a playground nearby
- B. always having soup at the beginning of a meal and candied plums for treats
- C. a vibrant neighbourhood and a two-bedroom apartment
- D. three five-course meals a day and a clean, warm apartment

5. Reread the following extract (paragraph 5).

“We lived on Waverly Place, in a warm, clean, two-bedroom flat that sat above a small Chinese bakery specializing in steamed pastries and dim sum. In the early morning, when the alley was still quiet, I could smell fragrant red beans as they were cooked down to a pasty sweetness. By daybreak, our flat was heavy with the odor of fried sesame balls and sweet curried chicken crescents. From my bed, I would listen as my father got ready for work, then locked the door behind him, one-two-three clicks.”

Which sense does the paragraph appeal to most?

- A. sight
- B. sound
- C. taste
- D. smell

Reread the following quotation from paragraph 6 and answer questions 6–7.

“old-country people sat cracking roasted watermelon seeds with their golden teeth and scattering the husks to an impatient gathering of gurgling pigeons.”

6. Which senses does the quotation appeal to most?

- A. sight and smell
- B. touch, sight and sound
- C. smell, sight and sound
- D. sight and sound

7. What two poetic techniques are used in the quotation?

- A. alliteration
- B. simile
- C. metaphor
- D. onomatopoeia

8. The purpose of paragraphs 5 to 9 is to provide details about

- A. Waverly’s mother.
- B. Waverly’s home and community.
- C. Waverly’s favourite game.
- D. Waverly’s family.

9. Waverly thought Santa was asking her a trick question because

- A. he winked at her.
- B. she wasn't sure what he was saying in Chinese.
- C. she was used to her mother asking trick questions.
- D. there were two possible answers.

10. What does paragraph 13 show about Waverly's personality?

- A. that she thinks strategically
- B. that she is greedy
- C. that she is worried about being slapped
- D. that she wants the best present

11. Based on the sentence it appears in (paragraph 26), what might 'adversaries' mean?

- A. opponents
- B. siblings
- C. colleagues
- D. competitors

12. What does Waverly's mother compare the rules of chess too?

- A. marriage
- B. parenthood
- C. living in Chinatown
- D. moving to a foreign country

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Activity Three

Skill focus: Writing task

Waverly clearly develops a love for chess. Imagine that her mother, disgusted at the second-hand chess set, ends up throwing it out. Write 250 words about what happens next. What lengths does Waverly go to in order to keep playing chess?

Skills checklist:

- I have used first person, past tense.
- I have used 'show, don't tell'.
- I have written description that appeals to the senses (sight, sound, smell, touch) and underlined it.
- I have shown how my character feels about the events.
- I have edited my work for correct punctuation, grammar and spelling.

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HOMework

1. Complete the writing task.
2. Complete the reading task.
3. Complete the grammar exercise.

2. Reading comprehension

Sparkling Jewels

Did you know that most of the diamonds we see today in jeweller's shops were formed millions of years ago?

Diamonds are extremely hard, clear crystals made of compressed carbon. They form below the Earth's surface in the molten rock of the place known as the mantle. Volcanic eruptions bring rocks containing diamonds closer to the surface. Sometimes they are moved, by glaciers or water, thousands of miles away from where they were formed. Places in which there are diamond mines include Russia, Australia, South Africa and Brazil.

Diamonds are found as rough stones and have to be cut and polished before they can be made into jewellery. A diamond is cut so that the various facets (faces) catch the light, making it sparkle.

The weight of diamonds is measured in carats. One carat equals 200 milligrams. The more carats a diamond weighs, the more expensive it is. The colour of diamonds also affects the price. Clear white is the most desired shade, but diamonds can range through many colours up to light yellow. Most diamonds do not end up in the jeweller's shop. If they have too many flaws, they are used in industry as drill bits, or in cutting or polishing tools.

1. This text is a/an

- A. narrative. B. information report. C. discussion.

2. Vocabulary Building: Find a word in the text that matches each definition.

- A. pressed together _____
- B. melted by heat _____
- C. slow-moving mass of ice _____
- D. costing a lot _____

- E. cracks and blemishes _____
- F. end of a drill _____
- G. uneven, irregular _____
- H. flashes and flickers _____
- I. has an effect on _____

3. Understanding the text: For each statement, select either T (true) or F (false).

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| A. Diamonds form in glaciers. | T | F |
| B. Diamonds are formed from carbon. | T | F |
| C. Volcanic explosions create diamonds | T | F |
| D. The mantle is part of the Earth's surface | T | F |
| E. There are some diamond mines in Australia. | T | F |
| F. A yellow diamond is worth more than a white one. | T | F |
| G. Most diamonds are used in industry. | T | F |
| H. Diamonds are millions of years old. | T | F |
| I. Diamonds are measured in facets. | T | F |
| J. Diamonds can be many colours besides white. | T | F |
| K. The faces of diamond are created by cutting. | T | F |

Decoding the Text:

4. Join the beginnings and ends to make true statements.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Diamonds can be found | a. are clear white. |
| B. Volcanic eruptions | b. are used for jewellery. |
| C. Only the best quality diamonds | c. they look like rough stones. |
| D. When diamonds are found | d. far from where they form. |
| E. The most expensive diamonds | e. bring diamonds to the surface. |

5. Which feature of diamonds makes them suitable to be used in cutting and polishing tools?

- A. what colour they are
- B. where they are found
- C. how old they are
- D. how hard they are

3. Grammar Exercise

1. The teacher _____ is in charge of safety will monitor the situation.

- A. when B. which C. who D. whom

2. Sam, _____ you just met, does not agree that the request is reasonable.

- A. which B. whom C. where D. who

3. The hospital is _____ the best doctors can be found.

- A. which B. whom C. where D. who

4. Joe's train, _____ is leaving at noon, is the most advanced one.

- A. when B. who C. which D. whom

5. Christmas is the time _____ his students will perform at the church.

- A. which B. when C. where D. who

6. You won't hear the noise no matter _____ you strain your ears.

- A. how B. which C. when D. where

7. The cat _____ ate a lot was the best in catching mice.

- A. who B. whom C. where D. which

8. The workers are the ones _____ reported the accident to the ministry.

- A. when B. which C. who D. whom

9. Ms Lee, _____ books the students borrowed, is generous.

- A. whose B. whom C. where D. which

10. Do you remember the party _____ one of the guests fell on top of the cake?

- A. that B. how C. which D. where