**Amy Tan’s “Mother Tongue” – Discussion Questions**

1. Tan’s focus here is on the “different Englishes” she uses. What are these, and what occasions her shift from one to another?
2. How does Tan feel about these “Englishes” and about her mother’s fractured English. In what ways are these both limiting and liberating for communication?
3. What point is Tan making with the example of her mother and hospital?
4. What point is she making with the example of the stockbroker?

## Why does Tan envision her mother as the reader of her novels? Why is “so easy to read” such high praise?

## Do you find Tan’s style in this essay “easy to read”? Evaluate her diction and style, providing specific examples to support your opinion.

**Paper 1 Assignment**

What do you think is Tan’s main point in “Mother Tongue”?

Imagine this is a text that comes up for a Paper 1 exam.

Come up with a THESIS for her piece, and plan out 3 main areas of support you could use to back this up. Create an outline with specific examples to prove your thesis. Can be point form.

**Literary Response Assignment**

Write a response discussing at least two different “Languages” (can be your Mother Tongue) or “Englishes” you use in writing and speaking. Be specific in your description of each one, and explain why that language is appropriate for a particular occasion or audience.

You might consider what would happen if you used one of these in a different setting or situation – what would the consequences be?