# Rules2.pngMother abd.jpg Rules of the Game by Amy Tan

**Questions and Quotes for Analysis**

1) What was the skill the young girl’s mother (Lindo) taught her at the age of six? Choose a quote and/or text you feel best explains this philosophy and then paraphrase it (explain it in your own words?)

2) Compare and contrast how does the young girl applies her Mom’s strategy the second time they enter the store that sells salted plums? How was this different than earlier in the story? Why do you think her mom gave in the second time?

3) What are the girl’s given name and her nickname? Why do you think her mother gave her these names?

4) I asked her, "Ma, what is Chinese torture?" Why do you think Waverly asks her mother this question? What is Waverly’s Mom’s response about Chinese and American people? What does this show you about her character and opinions about the two cultures?

5) What gift does Vincent receive at a church Christmas party? How does Lindo Jong’s reaction to receiving this gift differ at first at the church and then later at home? Why are her responses so different? (Using evidence from the text gets you extra credit)

6)True or False, the children obediently obey their mom and throw the chess set away. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

7) As Waverly starts to win Chess tournaments how does her mom change the rules of the household? How is this odd culturally in a Chinese family?

8) What does Lindo Jong say and do in the crowded marketplace that irritates her daughter? Why do you think she did this? How is this inconsistent with what she has said and done previously in the story?

7) What was Waverly’s angry response to her mother’s words and actions? Why does Waverly react this way? How do you agree with Waverly or Lindo? Explain your opinion.

10) Who do you think will, “win’ this psychological Chess game between Waverly and her Mom ? Use evidence, details, text, and/or quotes from the story to support your answers.

Follow-up: Can you find two other instances in the story where Waverly uses her mom’s strategy of, “Invisible Strength,’ for winning arguments, respect from others, and chess games.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **When, where, what happens** | **Important Quote and/or action** | **Result** |
| 1) At home when her brothers start to play chess. She is eager and wants to learn the game |  | He relented and taught her the rules of the game. He chose the flavors: wild cherry for the black pawn and peppermint for the white knight. Winner could eat both. |
| 2) At the park she sees a group of old men, two of whom are playing | I ran home and grabbed Vincent's chess set, and I also carefully selected two prized rolls of Life Savers. I came back to the park and approached a man who was observing the game.  "Want to play?" I asked him. His face widened with surprise and he grinned as he looked at the box under my arm.  "Little sister, been a long time since I play with dolls," he said, smiling benevolently. I quickly put the box down next to him on the bench and displayed my retort. |  |
| 3( During tournaments, Waverly would dress and act like a little girl. She also would try to look confused | In my crisp pink-and-white dress with scratchy lace at the neck, one of two my mother had sewn for these special occasions, I would clasp my hands under my chin, the delicate points of my elbows poised lightly on the table in the manner my mother had shown me for posing for the press. **End**  I would swing my patent leather shoes back and forth like an impatient child riding on a school bus. Then I would pause, suck in my lips, twirl my chosen piece in midair as if undecided, and then firmly plant it in its new threatening place, with a triumphant smile thrown back at my opponent for good measure. |  |