

ESL Book Club 2022 – Book 6 Discussion Questions
Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother by Amy Chua
Discussion Date: July 1, 2022 at 10:30 am – 12 pm

The Chinese Mother

1. Amy Chua describes the stereotypical “Chinese Mother” and “Western parent”. What are the pros and cons of each style? Which is more like your parents or how you raised your children?

Sophia & Louisa

2. Amy’s daughters had different personalities. Give three adjectives for each of them.

On Generational Decline

3. Give a brief description of each of the three generations (immigrant, 2nd generation, 3rd generation). Is your family following this pattern?

The Violin

4. Amy chose to have Lulu play violin without consulting her. Was that a wise move? How did it work out?

Teeth Marks and Bubbles

5. What are the three big differences between Chinese and Western parents, according to the author?

The Cadenza

6. Amy says that Chinese immigrant families don’t have pets? Do you think that’s true? Why? What are the pros and cons of having pets?

London, Athens, Barcelona, Bombay

7. Amy made sure her daughters practiced while they were traveling? Do you think that was being too strict?

Popo

8. What do you think is the key to raising happy children?

How You Get to Carnegie Hall

9. Sophia found it hard to play well without an audience. Have you played an instrument? How did you feel about performing in front of an audience?

How You Get to Carnegie Hall, Part 2

10. On page 131, Amy says that some parents send their kids to Juilliard to improve their chances of getting into a good college. What advice would you give for getting into the college of your choice?

The Debut and the Audition

11. What complicated Lulu's audition? What were the results? How did Lulu feel?

Blowout in Budapest

12. What happened with Mrs. Kazinczy? What was the result of that? Do you agree that No Chinese daughter would ever act the way Lulu did?

Rebellion

13. Why did Lulu cut her own hair? Did it accomplish what she wanted?

A Sack of Rice

14. How did the rice spill on the kitchen floor? After talking with Sophie, Amy agreed to clean up the rice. Is Amy changing? In what way?

Despair

15. Katrin's leukemia has nothing to do with parenting. Why do you think Amy included it in this book?

Red Square

16. Lulu accuses her mother of being selfish and doing everything for herself? What do you think motivates Amy?

The Ending

17. What life lessons did Lulu gain from her violin playing? Do you think Amy would parent Lulu the same way if she had it to do over again?