**RULES OF THE GAME/** **Amy Tan**

**Basic Understanding Questions**

1. Name one American custom the Jong family adopted.

2. Where is the story set?

3. Why does Waverly have two names?

4. Name one way Waverly applies invisible strength in her life.

5. What advice does Waverly's mother give her about living in America?

Complete the sentence.

She tells her she should………………………………….

a) learn to speak English well

b) know the rules of the country

c) eat American food

d) accept used gifts

6. Why does Waverly stop playing chess with her brothers?

7. Name TWO ways things changed at home for Waverly after she began to win chess tournaments.

8. What happened to make Waverly feel uncomfortable when they went together to the market?

9. Name two differences between Chinese and American cultures in the story.

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. What is the main conflict that dominates the story.

2. Explain the concept of invisible strength. How does Waverly benefit from it?

3. Why did Waverly run away?

4. What does Waverly’s dream at the end of the story symbolize?

5. Explain how the game of chess is a metaphor for life for Waverly.

1. Waverly says of chess: "A little knowledge withheld is a great advantage one should store for future use.” Do you think this is true in life as well? Explain and give examples from the story.
2. Why did Waverly tell her mother she didn’t want to participate in the local tournament, even though she did?

8. Who does Waverly believe is her real opponent? Why?

9. How was Waverly influenced by the two cultures she was brought up in?

10. What can we learn about Waverly’s character from her attitude to the chess game?

**Post-Reading Questions**

1. Amy Tan's parents wanted her to become a doctor and a pianist in her spare time. She rebelled against them and did not become a doctor or a pianist. How is the above information reflected in the story?

2**."The more the daughter knows the details of the mother's life, the stronger the daughter"**(anonymous). Make a connection between the quote and the story.

3. **"I was raised by extremely strict but extremely loving Chinese immigrant parents… Western parents seem much more concerned about their children's… self-esteem, whereas though immigrant parents expect strength in their children and therefore behave completely differently."** – Amy Chua, from an interview in *Time Magazine.*

Explain how this quote adds to your understanding of the story "Rules of the Game."