



Two Kinds

Amy Tan

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"Two kinds" is a short story from the book *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. It was first published in 1989. The short story outlines the main Jing- Mei Woo's childhood and the effects of her mother's high expectations for her life.

- from Wikipedia

Two Kinds Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Amy Tan

Format :

Genre : Short Stories, Academic, School, Fiction, Read For School, Classics

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From Reader Review Two Kinds for online ebook

Andres says

Two Kinds a weird but interesting story. When I started reading this book, I thought it was really boring because it did not have any theme that amused me but as I kept reading I started to find interest in the main character's reasons or motives to stop changing like her mother wanted her to. I found this story unique due to the way it builds up the tension through the whole story and then releases it in a particular way that is very enjoyable.

Two Kinds is a story about a daughter and a mother who have different opinions on what Jing Mei, the daughter should do with her life in their current situations. The anger between both of them increases through the story until it gets out of control and the conflict finally comes to an end by a spoiler: (view spoiler)

There are not many characters in this story but the most interesting character to me is Jing Mei due to her way of thinking and the way she interacts with the other characters. She is a very interesting character because she ends up being a different person at the end of the story making it interesting to see how she changes in the story.

I gave this story a 4 out 5 star rating because I think that it had a good trauma, and a good ending that helped the story show its meaning not only from the title but also from the story itself and what it wanted to project. The story in general teaches you that you have appreciate whatever you have because it can be gone at any moment and that you should take any opportunities that come your way.

"You could be a genius if you wanted to"... "You just not trying"

Patricio says

"Two Kinds" is a short story written by Amy Tan. An American writer that mainly writes about mother and daughter relationships. The story Two Kinds is a story about a girl Jing-Mei that starts to have difficult times with her mother. She struggles to find her own path due that her mother wants her to be good at piano. Jing-Mei strongly disagrees and see tries to tell her mother that she might be good at something else.

I think that this story is a great short story. The author clearly describes a relationship between a mother and daughter. I had heard of many real life cases similar to the story. Something I liked of the story is the character motivation of Jing-Mei mother. Jing-Mei mother experienced a difficult childhood full of problems and war. Also Lindo Jong daughter was very good at chess. This gives you a total different point of the story. The mother wasn't totally harsh with her daughter, she wanted for her daughter to be successful and good at something.

In overall I enjoyed reading this story. It is a story that describes a real life situation and I recommend it to

any person. The title of the story connects to the whole theme. "Two Kinds" can be used to describe the two different personalities Jing-Mei can have. To be yourself or pretending to be someone else.

"Just like you", she said. "Not the best. Because you not trying." She gave a little huff as she let go of the sound dial and sat down on the sofa."

alyanna ? says

RELATE 1000000000000% GIRL (now watch me cry as i do my literary analysis for this text)

Nancy Luu says

My opinion on this story by Amy Tan was wonderful because of how she wrote the connection of the two characters, Jing-Mei and her mother. This story was both man vs man and man vs him/herself because this shows the conflict of both Jing-Mei and her mother on wanting Jing-Mei to be a piano prodigy. Jing-Mei did not want to be a piano prodigy so she had a problem with herself of coming to the solution that she cannot and will not be a piano prodigy because she doesn't have the talents to but her mom forced her otherwise. I think this was a really emotional story too because of the conflict between a mother and daughter relationship but soon the daughter realized that her mom only want her to be good. I think the theme of the story is to always be respectful to your parents and always treasure the people around you before they are gone. Jing-Mei realized her mistakes after her mother passed away and gave her the piano as a memory. She became to play the piano again and she got better in the honor of her mom. I think it was a really sweet and bitter story between a daughter and her mother but it was resolved in the end.

Dehryen Williams says

I really like the story "Two Kinds". I enjoyed this story because I liked the personal connections between the daughter Jing- mei and I. I started out in playing the violin 3 years ago and when i first began i wasnt very enthusiastic about playing. But as the years progressed and i improved i am going somewhere with my playing. The story was written in 1st person, told by the daughter. The conflict was man vs. man; the daughter vs. her mother. Amy Tan chose to write this story in first person because readers can paint more of a picture of what life is like when you have a dispute with your parent. You can see and relate to the anger that Jing- Mei feels throughout the story.

Mo Malik says

The story has ample evidence of conflict in the struggle between the girl and her mother. Her Asian mother believes she can be a star and she believes her mother is trying to control and change who she really is. At every turn she gets, she frustrates and ignores her mother about learning the piano. In the end, the mother

ceases to try and the girl ends up never learning the piano. A symbol comes at the end of the story when she goes back to the songs she was learning in her childhood and it turned out that their names articulated how her childhood played out. This is evident in the story because the names were "Pleading Child" and "Perfectly Contented" and she rebelled and pleaded to not have to learn the piano and change herself, and then through her series of tantrums and ignorance of her mom, she was contented when her mother finally gave up.

Joselito Honestly and Brilliantly says

If it was the Korean immigrant father who was the source of the tension in Katherine Min's "Courting a Monk," here it is the Chinese immigrant mother. Both were written from the point of view of the Americanized daughters, but I rate this lower because the narrator did not at all take her clothes off (in the story), and there's no sex or romance, although poignant (since the mother dies here) and with a hint of a deeper meaning at the end.

Leslie Truax says

Two Kinds by Amy Tan is about a young girl named Jing-Mei Woo, an American Chinese girl who grows up in California. The story centers around her mother's quest to find what will make Jing-Mei a prodigy - for in America, you can be anything. On their journey, Jing-Mei's mother takes her through various tests to see what kind of a prodigy Jing-Mei will become, whether it be by becoming an actress like Shirley Temple or knowing all of the capitals of every country in the world. Eventually, they settle on piano playing, though it doesn't turn out the way that either Jing-Mei or her mother hope.

I chose this story for my conflict/struggle unit because of the different types of struggle that students will be able to pick out. Man vs. Self, Man vs. Man, and Man vs. Society are all present within the story, though the perspective of an immigrant child gives the Man vs. Society conflict a different spin than most other stories I have chosen for my final project. I think that this story does a good job of showing conflict, and gives a nice ending in terms of the conflicts that we see within the story. A strategy that would go well with this story is "A Hard Moment" from Gallagher, Chapter 2. I could say that Jing-Mei's hard moment was losing her mother, and this short story is the result of her reflecting on her mother's life, and their relationship. I can use this to help students write about their own hard moments, or their own difficult relationships with people in their lives, to allow them time to self-reflect while they write.

Rosa Andrea says

"Two Kinds" is a short story written by Amy Tan. Amy Tan is a writer that focuses and writes a lot about mother-child relationships. "Two Kinds" talks about a mother-daughter relationship and the struggles that immigrant families have when they arrive in America.

The story takes place in San Francisco's China town. Jing-Mei is a girl who lacks talent and has little to none self-confidence. Her mother is a persistent, strong woman who has suffered a lot in her past. Jing Mei's mother wanted her to be a successful child, but Jing-Mei just kept failing. Jing-Mei's mother had placed high

hopes in her daughter, who she hoped would turn out to be a prodigy. Even though she was not sure what her talent was, she expected her to have one. First, the mother tries to convert Jing-Mei into a child actress, but she fails. Jing-Mei's mother attempts several times to find her daughter's talent before she decided that she was meant to be a piano prodigy (view spoiler).

After a fiasco in a talent show, Jing-Mei concluded that she would never be a prodigy. She was tired of all the expectations her mother had on her. Jing-Mei started an argument that made her mother stop with the whole prodigy thing. Jing-Mei quit playing the piano, but many more disappointments followed her. Jing-Mei says "It was not the only disappointment my mother felt in me. In the years that followed, I failed her so many times, each time asserting my own will, my right to fall short of expectations." Years later, and after an important event occurred (view spoiler), Jing-Mei played the piano for the first time in many years.

This short story focuses on two themes: The American Dream and mother-daughter relationships. Amy Tan reflected how most people see America as the "Land of Opportunity." In this case, Jing-Mei's mother believed that everyone in America with hard work and a little luck would be successful. Jing-Mei, as many young people, believed that what their parents want for them in the future would not become real. As a result, she refuses to cooperate with her mother.

What I liked about this story is that it reflects how most mother-daughter relationships are. Most of these relationships are complicated since each person has their own tastes, expectations, and plans. People can feel identified with what Jing-Mei is feeling, as well as with the relationships that Jing-Mei and her mother have. I myself related to this story and finally understood that I am not the only one feeling this way.

Fatima says

Read this short story for my Modern Lit class and was instantly attracted to Amy Tan's style of writing. Also, I'm a sucker for immigrant stories. Such a short story, but oh wow, what a powerful punch. Totally going to buy "The Joy Luck Club" to further the Amy Tan experience!

Marco says

The short story "Two Kinds" is written by Amy Tan is about a girl named Jing-Mei which is named as the prodigal daughter. She and her mother have a difficult relationship with because Jing-Mei's mother is a dominant mother that has high expectations for her, she thinks that Jing Mei will need to master talents.

The mother wanted her child to be a piano prodigy, but Jing Mei, which has also a strong temper, doesn't submit to her mother's decisions and doesn't want to become one. If Jing Mei doesn't takes the choice she wants her mother will be disappointed at her and if she does what her mother wants for her, she won't be happy.

This short story is a great example of a lot of mother daughter-relationships, there are a lot of difficult relationships like Jing-Mei and her mother, the mother wants her daughter to be something she cannot be,

like in this case a "prodigy" and they don't realize how much pressure they are putting or how unhappy she can be.

I really liked the story *Two Kinds*. I liked this story because the connection between the characters was very strong and the daughter gets to do what she thinks is the best for her. "So maybe I never really gave myself a fair chance. I did pick up the basics pretty easily, and I might have become a good pianist at that young age. But I was so determined not to try, not to be anybody different that I learned to play only the most ear-splitting preludes, the most discordant hymns"

Romina says

Two Kinds is a short story written by Amy Tan. It is based on the life of a Chinese girl living in America called Jing-Mei. Jing-Mei and her mother are constantly fighting because she is not who her mother wants her to be. However, towards the end of the story, Jing-Mei makes a choice about who to be.

Jing-Mei's mother, because of the tragedies she went through in the past, went to America to seek for better opportunities and a better life. She only wants the best for her daughter and is hoping she becomes a prodigy and the best version of herself in whatever she does. Nevertheless, Jing-Mei is tired of trying to please her mother and live up to her high standards.

Jing-Mei had to live with her mother's pressure every day and she started to feel like she wasn't good at anything. This is why she decided to just be herself, even if she wasn't good enough, at least she was herself and not someone she wasn't. Jing-Mei told herself, "I won't let her change me, I promised myself. I won't be what I'm not". She wasn't going to be someone she wasn't just because of her mother.

The title of this short story *Two Kinds*, symbolizes two things. The first symbolism is the two kinds of daughter there are: obedient daughters and rebellious daughters. The second symbolism is emphasized towards the end of the story, which you will have to read to find out.

Personally, I think the best message this story is trying to give is to be yourself. Even if you're not enough for someone else, the important thing is only to be enough for you. Don't try to be someone you're not just to live up to someone else's expectations.

Mauricio says

The short story "Two Kinds" is written by Amy Tan. This short story is basically about about a girl named Jing Mei that has a very difficult relationship with her mother. Jing Mei's mother always sets her high goals or standards and she wants her to be a prodigy. Jing Mei hates when her mother says that because she doesn't want to be a prodigy. Jing just knows for sure that she doesn't want to be what her mother wants her to be.

The story is based on Jing Mei not following her mother directions not because she doesn't like her but

because she is tired of her mother repeating herself all the time about the prodigy thing. Her mother is like that with Jing because she thinks that jing is not going to know what to do with her life once she is older. Jing Mei's mother just doesn't understand how intelligent Jing Mei is and that she can do a lot of things on her own. An excellent example of her mother doing something that Jing Mei doesn't want to is when she called a Piano instructor so he can teach some lessons to Jing Mei

This story can be related to a lot of cases, a lot of young girls have suffered this problem with their mothers. Mothers sometimes just don't understand that some girls or even boys want to be independent in life and that they don't want to follow their roots or the traditions that their families may have. Some girls just follow their senses and end up being great and famous people in life. "there are only two kinds of daughters: those who are obedient and the ones who follow their own minds."

Regina says

"Two Kinds" is a short story from the book "The Joy Luck Club", written by Amy Tan. This story centers around the life of an American-Chinese young girl, called Jing-Mei, and her struggle to live up to her mother's standards. "Two Kinds" is a story with a complex plot that is supported by various literary devices such as similes and metaphors. Furthermore, it has different types of conflicts and gives symbolism a very important role throughout its progression.

The story's plot unfolds when young Jing-Mei notices her mother's great desire for her to become a prodigy in something. From the moment the story starts, her mother puts a lot of pressure on the young girl and pushes her to her limits, to the point where Jing-Mei breaks. Once this happens, the climax of the story begins to approach as Jing-Mei's rebellion against her mother increases.

Jing-Mei felt as if she was never good enough for her mother; I can relate to this on a personal level. Sometimes, no matter what we do or how hard we try, we may not be good enough. When this happens, disappointment rises through our chest and crushes it; I know, it is a terrible feeling. I think this is what Jing-Mei felt constantly: not being good enough. (view spoiler)

As I mentioned before, symbolism is a very important factor in the story; even the title "Two Kinds" has a deeper meaning to it. However, if you wish to know what this is, you will simply have to read it for yourself.

"And after seeing my mother's disappointed face once again, something inside of me began to die."

Brooke says

Had to read this for literature
