

analysis of two kinds by amy tan

An Analysis of Amy Tan's "Two Kinds": Unveiling Cultural Expectations and Self-Discovery

Introduction:

Amy Tan's poignant short story, "Two Kinds," resonates deeply with readers because it explores universal themes of parental expectations, cultural clashes, and the arduous journey of self-discovery. This in-depth analysis delves into the complexities of the mother-daughter relationship, the pressures of assimilation, and the ultimate triumph of individuality portrayed within the narrative. We'll unpack the story's symbolism, explore its character development, and analyze its powerful message about the importance of embracing one's authentic self. Prepare for a comprehensive exploration of "Two Kinds," dissecting its nuances and uncovering its enduring relevance in today's world.

I. The Conflicted Mother-Daughter Dynamic: A Clash of Cultures

The central conflict in "Two Kinds" revolves around the strained relationship between the narrator and her Chinese immigrant mother. The mother, shaped by her own experiences in a vastly different cultural landscape, projects her unrealized dreams onto her daughter. This manifests as a relentless push for the daughter to become a prodigy, excelling in various talents – from piano to mathematics. This pressure stems from the mother's belief that success in America hinges on exceptional achievement, a belief rooted in her own experiences of hardship and the desire for a better life for her daughter. The daughter, however, resists this pressure, struggling to reconcile her mother's expectations with her own burgeoning sense of self and individuality. This clash is not simply a generational conflict; it's a clash of cultural values, perspectives, and aspirations. The mother's unwavering belief in the power of hard work and sacrifice clashes with the daughter's desire for autonomy and self-expression.

II. The Symbolism of the Piano and the "Two Kinds" of Daughters:

The piano becomes a potent symbol throughout the story. It represents the mother's hopes and dreams for her daughter, a tangible manifestation of her ambition. The arduous lessons, the demanding practice, and the eventual abandonment of the instrument reflect the daughter's internal struggle to meet her mother's expectations and her ultimate rejection of her mother's predetermined path. The title itself, "Two Kinds," is deeply symbolic. It refers to the mother's assertion that there are "two kinds of daughters": one who is obedient and fulfills her mother's expectations, and the other who is rebellious and follows her own path. This dichotomy underscores the central conflict and the daughter's eventual choice to define herself on her own terms. The failed piano recitals symbolize the daughter's inability to meet her mother's impossible standards, and the daughter's eventual rejection of the piano symbolizes her rejection of her mother's expectations.

III. The Daughter's Journey of Self-Discovery and Rebellion:

The story traces the daughter's transformative journey from a child yearning for her mother's approval to a young woman asserting her independence. Her rebellion is not a simple act of defiance but a complex process of self-discovery. She gradually realizes that her mother's definition of success

does not align with her own aspirations and values. Her acts of rebellion—from deliberately failing the piano tests to choosing a different path in life—are crucial steps in her journey towards self-acceptance and authenticity. This journey highlights the importance of individual expression and the right to forge one's own identity, free from the constraints of external pressures. The story is a powerful testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity for self-discovery, even in the face of overwhelming adversity.

IV. Themes of Assimilation and Cultural Identity:

"Two Kinds" subtly explores the complexities of assimilation and cultural identity. The mother's relentless pursuit of American success is a reflection of her desire to integrate into American society and escape the limitations of her past. However, her methods often clash with the daughter's experience of growing up in a bicultural environment. The daughter's struggle to reconcile her Chinese heritage with her American identity forms a significant part of her internal conflict. This aspect of the story resonates with many first-generation immigrants and their children, who often face the challenge of navigating two vastly different cultures. The story powerfully illustrates the tension between preserving one's cultural heritage and embracing the opportunities of a new land.

V. The Lasting Impact and Relevance of "Two Kinds":

The enduring power of "Two Kinds" lies in its universality. While rooted in a specific cultural context, the story's themes of parental expectations, the struggle for self-identity, and the complexities of family relationships transcend cultural boundaries. It continues to resonate with readers because it speaks to the fundamental human experience of striving for autonomy, navigating conflicting values, and ultimately finding one's own voice. The story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of self-acceptance, the need to embrace one's individuality, and the enduring strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Outline of a potential longer analysis:

Title: A Deep Dive into Amy Tan's "Two Kinds": Exploring Themes of Identity, Culture, and Family Dynamics

- I. Introduction: Brief overview of the story and its significance.
- II. Character Analysis: In-depth exploration of the mother and daughter's personalities, motivations, and relationships.
- III. Thematic Exploration: Detailed examination of key themes such as cultural conflict, parental expectations, self-discovery, and the immigrant experience.
- IV. Symbolism and Imagery: Analysis of significant symbols like the piano, the two kinds of daughters, and other recurring motifs.
- V. Narrative Structure and Style: Discussion of Tan's writing style, narrative techniques, and the overall structure of the story.
- VI. Critical Interpretations: Exploration of different critical perspectives on the story and its interpretation.
- VII. Conclusion: Summarizing key findings and reflecting on the lasting impact of "Two Kinds."

Detailed Explanation of Outline Points:

(Each of these points would be expanded into a substantial section of a longer essay, similar to the sections in the main article above.)

I. Introduction: This section would provide context, introduce Amy Tan, and briefly summarize the plot of "Two Kinds." It would also state the essay's central argument or thesis statement.

II. Character Analysis: This section would deeply analyze the mother's character, exploring her motivations, past experiences, and cultural background. It would then contrast this with a detailed analysis of the daughter's character, tracing her development and internal struggles throughout the story.

III. Thematic Exploration: This section would dedicate subsections to each significant theme: cultural conflict (exploring the clash between Chinese and American values), parental expectations (analyzing the unrealistic demands placed on the daughter), self-discovery (detailing the daughter's journey towards self-acceptance), and the immigrant experience (highlighting the challenges faced by the mother and daughter as immigrants).

IV. Symbolism and Imagery: This section would delve into the symbolic meanings of the piano, the concept of "two kinds" of daughters, and other recurring images in the story, explaining their contribution to the overall narrative.

V. Narrative Structure and Style: This section would analyze Tan's narrative voice, her use of flashbacks and foreshadowing, and the overall structure of the story, discussing how these elements contribute to the story's impact.

VI. Critical Interpretations: This section would explore diverse critical interpretations of the story, comparing and contrasting different perspectives on the characters, themes, and overall meaning.

VII. Conclusion: This section would summarize the key arguments of the essay, reiterating the central themes and their significance. It would also offer a concluding reflection on the story's enduring relevance and impact.

FAQs:

1. What is the central conflict in "Two Kinds"? The central conflict is the clash between the mother's relentless pursuit of her daughter's success and the daughter's desire for self-discovery and independence.

1. What is the symbolism of the piano? The piano symbolizes the mother's hopes and dreams for her daughter, as well as the daughter's struggle to conform to her mother's expectations.

1. How does the story portray the theme of cultural assimilation? The story explores the tension between the mother's desire to assimilate into American culture and the daughter's experience of navigating two distinct cultural identities.

1. What is the significance of the title "Two Kinds"? The title highlights the mother's belief that there are two types of daughters: obedient and rebellious. It foreshadows the daughter's ultimate rejection of her mother's expectations.
1. What is the daughter's journey of self-discovery? The daughter's journey involves rebelling against her mother's expectations, exploring her own talents and interests, and ultimately accepting and embracing her true self.
1. What are the major themes explored in "Two Kinds"? Major themes include parental expectations, cultural clash, self-discovery, identity, assimilation, and the complexities of the mother-daughter relationship.
1. How does Amy Tan's writing style contribute to the story's impact? Tan uses a first-person narrative voice, vivid imagery, and a blend of humor and pathos to create a compelling and relatable story.
1. What is the overall message of "Two Kinds"? The story emphasizes the importance of self-acceptance, the need to embrace one's individuality, and the right to forge one's own path, free from the pressures of external expectations.
1. How does "Two Kinds" resonate with contemporary readers? The story's themes of parental pressure, cultural identity, and self-discovery continue to resonate with readers because they explore universal human experiences that transcend cultural boundaries and time.

Related Articles:

1. Amy Tan's Literary Style: A Deep Dive: Examines Tan's unique writing techniques and how they contribute to her storytelling.
1. The Role of Mothers in Amy Tan's Fiction: Analyzes the portrayal of mothers and their complex

relationships with their daughters in Tan's works.

1. Cultural Identity in Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club": Compares and contrasts the exploration of cultural identity in "Two Kinds" and "The Joy Luck Club."
1. Themes of Rebellion in Amy Tan's Short Stories: Explores the recurring theme of rebellion against parental expectations and societal norms in Tan's work.
1. The Impact of Immigration on Family Dynamics in Amy Tan's Fiction: Analyzes how immigration shapes family relationships in Tan's stories.
1. Amy Tan's Use of Symbolism and Metaphor: Examines the effective use of symbols and metaphors to convey deeper meanings in Tan's writing.
1. Comparing and Contrasting "Two Kinds" with Other Short Stories by Amy Tan: A comparative analysis of "Two Kinds" and other short stories by Tan.
1. Feminist Interpretations of "Two Kinds": Explores feminist readings and critiques of the story and its characters.
1. Teaching "Two Kinds" in the Classroom: Provides resources and suggestions for educators teaching "Two Kinds" in literature classes.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: The Joy Luck Club Amy Tan, 2006-09-21 "The Joy Luck Club is one of my favorite books. From the moment I first started reading it, I knew it was going to be incredible. For me, it was one of those once-in-a-lifetime reading experiences that you cherish forever. It inspired me as a writer and still remains hugely inspirational." —Kevin Kwan, author of Crazy Rich Asians Amy Tan's beloved, New York Times bestselling tale of mothers and daughters, now the focus of a new documentary Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir on Netflix Four mothers, four

daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's saying the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable. Forty years later the stories and history continue. With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Mother Claudia O'Keefe, 1996-05 Mary Higgins Clark, Amy Tan, Joyce Carol Oates and Maya Angelou are among the gifted writers who share their personal reflections on mother in this exceptional collection of fiction, essays and poetry. From a woman's choice to become a mother to the inner workings of a mother's relationship with her children, the full cycle of motherhood is brought to life in these touching works.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: **The Moon Lady** Amy Tan, 1992-01 Nai-nai tells her granddaughters the story of her outing, as a seven-year-old girl in China, to see the Moon Lady and be granted a secret wish. Suggested level: primary.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: **Monkey Bridge** Lan Cao, 1998-06-01 Hailed by critics and writers as powerful, important fiction, *Monkey Bridge* charts the unmapped territory of the Vietnamese American experience in the aftermath of war. Like navigating a monkey bridge—a bridge, built of spindly bamboo, used by peasants for centuries—the narrative traverses perilously between worlds past and present, East and West, in telling two interlocking stories: one, the Vietnamese version of the classic immigrant experience in America, told by a young girl; and the second, a dark tale of betrayal, political intrigue, family secrets, and revenge—her mother's tale. The haunting and beautiful terrain of *Monkey Bridge* is the luminous motion, as it is called in Vietnamese myth and legend, between generations, encompassing Vietnamese lore, history, and dreams of the past as well as of the future. With incredible lightness, balance and elegance, writes Isabel Allende, Lan Cao crosses over an abyss of pain, loss, separation and exile, connecting on one level the opposite realities of Vietnam and North America, and on a deeper level the realities of the material world and the world of the spirits. • Quality Paperback Book Club Selection and New Voices Award nominee • A Kiriama Pacific Rim Award Book Prize nominee

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Who's Irish?* Gish Jen, 2012-08-29 In this dazzling collection of short stories, the award-winning author of the acclaimed novels *Thank You, Mr. Nixon* and *Mona in the Promised Land*—presents a sparkling ... gently satiric look at the American Dream and its fallout on those who pursue it (The New York Times). The stories in *Who's Irish?* show us the children of immigrants looking wonderingly at their parents' efforts to assimilate, while the older generation asks how so much selfless hard work on their part can have yielded them offspring who'd sooner drop out of life than succeed at it. With dazzling wit and compassion, Gish Jen looks at ambition and compromise at century's end and finds that much of the action is as familiar—and as strange—as the things we know to be most deeply true about ourselves.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: **The Hundred Secret Senses** Amy Tan, 1995-10-17 *The Hundred Secret Senses* is an exultant novel about China and America, love and loyalty, the identities we invent and the true selves we discover along the way. Olivia Laguni is half-Chinese, but typically American in her uneasiness with her patchwork family. And no one in Olivia's family is more embarrassing to her than her half-sister, Kwan Li. For Kwan speaks mangled English, is cheerfully deaf to Olivia's sarcasm, and sees the dead with her yin eyes. Even as Olivia details the particulars of her decades-long grudge against her sister (who, among other things, is a source of infuriatingly good advice), Kwan Li is telling her own story, one that sweeps us into the splendor, squalor, and violence of Manchu China. And out of the friction between her narrators, Amy Tan creates a work

that illuminates both the present and the past sweetly, sadly, hilariously, with searing and vivid prose. Truly magical...unforgettable...this novel...shimmer[s] with meaning.--San Diego Tribune The Hundred Secret Senses doesn't simply return to a world but burrows more deeply into it, following new trails to fresh revelations.--Newsweek

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Literature for Composition Sylvan Barnet, William Burto, William E. Cain, Cheryl Nixon, 2017 Previous editions had other title information: essays, stories, poems, and plays.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *The Kitchen God's Wife* Amy Tan, 2006-09-21 Remarkable...mesmerizing...compelling.... An entire world unfolds in Tolstoyan tide of event and detail....Give yourself over to the world Ms. Tan creates for you. —The New York Times Book Review Winnie and Helen have kept each other's worst secrets for more than fifty years. Now, because she believes she is dying, Helen wants to expose everything. And Winnie angrily determines that she must be the one to tell her daughter, Pearl, about the past—including the terrible truth even Helen does not know. And so begins Winnie's story of her life on a small island outside Shanghai in the 1920s, and other places in China during World War II, and traces the happy and desperate events that led to Winnie's coming to America in 1949. *The Kitchen God's Wife* is a beautiful book (Los Angeles Times) from the bestselling author of novels like *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, and the memoir, *Where the Past Begins*.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Yellow Woman Leslie Marmon Silko, 1993 Ambiguous and unsettling, Silko's *Yellow Woman* explores one woman's desires and changes--her need to open herself to a richer sensuality. Walking away from her everyday identity as daughter, wife and mother, she takes possession of transgressive feelings and desires by recognizing them in the stories she has heard, by blurring the boundaries between herself and the *Yellow Woman* of myth.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *The Yellow Wall-Paper* Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 2024-03-21 She has just given birth to their child. He labels her postpartum depression as »hysteria.« He rents the attic in an old country house. Here, she is to rest alone - forbidden to leave her room. Instead of improving, she starts hallucinating, imagining herself crawling with other women behind the room's yellow wallpaper. And secretly, she records her experiences. *The Yellow Wall-Paper* [1892] is the short but intense, Gothic horror story, written as a diary, about a woman in an attic - imprisoned in her gender; by the story. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's feminist novella was long overlooked in American literary history. Nowadays, it is counted among the classics. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN (1860-1935), born in Hartford, Connecticut, was an American feminist theorist, sociologist, novelist, short story writer, poet, and playwright. Her writings are precursors to many later feminist theories. With her radical life attitude, Perkins Gilman has been an inspiration for many generations of feminists in the USA. Her most famous work is the short story *The Yellow Wall-Paper* [1892], written when she suffered from postpartum psychosis.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Flight Sherman Alexie, 2013-10-15 From the National Book Award-winning author of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, the tale of a troubled boy's trip through history. Half Native American and half Irish, fifteen-year-old "Zits" has spent much of his short life alternately abused and ignored as an orphan and ward of the foster care system. Ever since his mother died, he's felt alienated from everyone, but, thanks to the alcoholic father whom he's never met, especially disconnected from other Indians. After he runs away from his latest foster home, he makes a new friend. Handsome, charismatic, and eloquent, Justice soon persuades Zits to unleash his pain and anger on the uncaring world. But picking up a gun leads Zits on an unexpected time-traveling journey through several violent moments in American history, experiencing life as an FBI agent during the civil rights movement, a mute Indian boy during the Battle of Little Bighorn, a nineteenth-century Indian tracker, and a modern-day airplane pilot. When Zits finally returns to his own body, "he begins to understand what it means to be the hero, the villain and the victim. . . . Mr. Alexie succeeds yet again with his ability to pierce to the heart of matters, leaving this reader with tears in her eyes" (The New York Times Book Review). Sherman Alexie's acclaimed novels have turned a spotlight on the unique experiences of modern-day Native

Americans, and here, the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* takes a bold new turn, combining magical realism with his singular humor and insight. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Sherman Alexie including rare photos from the author’s personal collection.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Tears of a Tiger* Sharon M. Draper, 2013-07-23 The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Chinese Cinderella Adeline Yen Mah, 2009-05-06 More than 800,000 copies in print! From the author of critically acclaimed and bestselling memoir *Falling Leaves*, this is a poignant and moving true account of her childhood, growing up as an unloved daughter in 1940s China. A Chinese proverb says, Falling leaves return to their roots. In her own courageous voice, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph in the face of despair. Adeline’s affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her, and life does not get any easier when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled with gifts and attention. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. Like the classic Cinderella story, this powerful memoir is a moving story of resilience and hope. Includes an Author’s Note, a 6-page photo insert, a historical note, and the Chinese text of the original Chinese Cinderella. A PW BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR AN ALA-YALSA BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS “One of the most inspiring books I have ever read.” –The Guardian

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Children of Loneliness Anzia Yezierska, 1923 Russian Jews in New York City. Cf. Hanna, A. Mirror for the nation

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *The Woman Warrior* Maxine Hong Kingston, 2010-09-01 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • An exhilarating blend of autobiography and mythology, of world and self, of hot rage and cool analysis. First published in 1976, it has become a classic in its innovative portrayal of multiple and intersecting identities—immigrant, female, Chinese, American. • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER “A classic, for a reason.” —Celeste Ng, bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere* and *Our Missing Hearts*, via Twitter As a girl, Kingston lives in two confounding worlds: the California to which her parents have immigrated and the China of her mother’s “talk stories.” The fierce and wily women warriors of her mother’s tales clash jarringly with the harsh reality of female oppression out of which they come. Kingston’s sense of self emerges in the mystifying gaps in these stories, which she learns to fill with stories of her own. A warrior of words, she forges fractured myths and memories into an incandescent whole, achieving a new understanding of her family’s past and her own present.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Perfect Ruin Lauren DeStefano, 2013-10 Sixteen-year-old Morgan Stockhour lives in Internment, a floating city utopia. But when a murder occurs, everything she knows starts to unravel--

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *The Opposite of Fate* Amy Tan, 2003 The author reflects on her family’s Chinese American legacy, her experiences as a writer, her survival of natural disasters, and her struggle to manage three family members afflicted with brain disease.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Fifth Chinese Daughter Jade Snow Wong, 2019-11-21 Jade Snow Wong’s autobiography portrays her coming-of-age in San Francisco’s Chinatown, offering a rich depiction of her immigrant family and her strict upbringing, as well as her rebellion against family and societal expectations for a Chinese woman. Originally published in 1950, *Fifth Chinese Daughter* was one of the most widely read works by an Asian American author in the twentieth century. The US State Department even sent its charismatic young author on a four-month speaking tour throughout Asia. Cited as an influence by prominent Chinese American writers such as Amy Tan and Maxine Hong Kingston, *Fifth Chinese Daughter* is a foundational work in Asian American literature. It was written at a time when few portraits of Asian American life were available, and no

similar works were as popular and broadly appealing. This new edition includes the original illustrations by Kathryn Uhl and features an introduction by Leslie Bow, who critically examines the changing reception and enduring legacy of the book and offers insight into Wong's life as an artist and an ambassador of Chinese American culture.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* Amy Chua, 2011-12-06 A lot of people wonder how Chinese parents raise such stereotypically successful kids. They wonder what Chinese parents do to produce so many math whizzes and music prodigies, what it's like inside the family, and whether they could do it too. Well, I can tell them, because I've done it... Amy Chua's daughters, Sophia and Louisa (Lulu) were polite, interesting and helpful, they had perfect school marks and exceptional musical abilities. The Chinese-parenting model certainly seemed to produce results. But what happens when you do not tolerate disobedience and are confronted by a screaming child who would sooner freeze outside in the cold than be forced to play the piano? *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* is a story about a mother, two daughters, and two dogs. It was supposed to be a story of how Chinese parents are better at raising kids than Western ones. But instead, it's about a bitter clash of cultures, a fleeting taste of glory, and how you can be humbled by a thirteen-year-old. Witty, entertaining and provocative, this is a unique and important book that will transform your perspective of parenting forever.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *The Bonesetter's Daughter* Amy Tan, 2001-02-19 A mother and daughter find what they share in their bones in this compelling novel from the bestselling author of *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*. Ruth Young and her widowed mother have always had a difficult relationship. But when she discovers writings that vividly describe her mother's tumultuous life growing up in China, Ruth discovers a side of LuLing that she never knew existed. Transported to a backwoods village known as Immortal Heart, Ruth learns of secrets passed along by a mute nursemaid, Precious Auntie; of a cave where dragon bones are mined; of the crumbling ravine known as the End of the World; and of the curse that LuLing believes she released through betrayal. Within the calligraphied pages awaits the truth about a mother's heart, secrets she cannot tell her daughter, yet hopes she will never forget... Conjuring the pain of broken dreams and the power of myths, *The Bonesetter's Daughter* is an excavation of the human spirit: the past, its deepest wounds, its most profound hopes.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Going to Meet the Man* James Baldwin, 2013-09-17 A major collection of short stories by one of America's most important writers—informed by the knowledge the wounds racism leaves in both its victims and its perpetrators. • “If Van Gogh was our 19th-century artist-saint, James Baldwin is our 20th-century one.” —Michael Ondaatje, Booker Prize-winner of *The English Patient* In this modern classic, there's no way not to suffer. But you try all kinds of ways to keep from drowning in it. The men and women in these eight short fictions grasp this truth on an elemental level, and their stories detail the ingenious and often desperate ways in which they try to keep their head above water. It may be the heroin that a down-and-out jazz pianist uses to face the terror of pouring his life into an inanimate instrument. It may be the brittle piety of a father who can never forgive his son for his illegitimacy. Or it may be the screen of bigotry that a redneck deputy has raised to blunt the awful childhood memory of the day his parents took him to watch a black man being murdered by a gleeful mob. By turns haunting, heartbreaking, and horrifying, *Going to Meet the Man* is a major work by one of our most important writers.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Barn Burning* William Faulkner, 1979 Reprinted from *Collected Stories of William Faulkner*, by permission of Random House, Inc.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Loop of Jade* Sarah Howe, 2015-05-07 *WINNER OF THE T. S. ELIOT PRIZE 2015* *WINNER OF THE SUNDAY TIMES / PETERS FRASER + DUNLOP YOUNG WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2015* *SHORTLISTED FOR THE FORWARD PRIZE FOR BEST FIRST COLLECTION 2015* There is a Chinese proverb that says: ‘It is more profitable to raise geese than daughters.’ But geese, like daughters, know the obligation to return home. In her exquisite first collection, Sarah Howe explores a dual heritage, journeying back to Hong Kong in search of her roots. With extraordinary range and power, the poems build into a meditation on

hybridity, intermarriage and love – what meaning we find in the world, in art, and in each other. Crossing the bounds of time, race and language, this is an enthralling exploration of self and place, of migration and inheritance, and introduces an unmistakable new voice in British poetry.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Moll Flanders Illustrated* Daniel Defoe, 2021-02-05 *Moll Flanders* is a novel by Daniel Defoe, first published in 1722. It purports to be the true account of the life of the eponymous Moll, detailing her exploits from birth until old age. By 1721, Defoe had become a recognised novelist, with the success of *Robinson Crusoe* in 1719. His political work was tapering off at this point, due to the fall of both Whig and Tory party leaders with whom he had been associated; Robert Walpole was beginning his rise, and Defoe was never fully at home with the Walpole group. Defoe's Whig views are nevertheless evident in the story of Moll, and the novel's full title gives some insight into this and the outline of the plot

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Thomas Jefferson* Christopher Hitchens, 2007 Hitchens brings the character of Jefferson to life as a man of his time and also as a symbolic figure beyond it. Conflicted by power, Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and acted as Minister to France yet yearned for a quieter career in the Virginia legislature. Predicting that slavery would shape the future of America's development, this professed proponent of emancipation continued to own human property. He negotiated the Louisiana Purchase with France, doubling the size of the nation, and authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition, opening up the American frontier. The Barbary War, a lesser-known chapter of his political career, led to the building of the U.S. Navy and the fortification of America's reputation regarding national defense. In the background is the fledgling nation's struggle for independence, formed in the crucible of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, and, in its shadow, the deformation of that struggle in the excesses of the French Revolution.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Typical American* Gish Jen, 2014-11-11 This “irresistible novel” of Chinese immigrants navigating the American dream is “startling [and] heartrending, without ever losing its comic touch” (*Entertainment Weekly*). Gish Jen reinvents the American immigrant story through the Chang family, who first come to the United States with no intention of staying. But when the Communists assume control of China in 1949, Ralph Chang, his sister Theresa, and his wife Helen find themselves in a crisis, struggling to cling to their old-world ideas of themselves. But soon they begin to dream the American dream of self-invention. They transform, poignantly and ironically, from people who disparage all that is “typical American” to people who aspire to the American ideal. With droll humor and a deep empathy for her characters, Gish Jen creates a superbly engrossing story that sparkles with wit while challenging the reader to reconsider what it means to be a typical American. “No paraphrase could capture the intelligence of Gish Jen’s prose, its epigrammatic sweep and swiftness The author just keeps coming at you line after stunning line.” —The New York Times Book Review

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *The Stolen Party and Other Stories* Liliana Heker, 1994

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *An American Childhood* Annie Dillard, 2009-10-13 *An American Childhood* more than takes the reader's breath away. It consumes you as you consume it, so that, when you have put down this book, you're a different person, one who has virtually experienced another childhood. — *Chicago Tribune* A book that instantly captured the hearts of readers across the country, *An American Childhood* is Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard's poignant, vivid memoir of growing up in Pittsburgh in the 1950s and 60s. Dedicated to her parents—from whom she learned a love of language and the importance of following your deepest passions—Dillard's brilliant memoir will resonate with anyone who has ever recalled with longing playing baseball on an endless summer afternoon, caring for a pristine rock collection, or knowing in your heart that a book was written just for you.

analysis of two kinds by amy tan: *Half and Half* Claudine C. O'Hearn, 2008-12-10 As we approach the twenty-first century, biracialism and biculturalism are becoming increasingly common. Skin color and place of birth are no longer reliable signifiers of one's identity or origin. Simple questions like What are you? and Where are you from? aren't answered—they are discussed. How do

you measure someone's race or culture? Half this, quarter that, born here, raised there. What name do you give that? These eighteen essays, joined by a shared sense of duality, address both the difficulties of not fitting into and the benefits of being part of two worlds. Danzy Senna parodies the media's fascination with biracials in a futuristic piece about the mulatto millennium. Garrett Hongo writes about watching his mixed-race children play in a sea of blond hair and white faces, realizing that suburban Oregon might swallow up their unique racial identity. Francisco Goldman shares his frustration with having constantly to explain himself in terms of his Latino and Jewish roots. Malcolm Gladwell understands that being biracial frees him from racial discrimination but also holds him hostage to questions of racial difference. For Indira Ganesan, India and its memory are evoked by the aromas of foods. Through the lens of personal experience, these essays offer a broader spectrum of meaning for race and culture. And in the process, they map a new ethnic terrain that transcends racial and cultural division.

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analysis of two kinds by amy tan: Funny in Farsi Firoozeh Dumas, 2007-12-18 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Finalist for the PEN/USA Award in Creative Nonfiction, the Thurber Prize for American Humor, and the Audie Award in Biography/Memoir This Random House Reader's Circle edition includes a reading group guide and a conversation between Firoozeh Dumas and Khaled Hosseini, author of The Kite Runner! "Remarkable . . . told with wry humor shorn of sentimentality . . . In the end, what sticks with the reader is an exuberant immigrant embrace of America."—San Francisco Chronicle In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. Funny in Farsi chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on Bowling for Dollars and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot. In a series of deftly drawn scenes, we watch the family grapple with American English (hot dogs and hush puppies?—a complete mystery), American traditions (Thanksgiving turkey?—an even greater mystery, since it tastes like nothing), and American culture (Firoozeh's parents laugh uproariously at Bob Hope on television, although they don't get the jokes even when she translates them into Farsi). Above all,

this is an unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love. It is a book that will leave us all laughing—without an accent. Praise for *Funny in Farsi* “Heartfelt and hilarious—in any language.”—*Glamour* “A joyful success.”—*Newsday* “What’s charming beyond the humor of this memoir is that it remains affectionate even in the weakest, most tenuous moments for the culture. It’s the brilliance of true sophistication at work.”—*Los Angeles Times Book Review* “Often hilarious, always interesting . . . Like the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, this book describes with humor the intersection and overlapping of two cultures.”—*The Providence Journal* “A humorous and introspective chronicle of a life filled with love—of family, country, and heritage.”—Jimmy Carter “Delightfully refreshing.”—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* “[*Funny in Farsi*] brings us closer to discovering what it means to be an American.”—*San Jose Mercury News*

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Examines the individual author's entire body of work and on his/her single works of literature.

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