



**ELA Virtual Learning**

# **English II**

**April 20, 2020**



Grade/Course  
Lesson: April 20, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

- I can use details from the short story to make inferences and draw conclusions about what the text is saying.
- I can use the inferences I make about the short story to analyze how a theme is developed throughout the text.



# Bell Ringer

In your notes, journal for 3-5 minutes about a time you were embarrassed by your family. Things to include in your story:

- Who was there?
- Why were you embarrassed?
- How did you react?
- Would you still be embarrassed by the same thing today if it happened again?



## Learn

**Inference:** When we make inferences while reading, we are using the evidence that is available in the text to draw a logical conclusion.

**Example:** A character has a diaper in her hand, spit-up on her shirt, and a bottle warming on the counter. You can infer that this character is a mother.

\*The text might not explicitly say the character is a mother, but we can **infer** that from the details.

# Learn

Watch [this video](#) for more information about inferencing.





## Learn

We use inferencing to figure out what the **theme** of a text is.

The theme of a text is the big idea of the story or what the author wants you to think about/learn from reading.

Themes can usually be applied to situations outside of the story, like events in your own life or the world around you!



## Learn

Watch [this video](#) about finding theme in a short story about a monkey and a dolphin.

As you watch, notice how the people make inferences from details in the story and use those inferences to develop an overall theme for the story.

**\*\*The themes they come up with aren't just true for that specific story but could be applied to multiple different scenarios!**



# Practice

Now it's your turn! Read the short story titled ["Fish Cheeks"](#) by Amy Tan about a Chinese-American family Christmas dinner.

Create a chart in your notes that is similar to the one on the next slide. As you read, make two inferences about how the narrator feels toward her family. One is towards the beginning of the story and one is at the end of the story. Fill those inferences out in the left hand column. On the right hand side, include the textual evidence that lead you to make the inference.





# Practice

<b>Inference about narrator's feelings</b>	<b>Textual Evidence</b>
Beginning of story:	
End of story:	



## Practice

Now using what you inferred from the text about the narrator's feelings toward her family, answer the following question about the theme of the story:

**What is a theme of the short story “Fish Cheeks” regarding family/identity? Use two details from the text to support your answer.**



# Answer Key (answers may vary)

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
  - **Did you write in complete sentences?**
  - **Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?**
  - **Did you answer the question?**
  - **Did you support and explain the answer using details from the text?**

**\*\*See next slide for example answers**



# Answer Key (answers may vary)

## Example Proficient Answer:

A theme from the story “Fish Cheeks” is to be proud of who you are and where you come from. At the beginning of the story, the narrator is embarrassed by her family. The narrator asks, “What would he think of our noisy Chinese relatives who lacked proper American manners?” (Tan, 1). The reader can infer that the narrator feels embarrassed because her Chinese family doesn’t act normal enough for American standards, and she doesn’t want the boy she likes to see them acting this way. By the end of the story though, the narrator is looking back at this time in her life with pride. She remembers, “For Christmas Eve that year, she had chosen all my favorite foods” (Tan, 2). The reader can infer from this detail that even as an adult, the food her family makes is still her favorite and that it is still very special to her. Even though the food and traditions of her home country might seem a little strange to Americans, she still loves where she came from. These inferences support the theme of being proud of your family and where you came from because the narrator learns over the course of the story to be proud to be Chinese.



# Reflection

Think back to what you wrote for the “bell ringer” about being embarrassed by your family. Write for 3-5 minutes about the following questions:

- How was your situation similar to the narrator’s situation in the story?
- Even after being embarrassed by your family, are you still proud of where you came from? Why or why not?