

Group 1

Haak

English 2

6 September 2015

### Discovering Your True Self

Discovering your true self is important because, as individuals, we need to be proud of who we are. A person's identity is what makes each individual unique and different. In the story, "Two Kinds" by Amy Tan, Jing-mei is in constant conflict with her persistent mother, struggling to **assert** her own power and to control her own destiny. Jing-mei does not want to be the **prodigy** her mother desires her to be; she yearns to be her true self, nothing more, nothing less. One night after Jing-mei's mother persists to test her again to see if she is a genius, Jing-mei loses control confessing, "...I looked in the mirror...and when I saw only my face staring back - and understood that it would always be this ordinary face - I began to cry...I made high-pitched noises like a crazed animal, trying to scratch out the face in the mirror" (Tan 2). Jing-mei is tired of trying to be who her mother wants her to be. All she wants is for her mother to accept her for who she really is. Even though Jing-mei wishes for this to be so, her mother still does not give up. Later when her mother pushes her to become an expert at the piano, Jing-mei's patience finally breaks and she **laments**, "Why don't you like me the way I am? I'm not a genius! I can't play the piano" (Tan 3). Jing-mei is tired of her mother forcing her to be something that she is not. She realizes that being a prodigy is her mother's dream, not hers. As a result, it was not until many years later that Jing-mei could forgive her mother for the pain and suffering she endured as a child. Pain and suffering that could have been avoided had her mother just been proud of who Jing-mei really was, herself.