

Name:

Teacher:

Class:

Date:

# MOTIVATION CHART

Character **motivations** are important because they influence what characters do and how they interact with other characters. It's important to think about the **real reasons** behind why the characters do what they do. Consider the passage below about Jing-mei's mother in "Two Kinds":

*She had come here in 1949 after losing everything in China: her mother and father, her family home, her first husband, and two daughters, twin baby girls. But she never looked back with regret. There were so many ways for things to get better.*

The above passage illustrates the **motivation** behind the mother's actions in the story - **She wants things to get better.**

## Learning Target:

**Task:** Complete the Motivation Chart below. Read each detail from the text on the left and then decide what was the motivation behind the action or the words spoken. Ask yourself - What was the real reason the character performed this action or spoke these words? (2 sentences minimum + use at least 2 vocabulary words)

<b>Details From the Story:</b> Action Performed or Words Spoken	<b>Elaborations/Opinions:</b> What is the <b>real reason</b> the Character performed this action or spoke these words?
"Of course, you can be prodigy too... You can be best anything" (Tan 1).	
"The tests got harder-multiplying numbers in my head, finding the queen of hearts in a deck of cards, trying to stand on my head..." (Tan 2).	
"...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).	

<b>Details From the Story:</b> Action Performed or Words Spoken	<b>Elaborations/Opinions:</b> What is the <b>real reason</b> the Character performed this action or spoke these words?
<p>“Why don’t you like me the way I am? I’m not a genius! I can’t play the piano” (Tan 3).</p>	
<p>“...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 <u>discordant</u> hymns” (Tan 4).</p>	
<p>“You want me to be someone that I’m not! I’ll never be the kind of daughter you want me to be” (Tan 6)!</p>	
<p>“...I wish I weren’t your daughter, I wish you weren’t my mother” (Tan 6).</p>	

**Directions:** After completing the Motivation Chart, answer the following questions.

1. **Draw Conclusions:** How does the difference in the attitudes of the mother and daughter create problems?

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2. **Make a Judgment:** Should the narrator’s mother have pushed Jing-mei as she did? Explain.

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