Hui (Amy) Huang

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| **Quote/passage** | **Reaction** |
| “…an old woman, a wok for her armor, a knitting needle for her sword, getting a little crabby as she waited patiently for her daughter to invite her in.” --P184 “Four Directions”4, Nov | This sentence reveals Waverly will be reconciled with her mother. She realizes the opponent that she has been fighting for her independence is a mother who loves her daughter.If this love was missing, Waverly lost her supreme confidence. Her relationship with her mother affected her chess play. She had a notion that her mother was always taking undue credit for her successes. However, when she continued to play chess, without her mother’s devotion and pride in her, she became an ordinary girl.Now Waverly understand her mother’s deeply love. Mother's nagging and criticism demonstrated her love. It is an important factor in Waverly’s successes. There is no winner in the game of chess between mother and daughter because they have the same purpose – happiness in marriage. |
| “And below the heimongmong, all along the ground, were weeds already spilling out over the edges, running wild in every direction.” --P196 “Without Wood”5, Nov | It was evident that Rose’s husband Ted wanted to uproot her in his life. Rose didn’t know what to do. She wishes someone would show her way. Later, when she knew that Ted wanted to get married with someone else, she then realized his true intention.Rose learned from the weeds in the yard. Wild weeds are strong, they are not easy to pull out. Rose is no longer the flower, now she is weeds. Her attitude was contrary to the past. She rejected to sign divorce agreement that Ted gave her. She was not the same as before (without wood) this time. Rose finally made her own decision. She has taken root. Like the wild weeds, she can listen to herself, determine her direction and future.So, in the dream, Rose’s mother is planting weeds, “some for you, some for me.” They were strong in their support of each other.  |
| “Everybody else want best quality, you thinking different.”--208 “Best Quality”9,Nov | This sentence is Jing Mei’s mother said to her. She knows her daughter’s personality. She has not compared with her daughter and Waverly. Everyone’s character is unique. Waverly has a strong sense of competition. But in other hand, she chooses the best crabs to her family also reflects her selfishness. However, Jing Mei chooses the worse one because she wants her mother to get the better one. This difference between the Waverly and Jing Mei makes Suyuan feel pride of her daughter. This just shows Jing Mei’s “best quality” is humility and selflessness. So, Suyuan gives her daughter the jade pendant as a reward. She hopes Jing Mei can wear it and absorb her love. Everyone has his/her own criteria for success. Suyuan believes her daughter is not a follower. Jing Mei can go with her own way. Suyuan gives love and confidence to her daughter. This is the “life’s importance”. |