



The Reign of Mahjong

Text Type: Poem
Suggested finishing time: 15 mins



Listen!

Let's Think!

1. How would you describe your relationship with your family members?
2. How often do you talk to them?

Ever since she focused on nothing but mahjong,
Everything has gone so wrong.

She sits hour after hour
Until the takeaway dinner turns sour.

5 I shout loudly in her ear,
But she just would not hear.

I tell her that I am hungry.
I tell her that Dad is angry.

10 I tell her that the house is messy,
And that her clicking of tiles is too, too noisy.
Yet all these repeat day after day,
Regardless of what I say.

Heart, I see you sink, a little more each day,
You and I—we know it's too great a price to pay:

15 My classmates call me a smelly little freak.
'Lonely, poor and weak!'

All our money is squandered on the mahjong table—
Does she know that, soon, our bond will crumble?

I pray and pray and pray,


20 Hoping against hope she would change someday.
Once she was loving but now I'm betrayed!
May we ever go back to the good old days?
When I meet the Genie I'll ask for a time machine.
May our life get back to routine.

~180 words

Looking into Grammar

The connectives 'and', 'or', 'but' are used to connect ideas. When it comes to asking questions, 'or' is usually used to show possibilities or options.

- ✗ Would you like coffee and tea?
- ✓ Would you like coffee or tea?

 Circle THREE connectives you can find in the last stanza.

STEAM

While some parents pay little attention to their children, others monitor every aspect of their children's lives, like helicopters hovering overhead. These overprotective parents are called 'helicopter parents'.

More to Take Away

In Hong Kong, the Social Welfare Department is responsible for family issues. It provides welfare services including parent-child activities, counselling and family life education.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the poem.
Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.



1. In lines 5-12, what does the writer want?

- A. a freshly prepared dinner
- B. a peaceful state of mind
- C. attention and care
- D. peace and justice

2. How many pairs of rhymes can be found in stanza 2?

- A. one
- B. two
- C. three
- D. six



3. In stanza 2, the writer uses _____ to emphasise her attempts to protest against the negligence of her mother.

- A. alliteration
- B. simile
- C. repetition
- D. personification

4. Which of the following adjectives best describes the writer's mother?

- A. deaf
- B. loving
- C. ill-mannered
- D. irresponsible

4 Pay attention to the events that the writer mentions.

5. Which of the following is TRUE about the writer?

- A. She has a grumpy father.
- B. She is not popular in class.
- C. She is more dependent on her father than on her mother.
- D. She always argues with her mother.

5 Underline the keyword(s) in each statement. Eliminate the wrong options first.

6. What is the main idea of the poem?

- A. Playing mahjong does more harm than good.
- B. Parents with bad habits have no ways to know what their children need.
- C. The bond between parent and child crumbles easily when conflict occurs.
- D. The impact that a gambling parent may have on a child's overall well-being can be serious.

Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/x)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the poem. For questions 1 and 4(ii), answer in complete sentences.



1. Read stanza 1. What may the writer have shouted to her mum?



2. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

- A. ABABAB
- B. ABCABC
- C. AABBCC
- D. ABCCBA

2 A rhyme scheme depicts how the lines in a poem rhyme.

3. In the last stanza, the writer asks for a time machine because _____.

- A. she wants to meet the Genie
- B. she hopes she was not born in the first place
- C. her mother was good some time ago
- D. she thinks she is betrayed

4. (i) Circle the literary device used in line 13.

simile / metaphor / personification / onomatopoeia

(ii) Why does the writer talk to 'Heart'?

4 This line vividly expresses the main theme of the poem.

5. Which TWO of the following idioms match the writer's state of mind in the poem? Mark your answer with a tick (✓) in each appropriate box.

be on cloud nine

down in the dumps

in seventh heaven

in a blue funk

DSE

Level Up



Q2 A rhyme scheme refers to the pattern of rhyming words placed at the end of the lines in a poem. Write the correct letters to match each word with which it rhymes in stanza 1.

line 1 mahjong

A

line 2 wrong

(i) _____

line 3 hour

(ii) _____

line 4 sour

B

line 5 ear

C

line 6 hear

(iii) _____

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the idioms about emotions from the word box.

keep your hair on walk on air pull yourself together
 have ants in your pants be over the moon hit the ceiling



1. _____



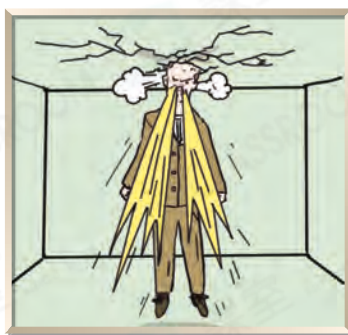
2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____

Word Craft

The above idioms help describe emotions more vividly. Write the numbers in the blanks to match them with what they mean.

- (i) feeling angry _____
- (ii) feeling nervous _____
- (iii) feeling happy _____
- (iv) becoming calm again _____

Let's Discuss!

1. What do you do to strengthen family bonds?
2. How do you usually resolve family conflicts?