

Thinking Aloud: Exemplars #2

Burke/English

- I *notice*...
 - I *think*...
 - I *wonder*...
 - I *suspect*...
 - The author is saying that...
 - The characters tend to...
 - Certain themes keep appearing...
 - As with other books we have read, this one...
 - A good example of _____ is when...
 - _____ reminded me of...because...
 - _____ is important because...
 - One thing that confuses me is...because...
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Introduction Use the following exemplars to help you improve your own think-alouds. Remember to refer to the prompts listed above. These all come, once again, from Amy Tan's novel *The Kitchen God's Wife*.

1. **I wonder** why she switched the narrators at the end of the chapter like that. Why not start a whole new chapter with Winnie starting to narrate the story? Or was that not as distinctive as putting a dingbat in the middle of the page? Maybe, maybe not. **I think** she changed narrators and created that section-divider page to get the reader's attention. Make the change sharp and easy to notice. Switching the narrators **I think** makes a dramatic change in the story. First the story was told from a young woman's point of view. Now as her mother is telling the story, **I predict** that the story might show some more wisdom in each sentence. More enticing elaborations in each descriptive quote of hers, telling more about that time period. Knowing and telling more from experience. (Kristin Carranza)
2. **I feel** that Winnie always thinks she is right as well, but when she is wrong, she says it was her luck that turned against her. **I think** that Winnie's luck comes with bad things and visa-versa, so they sort of cancel each other out. **I think** Winnie's luck runs in the family because some of her bad luck was brought upon her by some relative of hers. Old Aunt put the vision of Lin as a lizard in Winnie's mind. The Chinese have a different philosophy than the people in India. In India people believe in fate and mostly marry people they have never seen before. Winnie didn't marry the man she didn't see even though she should have. To an Indian person, she messed up her fate...to marry the wrong man. *Jasmine* and *KGW* have another similarity: They both talk about having different lives. (Jacqui deBorja)
3. **Chapter 3 makes me ponder** over many things. For instance: Why didn't Winnie marry Lin? Why, all of a sudden, is she thinking about Lin? Does she have any regrets? **The first question is very relevant to the story because** if she had married Lin, she wouldn't have married Jimmy! Then, the whole story would be turned upside down. **I also wondered** if she was going to tell anybody the real story of Kun. **It seems** a little odd that she would make up a huge lie. Even though everyone knows the "story" of Kun, **I think** Winnie should tell the truth. She is not hurting anyone but herself. **I noticed** that throughout the whole book there has been a theme of hiding. For example, Pearl keeps her disease a secret and Winnie won't tell anyone about Kun. (Jennifer Edl)