Book: The Joy Luck Club (abridged version)

Reviewer: Dianne Dorn

Level of Difficulty: Medium

My thoughts about the book and its suitability for my group:

The book turned out to be extremely suitable. One of my newer students just immigrated from China in July with her two children, the youngest of which spoke not a word of English upon arrival. We were able to appreciate the references in the book with real-life understanding.

Students’ reactions to the book:

Good reactions. The book centers around the stories of four mothers and four daughters and the universal theme of communication. The students found no problem discussing issues and relationships in the book.

Tips for other tutors who may want to use this book:

The Joy Luck Club has some heavy messages: Motherhood, jealousy, competition, worthiness, racial bias, ambition, and generational conflict. It's not a feel-good story until the final pages.