

Discussion Questions for “Mother Tongue”

- What point is Tan making with the example of her mother and the hospital?
- What point is she making with the example of the stockbroker?
- Tan says that experts believe that a person’s “developing language skills are more influenced by peers”; yet she thinks that family is more influential, “especially in immigrant families.” Do you think family or peers exert more influence on a person’s language?
- Why does Tan discuss the SAT and her performance on it?
- Why does she envision her mother as the reader of her novels?