

10th Grade English Summer Work 2019

Theme: Tolerance & Intolerance

Directions: Read the short story "Fish Cheeks" by Amy Tan and the article "Botswana offers a valuable lesson about racial harmony to U.S." by Owen Ullmann, USA Today.

Complete the graphic organizer to help you make meaning of the texts and make connections.

When you return to school, be prepared to take a quiz with comprehension questions and short answer responses. You will be allowed to use your completed graphic organizer on the quiz, but you will not have access to the texts, so take time to familiarize yourself with the material before the assignment is due.

Academic Honesty: It is our expectation that each student will complete the graphic organizers on his/her own, in his/her own words, without help from other sources. If you need support in completing the readings and graphic organizers, please consider attending the summer work help sessions.

Grading: The in-class quiz score will count for 3% of the quarter 1 average.

Graphic Organizer

"Fish Cheeks"

<p>Plot Points/Main Ideas (5 important things that happen in the text)</p>	<p>Characters/People & Traits (important character names & personality traits)</p>
<p>Theme & Quote (1-2 themes and 1-2 quotes that show that theme)</p>	<p>Examples of Tolerance/Intolerance (places where people in the text deal with tolerance/intolerance)</p>

“Fish Cheeks” by Amy Tan

I fell in love with the minister's son the winter I turned fourteen. He was not Chinese, but as white as Mary in the manger. For Christmas I prayed for this blond-haired boy, Robert, and a slim new American nose.

When I found out that my parents had invited the minister's family over for Christmas Eve dinner, I cried. What would Robert think of our shabby Chinese Christmas? What would he think of our noisy Chinese relatives who lacked proper American manners? What terrible disappointment would he feel upon seeing not a roasted turkey and sweet potatoes but Chinese food?

On Christmas Eve I saw that my mother had outdone herself in creating a strange menu. She was pulling black veins out of the backs of fleshy prawns. The kitchen was littered with appalling mounds of raw food: A slimy rock cod with bulging eyes that pleaded not to be thrown into a pan of hot oil. Tofu, which looked like stacked wedges of rubbery white sponges. A bowl soaking dried fungus back to life. A plate of squid, their backs crisscrossed with knife markings so they resembled bicycle tires.

And then they arrived – the minister's family and all my relatives in a clamor of doorbells and crumpled Christmas packages. Robert grunted hello, and I pretended he was not worthy of existence.

Dinner threw me deeper into despair. My relatives licked the ends of their chopsticks and reached across the table, dipping them into the dozen or so plates of food. Robert and his family waited patiently for platters to be passed to them. My relatives murmured with pleasure when my mother brought out the whole steamed fish. Robert grimaced. Then my father poked his chopsticks just below the fish eye and plucked out the soft meat. "Amy, your favorite," he said, offering me the tender fish cheek. I wanted to disappear.

At the end of the meal my father leaned back and belched loudly, thanking my mother for her fine cooking. "It's a polite Chinese custom to show you are satisfied," explained my father to our astonished guests. Robert was looking down at his plate with a reddened face. The minister managed to muster up a quiet burp. I was stunned into silence for the rest of the night.

After everyone had gone, my mother said to me, "You want to be the same as American girls on the outside." She handed me an early gift. It was a miniskirt in beige tweed. "But inside you must always be Chinese. You must be proud you are different. Your only shame is to have shame."

And even though I didn't agree with her then, I knew that she understood how much I had suffered during the evening's dinner. It wasn't until many years later – long after I had gotten over my crush on Robert – that I was able to fully appreciate her lesson and the true purpose behind our particular menu. For Christmas Eve that year, she had chosen all my favorite foods.

"Botswana offers..."

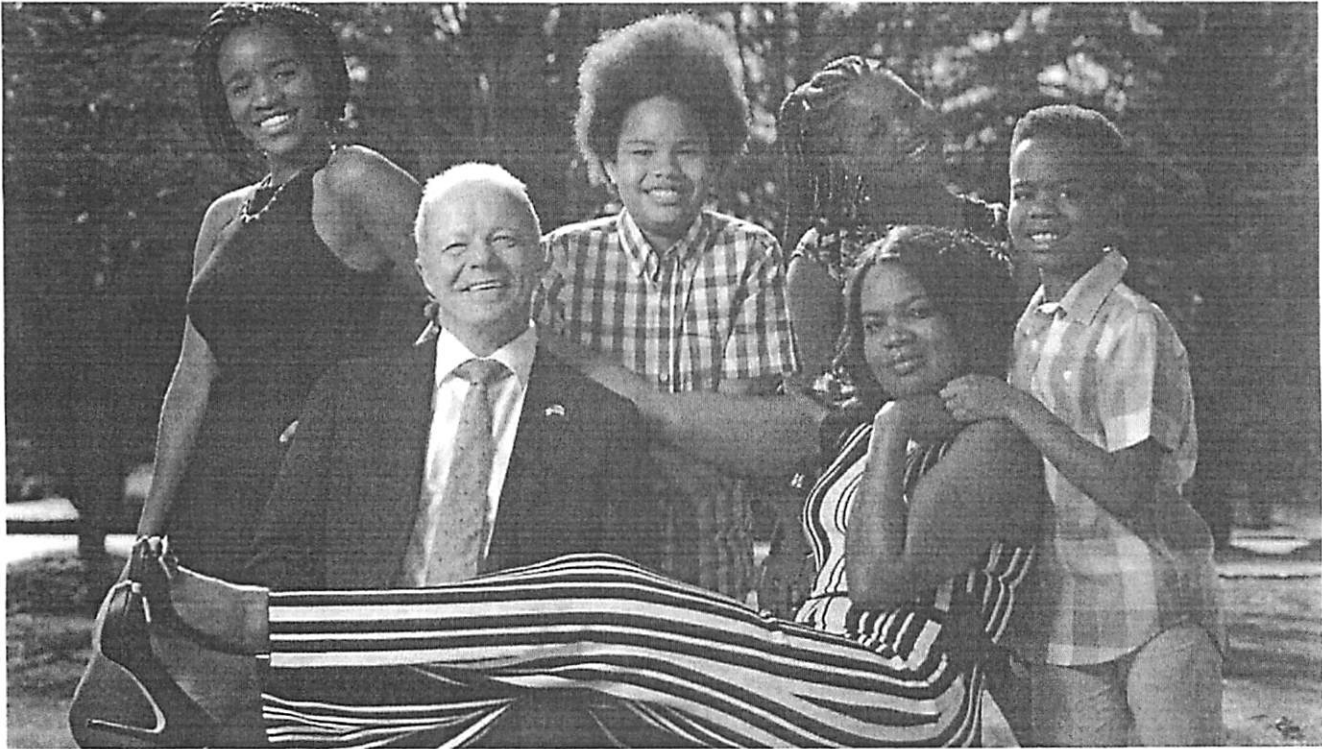
<p>Plot Points/Main Ideas (5 important things that happen in the text)</p>	<p>Characters/People & Traits (important character names & personality traits)</p>
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Botswana offers a valuable lesson about racial harmony to U.S.

By Owen Ullmann, USA Today on 02.08.19

Word Count 649

Level MAX



Ambassador David Newman from the Republic of Botswana is photographed with his family outside their home in Potomac, Maryland, February, 20, 2017. (From left) Pearl Newman, David Newman, Khumo Newman, Changu Newman, Baraedi Newman and Jack Newman. David Newman is a white British-born ambassador representing a majority-black southern African country with a reputation for racial harmony 50 years after independence. He and his wife, a black Botswanan, and their four children talk about the shock of racial tensions in the United States. Photo by: Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post/Getty Images

OKAVANGO DELTA, Botswana — This country in the middle of the Kalahari Desert of southern Africa is a lure for safari tourists eager to spot the wild animals that roam freely. Yet visitors can't help but notice something else about this country that is as rare elsewhere in the world as the endangered animals who live in this vast savanna: racial harmony.

"Absolutely, it's palpable. There's no hostility between the blacks and whites, in contrast to neighboring South Africa and other nations in the region," observes Barry Wood, a veteran journalist who has covered southern Africa. "It's an extraordinary accomplishment."

Botswana stands out as a lone counterpoint to the racial strife, poverty, dictatorships and corruption that have long been the standard in so many African nations. It has its unique geography, history and culture to thank for that.

As the United States celebrates Black History Month in February, all Americans, who still struggle with a long history of racial discrimination and conflict, can learn important lessons about racial harmony from faraway Botswana.

The African country, roughly the area of Texas with just 2 million residents (about the same as New Mexico), was a British protectorate until it gained independence in 1966. It has been a successful and stable democracy ever since, something no other African nation can claim.

It has the most enlightened environmental policies in Africa, creating a countrywide preserve for wild animals. As a result, it has Africa's largest population of elephants, who sense they are safe. Watchdog groups rate the government as the least corrupt in Africa. And it's an economic success story, increasing per capita income from \$80 in 1966 (one of the lowest in the world) to \$3,200 today.

Besides tourism, the country's economy has benefited from its chief export of diamonds, which were discovered a year after independence. (That's the official story, at least. Some Botswanans suspect that diamonds were found earlier but kept secret until the British left.)

An even bigger accomplishment has been the development of a society in which the mostly black population and the tiny white minority (less than 5 percent) live and work together without the overt discrimination or more subtle tensions found in societies such as the USA.

David Newman, Botswana's ambassador to the U.S., attributes his nation's racial harmony to the core values of the majority Tswana tribe, which preaches "respect for all humanity." The concept, known as botho in the Setswana national language, means that everyone is connected to the larger community as if it were an extended family.

"In South Africa, there are still divisions from apartheid, and we are reminded of racial differences in the United States," Newman said in an interview. "In Botswana, you become color blind."

Newman, a white British native married to a black Botswanan, said the country's constitution specifically bars racial discrimination. He also attributes racial harmony to kgotla, the Tswana tradition of holding local courtyard assemblies so all community members can have a say in an open forum for free expression.

Mimmy Polan, registry officer at the Botswana Embassy in Washington, said she and her white American husband have experienced discrimination against biracial couples like themselves in Boston, where they lived for years. "You try to suppress it, but it's there," she said. They also encountered bias in South Africa, but never in Botswana, Polan said.

Masego Nkgomotsang, the embassy's first secretary for economic affairs, said that growing up in Botswana, "we know racism exists, but we don't really know a lot about it. We don't understand it because we haven't had to think about it."

Nkgomotsang said that when he lived in Washington, a friend asked how it felt to be the only black person living in their neighborhood. He said he had not noticed that. His friend, he said, was amazed at "how can I live here and not realize it. I just didn't have that consciousness."