

Maizy Chen's Last Chance

Written by Lisa Yee

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The main character in *Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee visits her grandparents on summer break. While she is there, she helps out in the family restaurant and meets many colorful characters. In this lesson, students will evaluate a character and collect evidence to support their character analysis.

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will be able to analyze character actions.
2. Students will be able to make a claim about characterization and support with textual evidence.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee
- Who is Lady Macbeth? Worksheet

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Students should read Chapter 61 of *Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee. In this chapter, Maizy Chen is confident in her character assessment of Lady Macbeth, but what she believes to be true is not the case.
- Step 2:** Students should complete the Who is Lady Macbeth? Worksheet by collecting evidence to support their claim about a character's actions. The actions, words, thoughts, and behaviors reveal the true character. They can do this independently, with a partner, or with a group.

Finding Your Place in the World: *Lessons for Reading and Writing*



SUMMARY

Maizy has never been to Last Chance, Minnesota... until now. Her mom's plan is just to stay for a couple weeks, until her grandfather gets better. But plans change, and as Maizy spends more time in Last Chance (where she and her family are the only Asian Americans) and at the Golden Palace—the restaurant that's been in her family for generations—she makes some discoveries. For instance:

- You can tell a LOT about someone by the way they order food.
- And people can surprise you. Sometimes in good ways, sometimes in disappointing ways.
- And the Golden Palace has secrets.

But the more Maizy discovers, the more questions she has. Like, why are her mom and her grandmother always fighting? Who are the people in the photographs on the office wall? And when she discovers that a beloved family treasure has gone missing—and someone has left a racist note—Maizy decides it's time to find the answers.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (*cont'd*)**Key Ideas:**

- “Lady Macbeth is holding up her cane, ready to strike.”
- “That doesn’t give you license to come in!”
- “Speak, Mazy. You seem like a girl who has a lot to say.”
- “Lady Macbeth’s face contorts.”
- “Anyone with half a brain knows that the restaurant doesn’t need another person on payroll.”

Step 3: Once students have completed compiling their evidence, they should draw a conclusion. Is this character likable? Is she trustworthy? What can they determine from the evidence collected so far?

Step 4: Once students have completed the assignment, they can share with the class or with a partner.

Who Is Lady Macbeth?

Read chapter 61 from *Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee. Illustrate your understanding of the character Lady Macbeth by finding evidence to fill in the boxes below.

What the character says	What the character thinks	What the character does	How the character behaves	What the character looks like

Draw a conclusion: What do these actions, words, thoughts, and behaviors reveal about Lady Macbeth? Is she likable? Is she trustworthy? Is Maizy Chen correct in her character assessment of Lady Macbeth?