 Prescribed Text: Contemporary Asian Australian Poets

‘Translucent Jade’ – Maureen Ten (Ten Ch’in U)

Pre-Reading

[Biography](https://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A14680) taken from: https://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A14680

Ten Ch'in U (Maureen Ten)

Born: ca. [1948] Malaysia; Arrived in Australia: 1989, Heritage: Malaysian Chinese.

Maureen Ten came to Australia from Malaysia with her family in 1989.

She was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from the University of Malaya and a Master of Arts degree in literature from the University of Kent, United Kingdom. She has worked as a reporter, feature writer, columnist, assistant television producer, documentary film maker, copywriter, audio visual manager, university tutor, teacher and book editor.

In 1988, 'Makan Anzin' (an improvisation for five actors) and another piece for the stage, 'For the Time Being', were performed by the British Council in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has held membership of the New South Wales Writers' Centre and Poets' Union, Australia. From 2001 she has been active in organizing poetry and discussion evenings to bring together poets, artists and other creative people from diverse cultural backgrounds. A portion of her article 'Why I Am So Envious of Woody Allen' was read during the Film Program on Radio National. Her work was read at the Live Poets' Society in 2000-2004, Rudolf Steiner House, Sydney, in 2001-2004, Brett Whiteley Studios, Sydney, in 2000-2003 and the New South Wales Writers' Centre in 2006.

Activity 1: Pre-Reading

Without using a dictionary give a plain English definition of the following:

Translucent:

Jade:

Gift:

Define the following vocabulary

| Word | Definition |
| --- | --- |
| Common |  |
| Origin |  |
| Jostle |  |
| Disuse |  |
| Retrieve |  |
| Barely |  |
| Pristine |  |
| Imposter |  |
| Inhabit |  |
| Reflect |  |
| Yield |  |

Activity 2: During Reading

Revising language techniques

| Term | Definition | Example from the poem |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sibilance |  |  |
| Motif |  |  |
| Parallelism |  |  |
| Enjambment |  |  |
| Euphemism |  |  |
| Connotation |  |  |
| Personification |  |  |
| Tone |  |  |
| Rhetorical Question |  |  |

Activity 3: Post-Reading

Matching textual evidence with language features

After you have read the poem go back to the table you completed in activity 2. Using the annotations you have made for the poem complete the final section of the table where you find evidence of each of the following techniques in Translucent Jade.

Activity 4: Reflecting

* Why is Maureen Ten’s Chinese name significant for her sense of identity?
* Think of some reasons why people use or choose different names for themselves? What is gained or lost by taking a different name?
* Have you chosen to still use your birth name or have you adopted a Western name since moving to Australia? Was this your choice or someone else’s? How do you feel about this choice? Do you think it has and impact on:
  + Your self-perception?
  + The way others perceive you?