Reader Response: Two Kinds

**Directions**: Read the following selections from the excerpt of “Two Kinds” by Amy Tan. After each selection respond to two prompts: ‘What situation do you think caused the narrator to say this?’ and ‘Describe a time when you felt similar emotions.’

1. “…sometimes the prodigy in me became impatient. ‘If you don’t hurry up and get me out of here, I’m disappearing for good,’ it warned. ‘And then you’ll always be nothing.’”

What situation do you think caused the narrator to say this?

Describe a time when you felt similar emotions.

2. “…after seeing my mother’s disappointed face once again, something inside of me began to die. I hated the tests, the raised hopes and failed expectations. Before going to bed that night, I looked in the mirror above the bathroom sink and when I saw only my face staring back—and that it would always be this ordinary face—I began to cry.”

What situation do you think caused the narrator to say this?

Describe a time when you felt similar emotions.

3. “So maybe I never really gave myself a fair chance. I did pick up the basics pretty quickly, and I might have become a good pianist at that young age. But I was so determined not to try, not to be anybody different, that I learned only the most ear-splitting preludes, the most discordant hymns.”

What situation do you think caused the narrator to say this?

Describe a time when you felt similar emotions.

4. “‘Then I wish I wasn’t your daughter. I wish you weren’t my mother,’ I shouted. As I said these things I got scared. It felt like worms and toads and slimy things were crawling out of my chest, but it also felt good, as if this awful side of me had surfaced at last.”

What situation do you think caused the narrator to say this?

Describe a time when you felt similar emotions.