**English 1201: Fish Cheeks, Western Eyes, and Phenomenal Woman**

**\*Complete each of the following activities/questions.\***

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.  
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size  
But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.  
I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms  
The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.  
  
I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please,  
And to a man,  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees.  
Then they swarm around me,  
A hive of honey bees.  
I say,  
It's the fire in my eyes,  
And the flash of my teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered  
What they see in me.  
They try so much  
But they can't touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them  
They say they still can't see.  
I say,  
It's in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.  
I'm a woman.

Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.  
  
Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing  
It ought to make you proud.  
I say,  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need of my care,  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Questions and Activities:

1. Using a graphic organizer, identify Amy Tan’s attitude toward Chinese culture and American culture, looking particularly at her attitude before the end of the dinner. Support your response with specific textual evidence. What does this analysis reveal about Tan?
2. Discuss a time when you felt like you were hiding your authentic self from the world. Why did you do this, and if you had the chance, would you change your behavior? Why or why not?
3. In a paragraph, draw on the events of the story “Fish Cheeks” and the documentary “Western Eyes”. Discuss, with at least 2 examples for Amy and 2 examples for Sharon/Reba, their individual motivations for acting the way they did.
4. The short story “Fish Cheeks” is written in first person. Discuss why this is an effective narrative voice. Use two examples to support your answer.
5. In a fully developed paragraph, state and compare the themes of “Fish Cheeks”, “Western Eyes”, and “Phenomenal Woman”. Make sure to use at least one example from each work.

\*Discuss symbol, emphatic devices, voice, metaphor, enjambment, parallel structure, figurative language, and imagery in regards to the poem\*