

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Confucian Teachings, the Law, and Education

### Warm up:

Think for a moment about the rules in your home.

1. What sorts of rules or expectations are there in your family for the way children interact with their parents and other elder family members? Were you explicitly taught these or did you learn by observing and receiving feedback?
2. What rules do your parents seem to follow in their interactions with *their* parents and other elder family members?
3. Have you observed different relationships or rules in the homes of others? What makes them different?
4. What are the expectations in your family regarding education?
5. What responsibility, if any, do you feel to uphold your family name or the Girls Preparatory name? Were you explicitly taught these or did you learn by observing and receiving feedback?

## Excerpts to discuss and mark up:

Read each excerpt with your partner. Look up any words you need to clarify. Highlight any words or phrases that describe expectations and rules that define that parent-child relationship. Make notes directly on your paper. Use your notes to complete the 4As Protocol below.

### Filial Piety in the Analects

"[A student] asked about the treatment of parents. The master said behave in such a way that your father and mother have no anxiety about you... 'Filial sons' are people who see to it that their parents get enough to eat. But even dogs and horses are cared for to that extent. If there is no feeling of respect, wherein lies the difference? Filial piety does not consist merely in young people undertaking the hard work. It is something much more than that." – the *Analects*

### Filial Piety in the Court

"Mrs. Fan...petitioned to have her eldest son, Fan Gui, released from his criminal sentence to care for her. Fan Gui accidentally wounded his mother when quarreling with his younger brother. Fan Gui was tried and provisionally sentenced to immediate death...We again received a petition from Mrs. Fan stating that her third son had died, and Fan Yuan, her second son, had been deported. Moreover, he is truly an unfilial rascal. Hence, she requests that her eldest son, Fan Gui, be allowed to remain at home. This Board...submitted a palace memorial to the emperor proposing approval of the petition...Fan Gui was able to remain at home."- The Case of Fan Gui (1821)

### Three Character Classic – from ctext.org

1 三字經: 人之初, 性本善。性相近, 習相遠。

Three Character Classic:....: Men at their birth  
are naturally good.  
Their natures are much the same;  
their habits become widely different.

2 三字經: 苟不教, 性乃遷。教之道, 貴以專。

Three Character Classic:....: If foolishly there is no teaching,  
the nature will deteriorate.  
The right way in teaching  
is to attach the utmost importance in thoroughness.

4 三字經: 竇燕山, 有義方。教五子, 名俱揚。

Three Character Classic:....: Dou of the Swallow Hills  
had the right method.  
He taught five sons,  
each of whom raised the family reputation.

5 三字經: 養不教, 父之過。教不嚴, 師之惰。

Three Character Classic:....: To feed without teaching  
is the father's fault.  
To teach without severity  
is the teacher's laziness.

6 三字經: 子不學, 非所宜。幼不學, 老何為。

Three Character Classic:....: If the child does not learn,  
 this is not as it should be.  
 If he does not learn while young,  
 what will he be when old?

Agree - What do you agree with in the text?	Argue - What do you want to argue with in the text?
Assumption - What assumptions were made by the authors of the text?	Aspire - What parts of the text do you want to Aspire to?

Further Exploration:

1. Interview your parents to determine how they would define your family rules. Ask them to describe the important rules they had been taught as children. Find out what is most important to them about your behavior towards your elders and to those in authority. Ask them about how your relationship and expectations might change as you both age. Ask them about expectations they faced when your age in relation to education and responsibility for upholding their family's reputation.
2. Examine your school's rules or policies. Are there any examples of expectations for conduct that reflect filial piety? Could you rewrite some rules or policies to reflect the teachings you have been examining?