**Discussion Questions *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down***

Question #1: making the familiar strange

Fadiman offers a critique of American assumptions about the infallibility and pure scientific rationality of Western medicine. She suggest that our faith in doctors is not so different than the Hmong peoples faith in shamans (*txiv neeb*s). Or, in other words, that biomedicine is itself a cultural system just like Hmong animism, complete with its own set of interests, emotions, and biases (words of Arthur Kleinman, medical anthropologist, page 261).

* How is this so? Explain through reference to the case of Lia Lee
* Fadiman also implies that there are aspects of shamanic healing that are superior to the methods of healing by doctors. What healing methods does she see as particularly positive?
* How do you feel about the way that Fadiman writes about the American medical establishment?