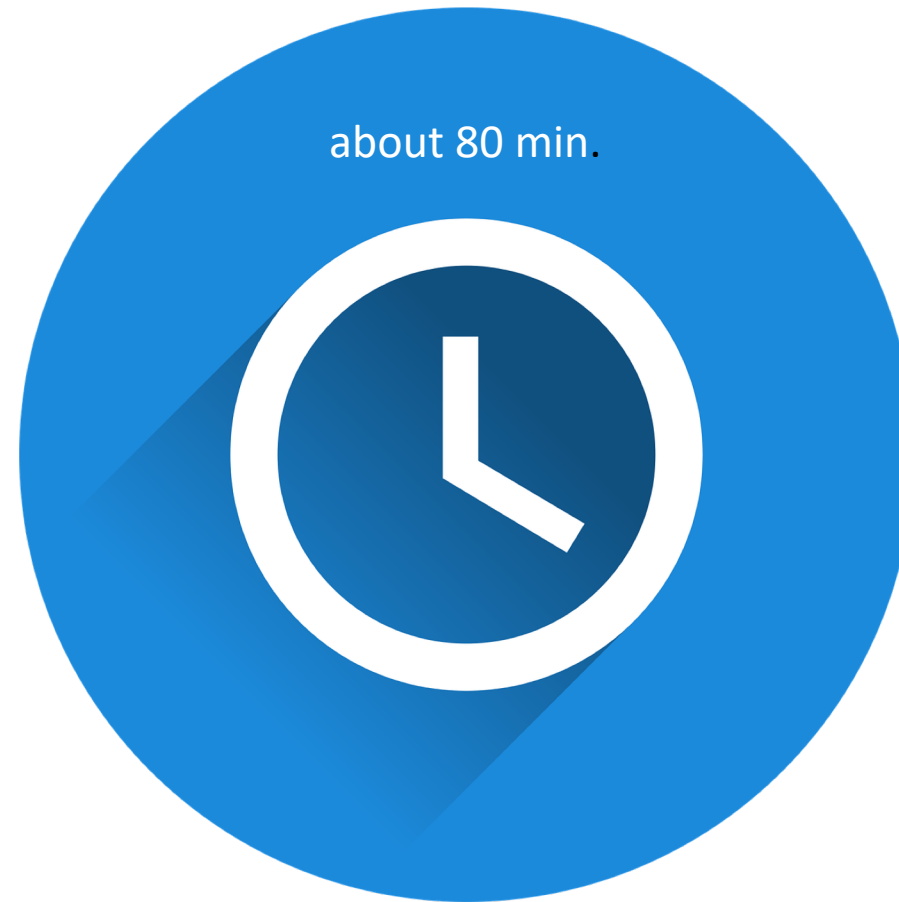


# Part 2: *The relationship between Jing-mei and her mother*



<https://pixabay.com/de/vectors/zeit-uhrzeit-uhr-zeitanzeige-icon-1606153/>

# Step 1: Characterizing mother and daughter

Take a look at the word bank on the next page. Make sure you know all the words and phrases in it. If not, use a monolingual dictionary to look them up.

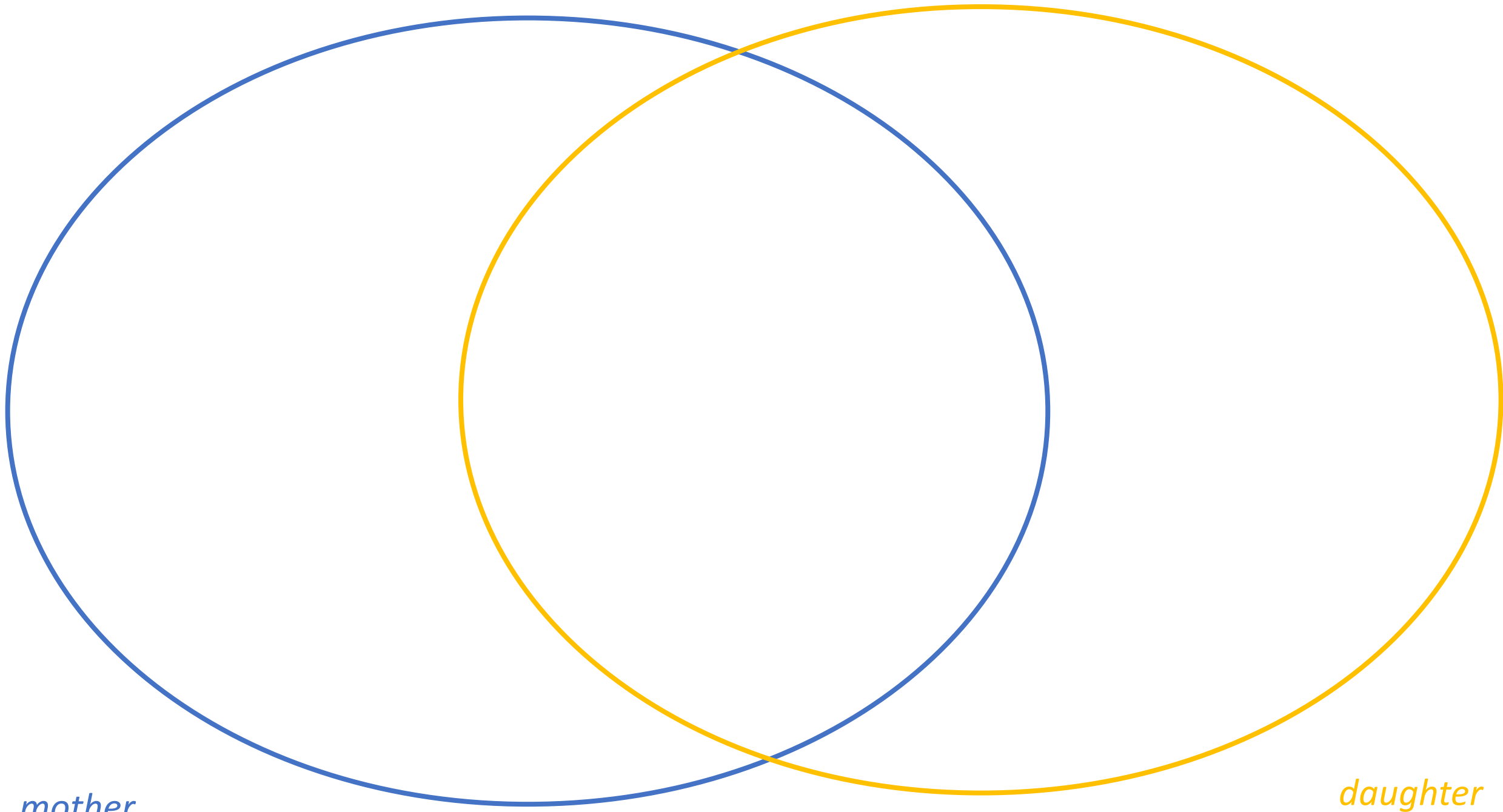


Arrange the words and phrases in the space on page 4: mother / daughter / both  
If one of the words or phrases fits neither of them, write it outside the circles.

- achieve a goal
- ambitious
- assert yourself
- be adamant
- become independent
- come of age
- confident
- controlling
- deal with pressure
- desperate
- determined

- disappointed
- disobedient
- face painful experiences
- fall short of expectations
- feel discouraged
- forgiving
- humiliated
- loyal
- model so. into sth.
- obedient
- parade sth. to so.

- place expectations on so.
- project anxieties on so.
- proud
- push so. beyond abilities
- quick-tempered
- rebel against so./sth.
- regretful
- relentless
- sympathetic
- triumphant
- unhappy



*mother*

*daughter*

## Step 2: Analyzing the relationship

Analyze the relationship between Jing-mei and her mother in the first four sections of the story. Write your notes in the table on page 6 of this document, using words and phrases from step 1 and give evidence from the text.

section	notes on the relationship between Jing-mei and her mother	evidence from the text
exposition		
rising action		
climax		
falling action		

# Step 3: Evaluating the ending

- a) Re-read the ending of the short story ("It was not the only disappointment my mother felt in me" - "And after I played them both a few times, I realized they were no longer two halves of the same song", ll. 339-395 / ll. 463-540 / ll. 263-307).
- b) Listen to "Pleading Child" and "Perfectly Contented" from Robert Schumann's "Scenes from Childhood" (pieces nos. 4 and 5, you can easily find them on your favourite streaming service).
- c) Explain the last sentence of the short story in a short coherent text, considering the mood of the music as well as the titles of the two piano pieces.

Die jeweiligen Zeilenangaben beziehen sich auf die folgenden Textausgaben:

Alpen-Kühne et al.: *Camden Town. Oberstufe. Arbeitsheft zu den Pflichtmaterialien*, Braunschweig 2019 (Westermann)

Dietrich, Wiebke und Claudia Krapp: *Hopes and Expectations*, Berlin 2019 (Cornelsen)

Klose, Hartmut et al.: *Green Line Oberstufe, Abiturthemen für das erhöhte Niveau. Arbeitsheft*, Stuttgart 2019 (Klett)

## Step 3: Evaluating the ending

d) Which of the following words or expressions best describe the ending of the story? Rank them accordingly and explain your first and your last choice.

*reconciliation*

*regret*

*making amends*

*forgiveness*

*peace*

*triumph*

*sympathy*



## Step 4: Being creative

After playing the two piano pieces from Robert Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, Jing-mei longs to talk to her mother about their relationship in her childhood and her feelings about it now that she is an adult. So she goes to the graveyard and speaks as if her mother could hear her.

**Take notes** on what Jing-mei wants to tell her mother and **record** her monologue. Listen to the recording yourself and improve it if necessary and / or send it to your study partner or your teacher.

