**“The Perfect Match”: interpretation**

☞ In a group of 3 or 4 analyze one of the following questions. Write your main points on a sheet of paper and be ready to present your results to the class. Use this sheet to take notes during the other groups’ presentations.

1. “In the face of the inevitable, the only choice is to adapt.” (p. 8, ll. 68-69) What does this mean? What are the implications for Sai and Jenny?
2. Is Sai really free at any point in the story? Comment by giving examples from the text.
3. Is the ending of “The Perfect Match” a happy ending? Discuss.

**Help for the interpretation:**

1. These texts may help you to understand the quote better:

definition of “survival of the fittest” from the Cambridge Dictionary:

(1) the principle that animals and plants suited to the conditions they live in are more likely to stay alive and produce other animals and plants than those that are not suited

(2) the belief that only the people with a strong desire to succeed and the ability to change as conditions change will achieve success

“Survival of the fittest is a famous phrase of Herbert Spencer which describes the idea that, in nature, there is competition to survive and reproduce. It is a metaphor, as are the phrases struggle for existence, and natural selection, both of which were used by Charles Darwin. […]

The phrase survival of the fittest is shorthand for the fact that not all members of a species will contribute equally to the next generation. It is not a value judgement, but a concept of evolution equivalent to natural selection. Fitness is now used in a highly technical sense in population genetics, which should not be confused with its use in everyday language.

Today, the phrase survival of the fittest is widely used in popular literature for many topics, not just those related to biology. […] It has also been used to talk about competition of all kinds. Popular literature often uses the phrase as a catchphrase.”

(Wikipedia contributors. (2018, February 7). Survival of the fittest. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved October 31, 2018, from https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Survival\_of\_the\_fittest&oldid=5982137.)

1. The operator “comment” asks you to give your opinion and support your view with evidence (from the text). To answer the question think about the key decision that Sai has to take in the course of the story and ask yourselves who might have influenced him while taking this decision.
2. The operator “discuss” asks you to give arguments or reasons for and against to come to a well-founded conclusion. You can work with a T-grid and collect your arguments, then weigh them and conclude.