



**The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading List**

Teacher's Name: Mr. Derosier

School Year: 2019-2020

Grade Level: 11

Course No.: 148

Course Name: AP English Language

Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP1/CP2/CPA): AP

READING:

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

Everything's an Argument (Sixth Edition) by Lunsford, Ruskiewicz, and Walters
ISBN-13- 978-1457606069

ASSIGNMENT:

There are two separate summer reading assignments for for this course.

The first assignment pertains to the autobiography, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, by Maxine Hong Kingston.

The second assignment pertains to the course text, *Everything's an Argument* (Sixth Edition) by Andrea Lunsford, John Ruskiewicz, and Keith Walters.

I am aware that there is a newer edition of *Everything's an Argument*, but the Sixth Edition is the one I would like you to purchase. This is why I included the ISBN-13 number.

Should you have any questions this summer, please email me at **sderosier@thecatholichighschool.org**. I check my email regularly throughout the summer months, but there are times when I am away from my email. So, if I do not get back to you right away, please be patient, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

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Assignment One: The Woman Warrior

Background for Assignment One

In *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, Maxine Hong Kingston weaves family stories, Chinese legends, and myths, personal memories, imaginative conjectures, and thoughtful reflections to explore her experience of growing up Chinese American, the result of which is a powerful, complex, and beautifully crafted story.

Guidelines for Assignment One

Your responses must be typed, must be double spaced, must have one-inch margins on all sides, must be in twelve-point Times New Roman font, and must be left-margin justified. Be sure to include a properly formatted MLA header. Be sure to also use in-text citations for direct quotes and paraphrases from the novel. MLA citations consist of the author's last name and the page number, in parentheses, with a period after the entirety of the citation (Kingston 1). After the first citation, you can just use the page (2). Each response should be at least five sentences and no more than ten in length. Responses that are less than five sentences and exceed ten sentences will receive a grade deduction.

You are not allowed to use ANY outside source for your responses! The only sources you need to write your responses are the novel itself and your brain!

Chapter 1: No Name Woman

Kingston begins *The Woman Warrior* with a story her mother told her when she was a young adolescent. Respond to the following questions as you analyze the opening chapter.

- What irony do you see in the opening sentence?
- What was the mother's purpose in telling the story?
- How does Kingston respond imaginatively to the story of No Name Woman?
- What issues seem to surface as major themes?
- Relate the subtitle, "Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts," to this chapter.
- What have you already learned about Kingston's family background, character, and personality?



Chapter 2: White Tigers

Respond to the following questions as you analyze Kingston's use of the legend of the Chinese woman warrior.

- What point of view does Kingston use? Why? How would the story differ if she had used third-person to narrate the legend?
- What is a hero? What are some typical patterns of stories of heroes? How well does Fa Mu Lan fit the pattern?
- List the steps in her development from ordinary child to heroic warrior. How long does the process take?
- How do you interpret the section in which her parents engrave their grievances in the flesh of her back? How does Kingston interpret it at the end of the chapter?
- The stories in the previous chapter and this chapter focus on what it means to be a Chinese woman. How do the stories relate to one another? How do they seem to have affected Kingston?
- Who are the business-suited enemies she mentions?
- What is the meaning of her comments on politics in China?
- Fa Mu Lan had enemies in those who harmed her family. Who are Kingston's enemies? What is her battle plan?

Chapter 3: Shaman

Respond to the following questions as you analyze Kingston's blend of fact, memory, and imagination.

- The mother displays her medical diploma only rarely. What does this show about her? Why is she not a doctor in America?
- Interpret the metaphor comparing China to a bat. What does it say about Kingston's attitude toward China?
- What important evidence do each of the three scrolls provide?
- How was the mother able to attend medical school in China?
- What facts are probably at the heart of the story about the Sitting Ghost? How did the facts get embellished?
- The mother says that she lost a lot when she came to America. What does she mean?
- Describe the market at Canton.
- How did the mother maintain her spectacular reputation as a doctor?
- Besides the story of the Sitting Ghost, what other horror stories has the mother told about her life in China? How have they affected Kingston?
- Why did Kingston include the details about food?

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- The chapter ends in the present. How does the closing image of the mother reflect a return to facts?
- Why did Kingston entitle this chapter “Shaman”?

Chapter 4: At the Western Palace

Respond to the following questions as you consider the role of culture shock in Moon Orchid’s experience in the United States.

- What did Moon Orchid seem to expect to find in America?
- How did she respond to Brave Orchid’s family and home?
- To what extent was Brave Orchid herself out of touch with reality in dealing with Moon Orchid?
- Moon Orchid herself did not seem particularly eager to see her husband. Why?
- How did her dependence on Brave Orchid cripple her in the encounter with the doctor?
- How did Brave Orchid’s children respond to Moon Orchid?
- How did the ethnic diversity of California differ from Moon Orchid’s previous experiences? How did this diversity affect her?
- Why was Moon Orchid happy in the mental hospital?
- Why did Kingston devote an entire chapter totally to the story of Moon Orchid in America?

Chapter 5: A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe

Respond to the following questions as you analyze the role of silence in *The Woman Warrior*.

- “Silence is golden,” according to the old adage. In reality, sometimes it is, and sometimes it is not. Why is silence in *The Woman Warrior* a bad kind of silence?



Talking-Story

Throughout *The Woman Warrior*, Kingston refers to her mother, and later to herself, as someone who likes to talk-story. Although, she never defines the term “talk-story,” we can infer its meaning from her examples, which are highlighted by chapter titles. Respond to the following questions as you analyze the meaning of talking-story.

- Identify the talking-story in each of the chapters.
 - No Name Woman
 - White Tigers
 - Shaman
 - At the Western Palace
 - A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe
- What element do all of these stories have in common? What are their purposes? How do they differ from other stories?
- How are imagination and truth interwoven in each one?
- What problems did Kingston have with understanding talk-story when she was growing up? Why?
- Why does she talk-story now?
- In what sense is all of *The Woman Warrior* one extended talking-story? What is its message?

Assignment Two: Everything's an Argument

Instructions for Assignment Two

Read and create an outline of Chapter 1, pp. 3-29.

Guidelines for Assignment Two

Your outline must be typed, must be double spaced, and must include a properly formatted MLA header. Your outline must also include the chapter name, headings, sub-headings, and main points of the chapter.

You may find this website helpful:

<http://rasmussen.libanswers.com/faq/32339>

Note- Outlining a textbook chapter is not simply copying down the first sentence of every paragraph or every heading. A good outline demonstrates understanding of the material and an ability to identify and summarize its main points.

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DUE DATE

Your summer reading assignment is due by or on the first full day of class.

Summer reading assignments will not be accepted late.

Your work must be your own! Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on your summer reading assignment and discipline referral. Please refer to the school's policy pertaining to Academic Dishonesty.

ASSESSMENT

Be prepared for an in-class assessment on *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* at the beginning of the school year.

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