

IB English II SL
***The Woman Warrior* Summer Assignment**
Ms. Gibson

Welcome to IB English II Standard Level! You have decided to pursue the IB English Standard Level course, which means that you have agreed to complete a rigorous and demanding curriculum during your senior year here at AHS. Good for you for challenging yourself and for being willing to put in the effort and time this course will require. And it WILL require a great deal of time, effort, energy, and motivation from you—beginning with this summer assignment.

Your junior English class has set the groundwork and prepared you to do the kind of in-depth analysis the IB curriculum requires. Over the summer, you will be required to read our first text, Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*, and complete a separate assignment based on the book. It is important that you read the book in its entirety and that you complete this assignment ON YOUR OWN, without the help of any online or real-life resources. Your work on this first assignment will help determine your strengths and weaknesses as students, and will be the basis of your instruction over the year. So do your absolute best, and do YOUR OWN WORK ☺

Assignment Overview:

1. Read the book *The Woman Warrior* as dictated by the course book list.
2. As you read, you need to complete a dialogue journal. Use the attached example as a template for your own dialogue journal, and **type your completed journal** before you turn it in. **You need to choose (20) quotations or brief passages from throughout the book.** Each quotation should consist of AT LEAST 2-3 sentences and may be as long as a paragraph. (These are significant passages, not “snippets” of only a few words). Each selected passage must be accompanied by your own comments, thoughts, analysis, and/or questions. **These comments are not plot summary, but rather should be analytical in nature and need to address the specific literary features from the quotation as well.**

**When you return to school in the fall, we will begin our senior IB curriculum with a study of this memoir. Be prepared to discuss and analyze specific passages from the book, as well as write various levels of commentary on the major themes and ideas presented. The work will require you to analyze key moments in the book, make connections between characters, and offer insight and analysis into Kingston's use of language, style, and diction. This is the nice way of saying...if all you do is read the plot summary online, you will be unable to complete the required work for this unit. Good luck and welcome to SL IB English II!

***You may reach me via email, cagibson1@fcps.edu, to answer any questions you may have regarding the assignment. Keep in mind that in the summer I do not check my work email account as often as in the regular school year. I will respond to your queries within one week of the date the email was originally sent.**

Sample Dialogue Journal

The Woman Warrior

Selected Passages (with page #)	Comments, Analysis, Ideas, Questions
<p>“When we Chinese girls listened to the adults talk-story, we learned that we failed if we grew up to be but wives or slaves. We could be heroines, swordswomen. Even if she had to rage across all China a swordswoman got even with anybody who hurt her family. Perhaps women were once so dangerous that they had to have their feet bound” (19).</p>	<p>In this passage, Kingston alludes to the title of her memoir and reveals “woman” as a force not to be reckoned with. In previous passages, Kingston established that being born a woman is more or less a curse and that the best one can hope to salvage from having this misfortune is to one day grow up to become a wife or slave. Thus, this passage is all the bit more ironic; not only may a woman hope for a higher and more honored status than simply “wife”, but one in which she exhibits both strength and power. Perhaps what makes the “woman warrior” such a commanding force is her combination of womanly traits coupled with her fighter instincts. Because the warrior is a woman, she becomes much more “dangerous” as she will not stop until the wrong-doings of her family are avenged.</p>
<p>“During the war, though, when you were born, many people gave older girls away for free. And here I was in the United States paying two hundred dollars for you” (83).</p>	<p>In this passage, Kingston’s mother comments on the difference between expectations and norms of Chinese society versus that of the United States. Kingston’s mother is critical of one paying for hospital care to birth a “useless” female infant, when her own country is encouraging the giving away of a more valuable and useful older female child. This passage reiterates the contradictions Kingston experiences as a result of being a first generation Chinese American. Kingston is born into a culture that appears to automatically place value on human life; conversely, the culture of her family’s native country determines one’s value based on the gender of the child.</p>