

APPENDICES

Summary of The Woman Warrior

The story is a memoir about Kingston herself as a Chinese-American. It is divided into five stories. The first story is her description of the suicide of her aunt after giving birth to an illegitimate child and how she is forbidden to speak about it to anyone by her mother.

The second one is the writer's retelling her childhood. She also imagines herself as Fa Mulan, a legendary woman who overthrows the corrupt government.

The third story describes Kingston's mother's experience in Chinese medical school and her physical and mental battles with spirits and ghosts.

In the fourth story, Kingston's mother, Brave Orchid, brings her sister, Moon Orchid, to America. Brave Orchid forces her to meet her husband, who works as a doctor and remarries an American woman. Unfortunately, the result of her coming is disappointing. He rejects Moon Orchid and she becomes mentally-ill later on.

The last one is her description of her childhood experiences in California public school, and her parents who consider her stupid, ugly, and disobedient. The

story ends with a story of Ts'ai Yen, a Chinese poetess born in A.D. 175, who has to learn to sing in a foreign tongue.

Summary of Donald Duk

The novel takes place in Chinatown in California. Donald Duk is a twelve-year-old Chinese-American boy who is in trouble finding the balance between accepting the American lifestyle and incorporating his Chinese heritage. His family oppresses the American culture while Donald Duk wants to be truly American without being influenced by his Chinese heritage. He is ashamed of the name his father has given him. Donald hates the Chinese culture in his family and thinks it boring, stupid, and embarrassing. Arnold Azalea, Donald's best friend, is welcomed by the Duks to celebrate the Chinese New Year. He finds his best friend's culture amusing and is confused of Donald's being ashamed of his culture.

On the first day of the New Year, Donald's family talks about Chinese immigrants working on the Central Pacific Railroad end of the Transcontinental Railroad. Donald begins to have dreams of being one of the Chinese men that have built that railroad. Later on, he is inspired to do some research on the work of the Chinese immigrants. Donald finds that no credit has been given to the Chinese immigrants in American history books. After seeing the fact, Donald finds himself claiming that white people are racist. His father ensures him that not all white people are racist. Finally, Donald realizes that he can be an American with his Chinese heritage.

Biography of Maxine Hong Kingston

Maxine Hong Kingston is the author of The Woman Warrior. She was born on October 27, 1940 and raised in Stockton, California. Kingston was the third of six children. Her father was a laundry worker and a gambling house owner, called Tom Hong, and her mother, Ying Lang Hong, was a midwife trained at the To Keung School of Midwifery in Canton.

Kingston graduated from the University of California at Berkeley majoring in English Literature in 1962, and got a teaching certificate. In September 2005, she was honored as a 175th Speaker Series writer at Emma Willard School. She is a Chinese-American novelist whose works often reflect her cultural heritage and blend fiction with non-fiction. Some of her notable works are The Woman Warrior (1976), China Men (1980), and The Tripmaster Monkey (1989). She now lives in Oakland together with her husband, actor Earll Kingston, and her son, Joseph Lawrence Chung Mei.

(“Maxine Hong Kingston”)

Biography of Frank Chin

Frank Chin is a Chinese-American playwright and novelist. He was born on February 25, 1940, in Berkeley, California, but was raised to the age of six by a retired Vaudeville couple in Placerville, California. At six years old, his mother brought him back to the San Francisco Bay Area to live in Oakland Chinatown. Chin attended college at the University of California, Berkeley.

Chin is one of the pioneers in Asian-American theatre. One of the most famous plays is The Chickencoop Chinaman (1971). Some of his notable works

are Year of the Dragon (1974), Aiiiiieee! (1974), and Donald Duk (1991). He received an American Book Award in 1989 for a collection of short stories, and Lifetime Achievement in 2000. He now lives in Los Angeles, California.

(“Frank Chin”)