Approaches To Teaching Kingston's The Woman Warrior

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Kingston’s narrative combines myth and memory, sometimes alternating between the two. She borrows ancient images of Asian war and conflict to trace the evolution of her own perspective and show how it clashes with the perspectives of her mother and other Chinese immigrants. Shirley Geok-lin Lim points out in her preface to Approaches to Teaching Kingston’s The Woman Warrior that by revealing the repressed and unspoken stories of her family and of Chinese American history, Kingston is tracing the development of a Chinese American woman finally able to recognize the power of her ethnicity. Kingston, Maxine Hong. Woman warrior, United States -- Biography -- Study and teaching. Publisher. New York : Modern Language Association of America.
Kingston and her husband took teaching positions, first in Northern California, and then in Honolulu, Hawaii, where they moved in 1967. The success of her writing career led to Kingston being named Distinguished Professor of English at her alma mater, Berkeley, in 1990. The Woman Warrior takes place during Kingston’s girlhood in Northern California in the 1940s and 1950s. World War II had recently ended and the Japanese internment camps in her state were closed. A physical war had given way to an ideological one—the Cold War. Other Books Related to The Woman Warrior. The political consciousness movements of the 1960s and 1970s not only led to challenges to political authority, but also inspired challenges to narrative authority. OTHER: Cultural Mis-readings by American Reviewers, in Asian and Western Writers in Dialogue: New Cultural Identities, edited by Guy Amirthanayagam (London: Macmillan, 1982), pp. 55-56; Personal Statement, in Approaches to Teaching Kingston’s The Woman Warrior, edited by Shirley Geok-lin Lim (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1991), pp. 23-25. Kingston’s writing relies heavily on memory and imagination. We approach the truth with metaphors, declared Kingston in a 1983 essay, An Imagined Life. She also told Paula Rabinowitz in a 1987 interview, The artist’s memory winnows out; it edits for what is important and significant. Teaching The Woman Warrior can be a challenging project for instructors who are unfamiliar with the work’s cultural and historical traditions. As the volume editor, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, explains in her preface, one of the goals of Approaches to Teaching Kingston’s The Woman Warrior is “to introduce teachers and students to the larger body of Asian American and ethnic literature [and] to inform them of the immigrant and ethnic traditions that Kingston’s work comes from and contributes to.” This Approaches volume, like others in the series, is divided into two parts.