

## **Response to Literature -- Grade 10**

The following pages contain color overlays taken from an older set of grade 10 samples. In the best of all possible worlds, and in all of our binders, these are printed on clear overlays. However, even on plain paper the value of color mapping becomes evident in determining the scope, balance, and content of the argument presented.

Silence: A quiet well of emotions where no water drips, but where age can drown in the solitude. Life is filled with its periods of silence when a person feels peaceful, but as demonstrated in Maxine Hong Kingston's The Woman Warrior, silence also can choke a person allowing him to be scared away from the world, while it attempts to provide sanctuary for him. Kingston fled to hide in this sanctuary throughout the passage from The Woman Warrior, but she only choked on this well of emotions until she overcame it herself.

Kingston's silence represents many things, emotional and social, that plague mankind, and yet her silence carries on a crusade that only she understands. Her silence (a less brave form of the few attempts she made to speak) is her own constant warfare against embarrassment and fear, even though it is a direct result of fear, and she carries her silence like a shield against the possible embarrassments of speech. Her insecurity in talking causes her to believe she has an impediment, which is why she stumbles vocally (or thinks she does), and she allows this fear to overcome her and force her into the silence "That becomes misery". The several incidents with her teachers in American school shows clearly how her fear of embarrassment forces her to slowly become silent and shrink away from the world. These incidents in American school (as well her trouble with postmen etc. mentioned at the beginning of the excerpt), all result from a root of insecurity, however, given by her mother with the "tongue-cutting" incident. The silence represents the emotion, planted by all of these incidents combined: fear of embarrassment, insecurity, self-consciousness (a virtual well of emotions). It is no wonder that a young girl such as Kingston can be scared into a solitude with a cruel world fighting against her.

Much of the silence may come from the inner emotions that whirl about within Kingston, but some of it also results directly from the social attitudes embracing the world she feared so much. Kingston drops a reference to the time period of her tale, the mid 1940's ("The Japanese kids... released from concentration camp..."), when racism began to climb to a peak of its own cruelty as a result of World War II. Her many references to the silence of being a Chinese girl show how she is not the only child that finds sanctuary and pain in silence, and these Chinese girls seem to hide in silence to escape the threats of society and racism. (The incidents with the Hawaiian teacher are perfect examples of why the girls chose to hide). Although each girl carries her own personal reason for the majority of her silence, they all carry together the burden of living through cruel times. I have many friends of Asian background who seem to carry this burden ( although I must admit one or two of my friends are quite garrulous), even though we supposedly live in "less racist times", and they find the sanctuary in this silence away from the world. At the heart of the silence that Kingston guarded herself with there is personal emotion, but that outer "candy-coating" of social discrimination only helped to increase the fear that drove Kingston and countless others into the silence they suffered through.

Kingston's silence, although as a child she may have never realized it, was not just a time of quiet, but a sanctuary and self-defense mechanism against her own insecurities. Her own fears drove her to silence, but the silence itself was like living in fear: fear of embarrassment, fear of sounding foolish, fear of standing out in a crowd with a voice. Kingston's inability to speak when attempted was almost courageous, as she tried to break (unsuccessfully) from the mold her self-inflicted silence, although she mostly succumbed to the simplicity of fear. Kingston was just another soul lost in a well of emotions, with nowhere to go and nothing to do except stay in her sanctuary and crusade against the fears and insecurities of her own world.

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|--------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Main Idea | 2. Supporting ideas or reasons | 3. Examples that prove ideas or reasons | 4. Argument: how do #2 & #3 work together to show that #1 is valid? |
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"To an Athlete Dying Young" and "Ex- Basketball Player" are poems with many similarities. Their similarities range from the athletic part of the poems to the personal section of the poems.

The poems both are about two men who are competitive in a sport. The sports are different, but the competition is the same intensity level for both men. Both men, Flick and the un-named athlete, share their devotion towards the sports they are competing in. Nothing was as important as winning their game or race. The sports the men were involved in were a huge portion of their lives and something that they would cherish always.

With the help of the competitions, the men had moments of glory. Winning the game and being recognized as the best at the event was part of the glory they shared. Making new records and hoping they would never be beat were glorious times in their lives. After years of recognition, the men were soon forgotten. The athlete's record was broken and Flick gave up basketball altogether. Both of them wore their honor out. They had their time of glory and it was now time to let someone else experience the feeling.

Neither of the men competed in their sport for themselves. Flick played basketball for his school and the athlete ran for his town. Both men wanted to bring honor to the environment that they spent most of their time in.

Although both men received special recognition they never were really able to use the sport to help them achieve greatly in their adulthood life. The athlete was still running when he died and Flick didn't really make much out of his life except an employee at a gas station.

The men shared many experiences in life and neither one of them have anything they could show for it. Their athletic abilities didn't do much for either of them.

The similarities of the poems were very different in many ways, but they were almost identical with what the meaning had for each poem.

1. Main Idea

2. Supporting ideas or reasons

3. Examples that prove ideas or reasons

4. Argument: how do #2 & #3 work together to show that #1 is valid?

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This is a story about a young boy and his father. In the beginning of the story the little boys father takes him by the hand and tells him if he wants to take a walk with him. That makes the boy feel wanted and loved by his father. So they leave and the boy was very happy because he knows that his dad will protect him from anything and he knows that his father is always there for him when he needs help. The boys father was also happy because he knows that the boy loves him alot and that he looks up to him. But towards the end of the story when they are going back home it was getting dark and the boy was afraid of the dark. So he tells his dad that the dark is horrible but his dad tells him that is not, but the little boy doen't believe him so he feels that his dad not really worry about his feelings of the dark. So the little boy felt sad because what his dad told him didn't help him alot and he was still very afraid. This means that no one can help with your feelings and that only you can control your own feelings!!

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| <b>1. Main Idea</b> | <b>2. Supporting ideas or reasons</b> | <b>3. Examples that prove ideas or reasons</b> | <b>4. Argument: how do #2 &amp; #3 work together to show that #1 is valid?</b> |
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