Worksheet for “White Tigers” in
The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts

Answer each of the following questions completely and make direct references to the text.

1. How does Fa Mu Lan achieve her great skills? Tell the personal sacrifices that she has made to become the woman warrior.

2. Identify what you see as the most incredible part of the Fa Mu Lan tale. What makes it so unbelievable? Tell how this might have been different if the character were a man?


4. Kingston writes that her mother raised her saying that “feeding girls is feeding cowbirds,” and “There’s no profit in raising girls. Better to raise geese than girls.” Explain how Kingston seeks to reconcile this belief with the tale of the woman warrior.

5. Explain the irony that Kingston sees in being tricked by the “birds” when writing about her family in China.

6. Kingston writes that what she and Fa Mu Lan have in common are the words at their backs. Explain the similarities between them.