Worksheet for “A Song for the Barbarian Reed Pipe” in
*The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts*

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

1. How is Kingston’s story telling like the skill of the Chinese knot-makers?

2. Tell how Kingston felt about her mother cutting her frenum. What was her mother’s reason for cutting it?

3. What angered Kingston so much about the girl who would not speak?

4. Describe one of the *crazy ladies* in the chapter. What does this description tell the reader about Kingston?

5. Give two examples of how Chinese use language differently from Americans.

6. Why and how did Kingston’s mother try to marry her and her sister off?