

Readers B 1.05: No Name Woman

OUTCOMES: Imagery, Sentences

Name: _____

Learning Target: We will read "No Name Woman," analyze the plot and imagery, and identify a central idea.

Language Target: We will use subordinating conjunctions to analyze and describe the imagery and how it develops the central idea.



Look Fors: I will be able to....

- Analyze the imagery in the exposition of the story
- Complete sentences using subordinating conjunctions
- Write a response analyzing how imagery develops a central idea

BENCHMARK I:

DIRECTIONS: Read the following short story and look for examples of imagery. You will be stopping to complete sentences using subordinating conjunctions, to answer questions, and to write about imagery. Finally, you will write a paragraph explaining how the author uses imagery to develop a central idea of the story.

[Click here to have the text below read to you.](#)

No Name Woman - by Maxine Hong Kingston

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|----|--|
| 1 | "You must not tell anyone," my mother said, "what I am about to tell you. In China your |
| 2 | father had a sister who killed herself. She jumped into the family well. We say that your father |
| 3 | has all brothers because it is as if she had never been born. |
| 4 | "In 1924 just a few days after our village celebrated seventeen hurry-up weddings -- to |
| 5 | make sure that every young man who went 'out on the road' would responsibly come home -- |
| 6 | your father and his brothers and your grandfather and his brothers and your aunt's new |
| 7 | husband sailed for America, the Gold Mountain. < The families rushed the young men to get |
| 8 | married so they would have a reason to come back to China. > |
| 9 | It was your grandfather's last trip. Those lucky enough to get contracts waved |
| 10 | goodbye from the decks. They fed and guarded the stowaways and helped them off in Cuba, |
| 11 | New York, Bali, Hawaii. 'We'll meet in California next year,' they said. All of them sent money |
| 12 | home. |
| 13 | "I remember looking at your aunt one day when she and I were dressing; I had not |
| 14 | noticed before that she had such a protruding melon of a stomach. <This imagery describes the |
| 15 | aunt's pregnant belly. > But I did not think, 'She's pregnant,' until she began to look like other |

16	pregnant women, <u>her shirt pulling and the white tops of her black pants showing</u> . She could
17	not have been pregnant, you see, because her husband had been gone for years. No one
18	said anything. We did not discuss it. In early summer she was ready to have the child, long after
19	the time when it could have been possible.
20	

Complete the following sentences:

Before the author's father left for America, the village celebrated seventeen hurry-up weddings -- to make sure that every young man who went 'out on the road' would responsibly come home.

Since the women in China wanted their men to come home, they married them before they went "out on the road."

Although the author's aunt and her husband were apart for many years, she was pregnant and expecting a child.

Imagery (What can you see, hear, smell, touch, or taste?)

Find a quote that shows imagery

"I had not noticed before that she had such a protruding melon of a stomach".

Meaning of the imagery (What can you infer from it?)

This quote tells us that the narrator's aunt heavily pregnant. That is why her stomach was big and resembled a melon.

21 22 23 24 25	"The village had also been counting. On the night the baby was to be born the villagers raided our house. Some were crying. Like a great saw, teeth strung with lights, files of people walked zigzag across our land, tearing the rice. Their lanterns doubled in the disturbed black water, which drained away through the broken bunds. As the villagers closed in, we could see that some of them, probably men and women we knew well, wore white masks. The people
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26 with long hair hung it over their faces. Women with short hair made it stand up on end. Some
 27 had tied white bands around their foreheads, arms, and legs.

28 "At first they threw mud and rocks at the house. Then they threw eggs and began
 29 slaughtering our stock. We could hear the animals scream their deaths-the roosters, the pigs,
 30 a last great roar from the ox. Familiar wild heads flared in our night windows; the villagers
 31 encircled us. Some of the faces stopped to peer at us, their eyes rushing like searchlights. The
 32 hands flattened against the panes, framed heads, and left red prints. <The villagers attack the
 33 family home because of the aunt's perceived betrayal. They kill the families animals as
 34 revenge. >

35 "The villagers broke in the front and the back doors at the same time, even though we
 36 had not locked the doors against them. Their knives dripped with the blood of our animals.
 37 They smeared blood on the doors and walls. One woman swung a chicken, whose throat she
 38 had slit, splattering blood in red arcs about her. We stood together in the middle of our house,
 39 in the family hall with the pictures and tables of the ancestors around us, and looked straight
 40 ahead.

41 "At that time the house had only two wings. When the men came back, we would build
 42 two more to enclose our courtyard and a third one to begin a second courtyard. The villagers
 43 pushed through both wings, even your grandparents' rooms, to find your aunt's, which was
 44 also mine until the men returned. From this room a new wing for one of the younger families
 45 would grow. They ripped up her clothes and shoes and broke her combs, grinding them
 46 underfoot. They tore her work from the loom. They scattered the cooking fire and rolled the
 47 new weaving in it. We could hear them in the kitchen breaking our bowls and banging the
 48 pots. They overturned the great waist-high earthenware jugs; duck eggs, pickled fruits,
 49 vegetables burst out and mixed in acrid torrents. The old woman from the next field swept a
 50 broom through the air and loosed the spirits-of-the broom over our heads. 'Pig.' 'Ghost.' 'Pig,'
 51 they sobbed and scolded while they ruined our house.

Imagery (What can you see, hear, smell, touch, or taste?)

Find a quote that shows imagery
 "Then, they (the villagers) threw eggs and began slaughtering our stock. We

Meaning of the imagery (What can you infer from it?)
 The villagers slaughter the family's animals to punish them

<p>Hear- the sound of the animals screaming</p>	<p>could hear the animals scream their deaths-the roosters, the pigs, a last great roar from the ox.”</p>	<p>for the aunt’s cheating on her husband and getting pregnant. I can infer that the deaths were brutal because of the sound of the animals’ screams.</p>
<p>See an old woman sweeping with a broom in the air.</p>	<p>Find a quote that shows imagery “The old woman from the next field swept a broom through the air and loosed the spirits-of-the broom over our heads. 'Pig.' 'Ghost.' 'Pig,' they sobbed and scolded while they ruined our house”</p>	<p>Meaning of the imagery (What can you infer from it?) The old woman is cleansing or chasing away evil spirits that have are in the house that have led to the betrayal by the narrator’s aunt. I can infer that the village greatly values faithfulness and infidelity is unheard of and thus greatly condemned and associated with evil spirits!</p>

Complete the following sentences:

While the villagers unleashed their fury on the family, old woman from the next field swept a broom through the air and loosed the spirits-of-the broom over our heads.

After the villagers broke into their house, they fund her aunt's room, tore her clothes, shoes and broke her combs, grinding them underfoot, tore her work from the loom and scattered the cooking fire and rolled the new weaving in it.

Because the villagers knew the family that they were attacking, they wore white masks, and wore white bands in their foreheads, arms and legs.

52	"When they left, they took sugar and oranges to bless themselves. They cut pieces
53	from the dead animals. Some of them took bowls that were not broken and clothes that were
54	not torn. Afterward we swept up the rice and sewed it back up into sacks. But the smells from
55	the spilled preserves lasted. Your aunt gave birth in the pigsty that night. The next morning
56	when I went for the water, I found her and the baby plugging up the family well.
57	"Don't let your father know that I told you. He denies her. Now that you have started to
58	menstruate, what happened to her could happen to you. Don't humiliate us. You wouldn't like
59	to be forgotten as if you had never been born."

60 "Don't tell anyone you had an aunt. Your father does not want to hear her name. She has
 61 never been born." I have believed that sex was unspeakable and words so strong and fathers
 62 so frail that saying the word "aunt" would do my father mysterious harm. I have thought that my
 63 family, having settled among immigrants who had also been their neighbors in the ancestral
 64 land, needed to clean their name, and a wrong word would incite the kins people even here.
 65 But there is more to this silence: they want me to participate in her punishment. And I have.

66
 67 In the twenty years since I heard this story I have not asked for details nor said my aunt's
 68 name; I do not know it. The real punishment was not the raid swiftly inflicted by the villagers,
 69 but the family's deliberately forgetting her. Her betrayal so maddened them, they saw to it that
 70 she would suffer forever, even after death. Always hungry, always needing, her ghost would
 71 have to beg food from other ghosts, snatch and steal it from those whose living descendants
 72 give them gifts. In an attempt to make the Chinese care for people outside the family,
 Chairman
 73 Mao encourages us now to give our paper replicas to the spirits of outstanding soldiers and
 74 workers, no matter whose ancestors they may be. My aunt remains forever hungry. Goods are
 75 not distributed evenly among the dead.

76 My aunt haunts me -- her ghost drawn to me because now, after fifty years of neglect, I
 77 alone devote pages of paper to her, though not origamied into houses and clothes. I do not
 78 think she always means me well. I am telling on her, and she was a spite suicide, drowning
 79 herself in the drinking water. The Chinese are always very frightened of the drowned one,
 80 whose weeping ghost, wet hair hanging and skin bloated, waits silently by the water to pull
 81 down a substitute.

Imagery (What can you see, hear, smell, touch, or taste?)

An hungry spirit of her aunt

Find a quote that shows imagery

"... her ghost would have to beg food from other ghosts, snatch and steal it from those whose living descendants give them gifts"

Meaning of the imagery (What can you infer?)

The hunger of the dead aunts' ghost highlights the severity of the punishment of her punishments which extended when she died." I can infer from this imagery that the narrator's aunt's betrayal is unforgivable and punishable even after death. They keep

		her ghost hungry, neglected and worse still forgotten!
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I can see the picture of the narrator's aunt body hanging by the well.

"weeping ghost, wet hair hanging and skin bloated, waits silently by the water to pull down a substitute"

This represents the body of the narrators' aunt that was found by the found by her mother on the family well. I can infer from these imagery that the body of the dead aunt was treated with spite and seen as a ghost who brought shame to her family.

Q: Why does the narrator's mother tell her the story about her aunt, and why does she want her to keep it a secret? The narrator's mother tells her the story because she menstruates and the same thing that happened to her aunt could happen to her and she does not want her to humiliate the family like her aunt did. The narrator should keep this a secret because her aunt is forgotten and assumed to not have been born and a mention of her aunt's name could bring the narrators father great harm.

CENTRAL IDEA

What is a Central Idea of "No Name Woman"?

The Central Idea of "No Name Woman" is to caution the narrator on the consequences of the shameful act of adultery when committed by women in her society (this is a cautionary tale)!

Word Bank

The following words or phrases might be helpful in writing about the central idea of "No Name Woman"

Cautionary tale- a story that teaches a lesson
warning Secret Adultery
Shame/Shameful Gender roles

WRITE A RESPONSE

How do these images develop the central idea? Use these sentence starters to answer the question.

1. In "No Name Woman," Maxine Hong Kingston uses imagery to develop the central idea that the shameful act of adultery is shameful and attracts punishments that are harsh and that remain a great secret in the society.
2. The author uses images of angry and white-masked neighbors in order to describe the severity of punishment that betrayal in the form of adultery attracts from the society.
3. An example of the imagery is "ghost would have to beg food from other ghosts, snatch and steal it from those whose living descendants give them gifts"
4. With these images, the author creates a picture in the reader's mind of a suffering spirit that

wallows in neglect, hunger and worst who's relatively have completely forgotten.”

5. This develops the central idea because it shows the severity with which the punishment of the shameful act of adultery is in the narrator's society.

Write your response here:

In “No Name Woman,” Maxine Hong Kingston uses imagery to develop the central idea that the shameful act of adultery is shameful and attracts punishments that are harsh and that remain a great secret in the society. The author uses images of angry and white-masked neighbors in order to describe the severity of punishment that betrayal in the form of adultery attracts from the society. With these images, the author creates a picture in the reader's mind of a suffering spirit that wallows in neglect, hunger and worst who's relatively have completely forgotten.” This develops the central idea because it shows the severity with which the punishment of the shameful act of adultery is in the narrator's society.

