

## ABSTRACT

### MYTHS AND MADNESS: MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIPS IN MAXINE HONG KINGSTON'S *THE WOMAN WARRIOR* AND MARY KARR'S *THE LIAR'S CLUB*

The degree of intensity between mothers and daughters often distorts the perceptions of both individuals, reducing their ability to effectively communicate. Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Warrior Woman* and Mary Karr's *The Liar's Club* share themes of intense mother-daughter relationships, and both books show that the impact of the relationship affects the cognitive and emotional growth of both mother and daughter. I explore the relationships in these two literary works to help convey the impact of the mother-daughter relationship as a catalyst for emotional development, and to illustrate the complexities that are typical in a mother-daughter relationship. This thesis is an analysis of the two texts as well as an amalgamation of creative nonfiction. I will point out that the experiences in my life provide me with authority as they mirror many of the experiences of the two women in the texts.

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