**English 1302**

**Group work Discussion Questions: “The Moths” and “The Word Love”**

**Magical Realism** in “The Moths”: A form of fiction that is told realistically yet superimposes magical elements with impossible events depicted as everyday occurrences. Fiction that combines realism with the fantastic in such a way that magical elements grow organically out of the reality portrayed.

**Multiculturalism** in “The Word Love”: An emphasis in a literary work on an international perspective combining many cultural influences from a character’s country of origin to their assimilation into another country often illuminating the traditions, language, landscape, foods and flavors as well as the values of each. Like postcolonialism, multicultural literature examines how an immigrant’s culture may be undervalued by the dominant culture and how a character’s self-image may be damaged by marginalization and a double-consciousness.

**Feminism and Gender Identity** plays a central role in each story since the major characters are predominantly women and the relationships among the female characters are central to the story as well as the role of women versus men in familial and romantic relationships. A focus on gender may emphasize the inferior position of women in society or the ways individuals succumb to or triumph over domination or gender roles.

**Group One:**

**Christian Salgado and Neyzeth Pineda**

Trace the development of the central conflict in the story: When is the conflict introduced? What incident develops its intensity? What moment is the height of the drama? How is the conflict resolved?

**In “The Moths” what is the central conflict? How does the narrator’s relationship with her father influence your interpretation? What is the narrator’s internal conflict?**

**In “The Word Love” which conflict is most powerful: the narrator and her mother or the narrator and her partner (boyfriend)?**

**Group Two:**

**Richard Lugo and Tiffney Lewis**

Discuss the setting of the story, the locales in which the action takes place. Which location stands out in the setting and which specific aspects of this place/time does the narrator focus on? How do these details suggest a symbolic meaning? Which place does this setting contrast with in the story? How does the juxtaposition of these two locations relate to the resolution of the conflict?

**In “The Moths” which scene or symbol involving the setting reveals the most about the narrator?**

**In “The Word Love” which scene or symbol in the setting is most consequential? What is its significance?**

**Group Three:**

**Tiffany Smith and Gianni Gordon**

Consider the major characters and any minor characters in the story that are important to its interpretation. What is the most significant description of each character and which statement of that character reveals the most about each of them? Who is the protagonist (central character that the conflicts revolve around) and the antagonist (character or force that conflicts with or opposes the protagonist).

Discuss the gender issue in each story.

**Which action of the protagonist in each story demonstrates her development and influences your interpretation of her resolution of the gender issue? Does the central character conform to gender stereotypes or does she transform gender norms?**

**Group Four:**

**Javier Gonzalez and Patrick Ignaut**

Discuss the narrator’s point-of-view, the one who recounts the events of the story. Which words of the narrator reveal the most about her perspective. How does her inclusion of Spanish or Indian words and names affect the interpretation of the story?

**In “The Moths” what does the narrator’s depiction of the moths in the final scene reveal about her character and her relationships?**

**In “The Word Love,” what does the narrator’s depiction of her walk at the resolution of the story reveal about her future and her relationships?**