**Reflective Reading Journal**

**Book: Interpreter of Maladies**

**Author: Jhumpa Lahiri**

| **Week 7** | | | |
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| **Name of the Story** | **This Blessed House** | **Themes** | **Cultural difference, jealousy, unbalanced relationship, religious conflict** |
| **Useful/interesting Quotes** | “Face it. This house is blessed.”  “My God, I need a cigarette,”  “But we must. It would be bad luck not to.”  “No, we’re not Christian. We’re good little Hindus.”  “They can’t fire you for being a believer. It would be discrimination.” | | |
| **Summary (within 150 words)** | Larrihi (1999) in her story “This Blessed House '' demonstrated the experience and situation in the marriage life of an immigrant but successful man Sanjeev raised in Indian culture and his wife Twinkle who grew up in the western culture. Although their roots are the same, being raised in different cultures created a lot of difference which affected their compatibility together. Four months after marriage when they both move into a new house, they start finding a lot of christianry objects which fascinated Twinkle. However Sanjeev being born and raised from a hindu culture was totally against keeping objects from another religion at their house for which they had a lot of arguments. Furthermore, Twinkle being beautiful, smart and being from a high caste, Sanjeev wasn’t happy with her and he constantly felt jealousy of her happiness. She was free from responsibilities whereas Sanjeev had to take all of them. When Sanjeev threw a party in their house his wife did not take any responsibilities. In the party when Sanjeev saw her get along with everyone, he burst into jealousy. On the other hand she kept on doing everything that Sanjeev didn’t want her to do as if she didn’t care and kept chasing after those chirstian objects.  Reference:  Lahiri, J. (1999). This Blessed House. *Interpreter of Maladies*. Houghton Mifflin. | | |
| **Course Content Focus:** | **Narrow down one of the themes into an argumentative topic statement. (Demonstrate the steps of narrowing down)**  **Response:** Cultural differences between newly married couples create jealousy, daily disagreements, loss of identity by influencing their individual expectations which lead to separation.  Demonstrating the steps of narrowing down the topic sentence below:   1. Selecting the topic of Cultural difference 2. Narrowing down the theme to who it is about where the newly married couples have been targeted for this theme. 3. Giving reasons why it leads to the cause. Here daily jealousy, disagreements, loss of identity are narrowed down as the reasons why the theme affects the newly married couples 4. Identifying how the reasons lead to the claim. It is mentioned in the topic that couples of different cultures tend to have issues due to their different expectations. 5. Stating a claim that shows the final cause of the issues. | | |