

**Venture  
Literature  
Jeff Metcalf  
Fall 2007**

**September**

- 9/6 Introduction and discussion of course work. Examination of chapter 1 in Sandra Cisneros' book *House on Mango Street*. Deconstruct the 'horizontal' first chapter and reconstruct into the 'vertical' design of a poem.
- 9/18 Discussion of Cisneros' work. Multigenre connection between the work of contemporary artists and the language of poets. Discussion of the power of language in the poems of Manuel Ortiz' poem, "A Moment of Silence Please" and David Lee's poems, "Preacher" and "Ugly." \*Selected student readings of Luis Rodriquez and Octavio Paz. For 9/25 students will be ready to discuss Mary Oliver's "The Journey" with a focus on the landscape of their own 'journey.'
- 9/25 Two students read poems of their own selection and explain what drew them to these selections. Line by line discussion of Cisneros' work. Themes from the discussion will include the ideas of: transformation, poetic structure and urgency, the 'voice' of the narrator, and the immediacy of the poem. Students will construct their own 'Journey' poems. Handouts of Utah Poet Laureate Katherine Coles poetry in anticipation of her visit on October 2, 2007.
- 10/2 Utah Poet Laureate Katherine Coles visits Venture.  
Upcoming discussions of the following poems for 10/11 include: "I, Too"
- 10/11 Student readings. Poetry of Margaret Atwood, "Photograph of Me" followed by reading of an essay: The Family Album, 12 Steps to Recovery. For 10/18 assignment based on personal photographs.
- 10/18 Student readings. Discuss assignments. Visit the poetry of James Wright with a focus on 'Hook', the poetry of Ho Xuan Huong with a focus on 'Jackfruit' and 'Swinging.' Assignments due from 10/11.
- 11/6 Student readings. Discussion of Elizabeth Bishop's poem 'One Art,' Nikki Giovanni's poem 'I'm Not Lonely,' and Maya Angelou's poem, 'Many and More.' Joe Brainard and the construction of a litany poem.
- 11/8 Student readings. Poetry by the following poets: Billy Collins ('Stare'), Seamus Heaney ('Cure at Troy'), e.e. cummings ('buffalo bill') and 'Valentine for Ernest Mann' by Naomi Shihab Nye.
- 11/20 Student readings. Guest poet, Professor Nicole Aljoe, will perform a reading and short lecture of Jamaican poets.

11/29 Student readings. Ken Brewer's poem, 'Morning Light, Evening Light' and 'The Visit.' Pablo Neruda's poem, 'Ode to My Socks.' Chris Bursk's poem, 'The Things with Feathers.' Short rehearsal for 12/11.

12/11 Family & Friends Poetry Reading and Potluck.