



Agenda:

- **Theory Spotlight: Cultural Memory**
 - **Hair, Heritage, History**
 - **Discussion Leader: Gabe**
- 

Cultural **MEMORY**



Cultural memory refers to a past that has been stored and passed on between different generations in the form of texts, rituals or practices, monuments, objects, and other media. It preserves a history and heritage that informs how individuals understand their identities and communities. However, cultural memory not only determines how the past is remembered in the present, but allows societies to envision a different future.

Melissa Oliva-Lozada



Elizabeth Acevedo





Elizabeth Acevedo "Hair" - ALL DEF POETRY | All Def Po...

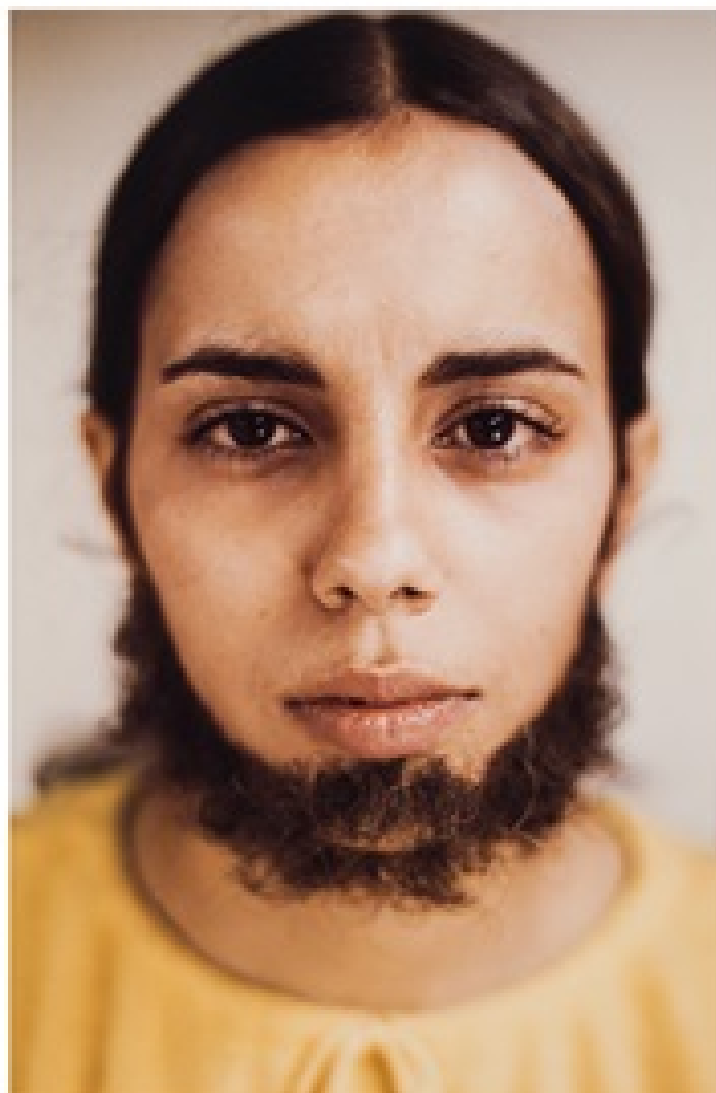


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POETRY**

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Ana Mendieta
Untitled (Facial Hair Transplants),
1972.

Group **DISCUSSION**



How does each author or artist use hair as a metaphor?
Choose a cluster of lines from each poem to read together.

How does cultural identity/memory complicate the nature or meaning of hair?

Construct your own metaphor: What object, idea, or situation do you think best represents you? How does your gender, race, or ethnicity problematize this object, idea, or situation?





Homework:

- **Marge Piercy "Barbie Doll" and "Ken Doll (A Parody) (cw: body dysmorphia)**
- **Emily Tamkin "A Cultural History of Barbie"**
- **Pop Quiz #1**
- **Journal Entry:**



Agenda:

- **Close-Reading Example**
- **Barbie & Ken Doll: An Analysis**
- **Discussion Leader:**



Do you guys ever think about dying?



Second Wave **FEMINISM**

The second wave began in the 1960s and continued into the 90s. This wave unfolded in the context of the anti-war and Civil Rights movements. In this phase, sexuality and reproductive rights were dominant issues, and much of the movement's energy was focused on passing the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing social equality regardless of sex; protecting the right to have an abortion (*Roe v. Wade*); and ending marital rape.



Homework:

- **Abecedarian Poems (Natalie Diaz, Joshua Bennett, Sherry Shahan)**
- **Reading Response #1 (due @ midnight tonight)**
- **Journal Entry:**



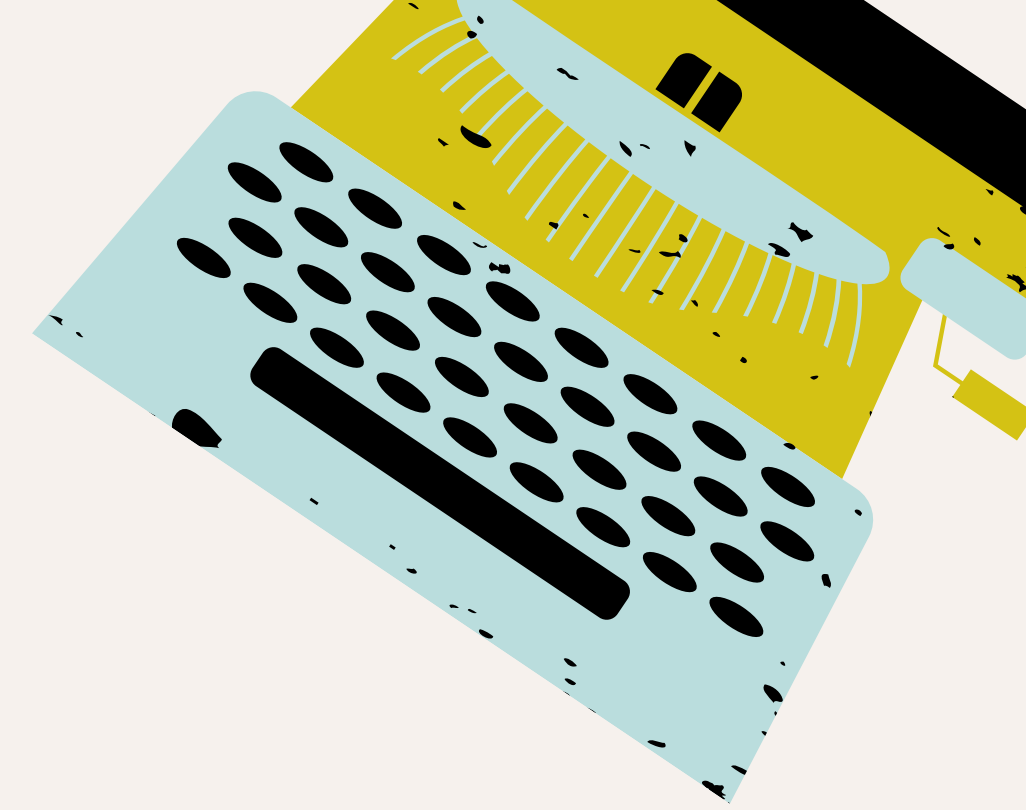
Agenda:

- **Abecedarian (Genre)**
- **Angels are, Angels aren't - Poetic Allusions and Historical Criticism**
- **Discussion Leader:**

Abecedarian **FORM**

The abecedarian is an ancient poetic genre guided by alphabetical order. Each line or stanza begins with the first letter of the alphabet and is followed by the successive letter, until the final letter is reached. The form was frequently used in premodern cultures for sacred compositions, such as prayers, hymns, and psalms.

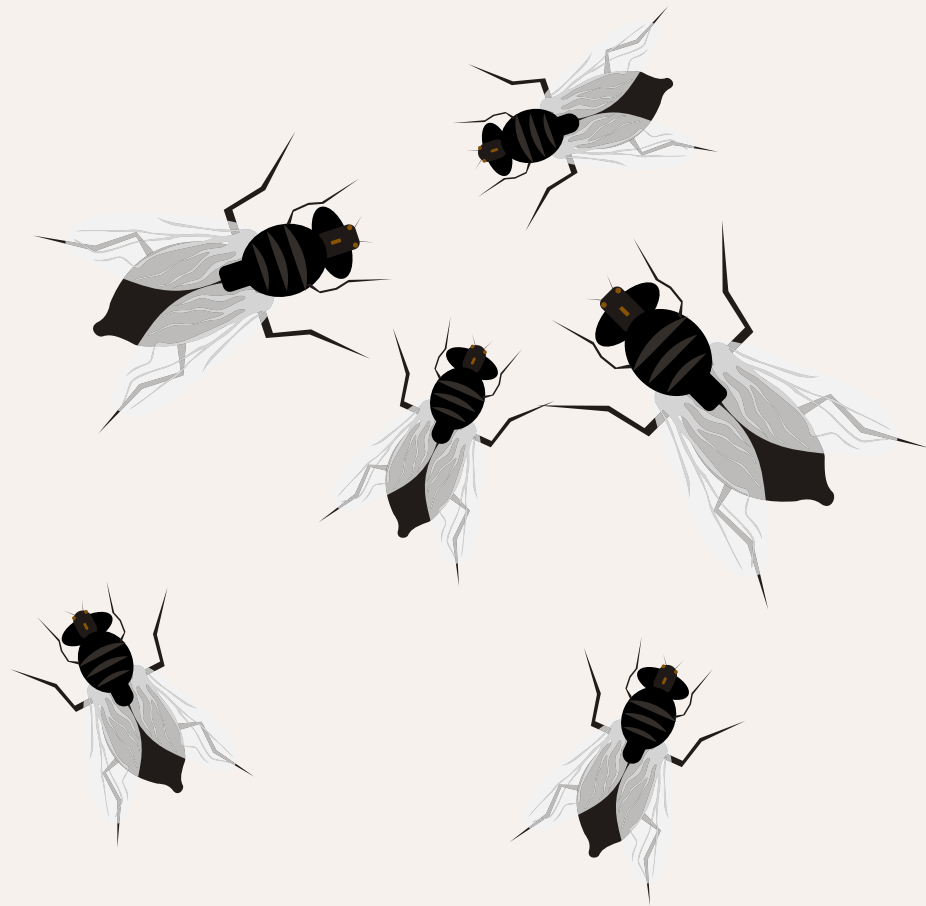
Abecedarian poems are now most commonly used as mnemonic devices and word games for children, such as those written by Dr. Seuss and Edward Gorey.



ALLUSION

Allusions are brief but purposeful references, within a literary text, to a person, place, event, or to another work of literature.

An allusion is not an elaborate reference, but a passing signal that can sometimes escape notice if you're not reading carefully. Allusions are an essential tool for authors who often situate their own works within a wider culture and the contexts of literary history.



LITERATURE 🤝 HISTORY: PRACTICING HISTORICAL CRITICISM



In small groups (2-4 people), pick a poem that you would like to examine more closely. Discuss:

- **What parts of the poem did you understand?**
- **Which parts are still a bit fuzzy?**

Under the today's module, read the resources provided for the poem you selected; feel free to assign a source to each group member. Then, discuss:

- **How do these sources shape your understanding of the poem?**
- **Why do you think the author decides to write about this topic?**



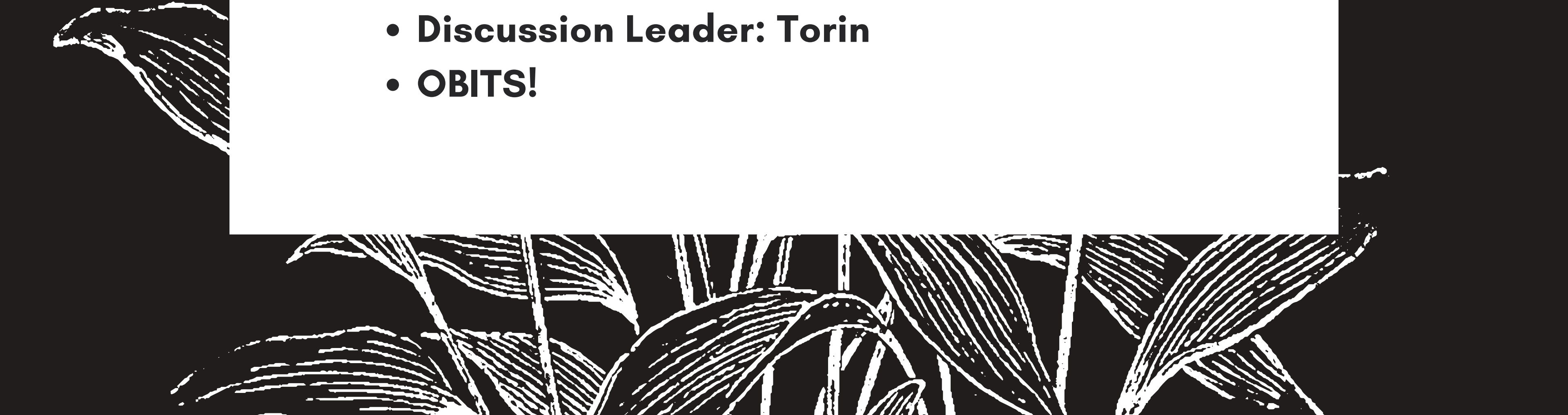


Homework:

- **Victoria Chang “OBIT [Clothes]”**
- **Billy Collins “On Turning Ten”**
- **Journal Entry:**



Agenda:

- **Birthday Gifts, Funeral Flowers; Pondering Life & Death**
 - **Discussion Leader: Torin**
 - **OBITS!**
- 

Freewrite

- **What did you think about these two poems?**
- **Any words, scenes, ideas that were remarkable?**
- **Do you ever think about life? Death? Time?**
- **Do you remember turning ten? Did you experience an awakening like the speaker of Billy Collins's poem?**
- **How has our poetry unit changed how you think about or read poetry?**





HOW TO WRITE AN

Obituary

OBITUARIES



An obituary is meant to provide context about the deceased and help tell the story about who they were and the life they led. To achieve this, obituaries include brief anecdotes that illustrate their personality or how they spent their time, and their accomplishments or contributions to their community.

An obituary is typically limited to just a few paragraphs (or about two to three hundred words). That short length may feel constraining, but it's important to remember that the obituary is just one way to honor a loved one's memory.



Homework:

- José Olivarez “wherever i'm at that land is Chicago”
- Journal Entry:



Agenda:

- **OBITS**
- **wherever i'm at that land is Chicago
(close-reading & discussion)**
- **The End of Poetry - Unit Recap**

THE HISTORY OF CHICAGO'S STEEL MILLS & ITS IMMIGRANTS

In 1952, the Chicago Tribune reported that the city of Chicago produced more steel than the entire country of Great Britain. This remarkable feat was achieved through the combined efforts of the city's numerous steel mills.

For several decades, the high wages offered by the steel mills attracted immigrants from around the world. In the 1870s and 1880s, people came from Ireland, Scotland, and Germany to find work in the blossoming steel industry. From the late 1800s until World War I, Polish and Serbian immigrants began to arrive. After the war, they came from the southern United States and Mexico.

As the number of steel workers in the area grew, they began to recognize the need for safe working conditions and fair pay and attempted to organize to make their demands. When they staged a strike, police fired on the unarmed crowd of protesters, resulting in 10 deaths and more than 100 injuries, an event known as the Memorial Day Massacre.

As modern American industry began to change over the decades, one by one, the steel mills began to close.



Unit CONCLUSION

1. "wherever i'm at the land is Chicago" traces the changing landscape of Olivarez's hometown. Write a poem about your hometown. Feel free to use any techniques and strategies we have discussed, such as metaphor, cultural memory, abecedarian form, allusion, etc.

2. Many of the poems we read touched on the following themes. Pick one poem and one theme and cook up a quote sandwich (one paragraph analysis).

- Body Image
- Race
- American History
- Grief & Loss
- Gender
- Religion
- Resistance/Reclamation
- Aging



Quote Sandwich:



Claim

Context

Quote

Interpretation

Conclusion

Little Village, Chicago

Days on Christiana and 25th begin like this:

**Cacophony slips
through the cracks of open windows.**

Listen.

**A symphony of barks,
small men pushing elotero carts,
sundry Spanish words sliding
from the red lips of cinnamon-colored women.**

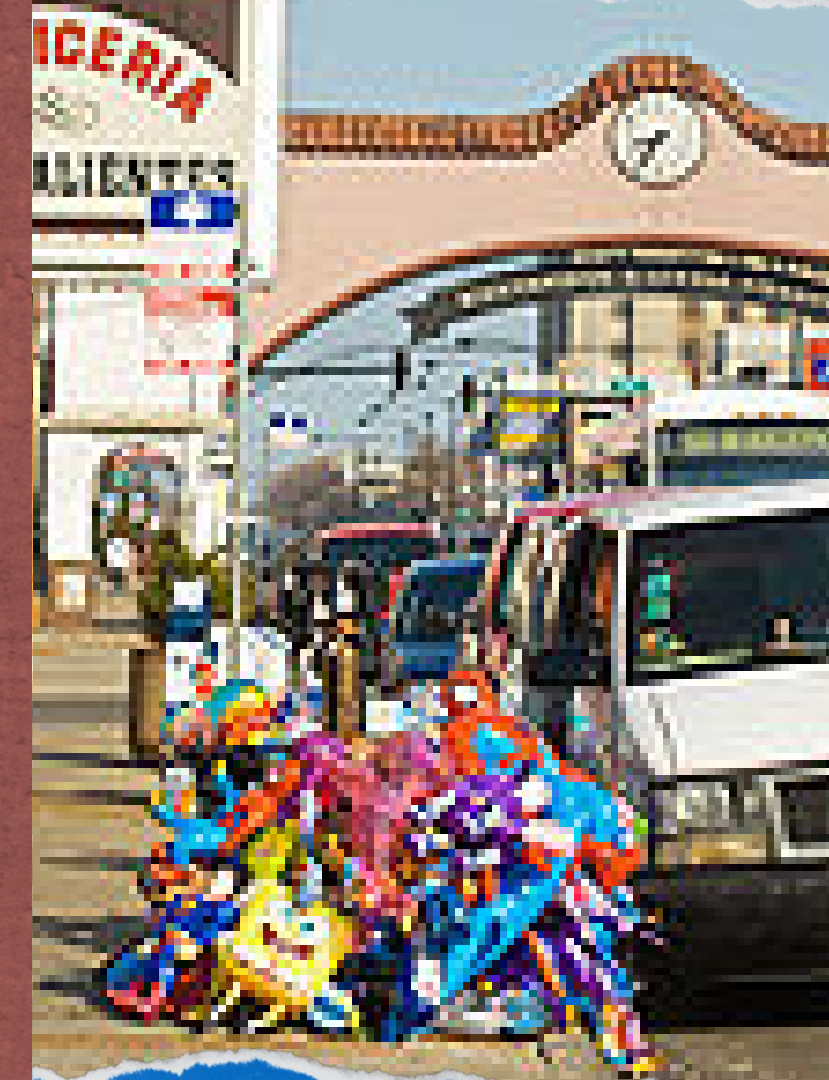
**The tunes from passing cars,
touch each terracotta brick home.**

**Tone-deaf Tarantino would think this place
ghetto.**

**Fences and walls are festooned with block
letters and murals.**

**A seventeen-foot Virgen Maria watches you
with a chipped left-eye,
her blue shawl almost faded white.**

**New Nerudas scribble quick poems on
concrete walls,
neither with permission or commission,
before the daily clean-up crews arrive.**





Homework

- **Ta-Nehisi Coates "In Defense of a Loaded Word"**
- **Kiese Laymon *Long Division*, Book One 3-20. (CW: racial slurs)**
- **Pop Quiz #2**
- **Journal Entry:**