**HOMS SECTION 2 READING/Assignments- Due 9/29/15**

1. **Essential/Pre Reading Questions: (Actually TYPE/WRITE an answer to these questions. Answer them thoroughly, thoughtfully and using complete sentences.)**

Who are my friends?

What defines my neighborhood?

What does my home say about me?

1. **Read pp. 12-25 of HOMS “**Cathy Queen of Cats; Our Good Day; Laughter; Gil’s Furniture Bought & Sold; Meme Ortiz; Louie, His Cousin & His Other Cousin”
2. **Writing Situation:** In the vignette “Hairs,” Sandra Cisneros reveals a lot about the narrator’s family, especially her mother, through a discussion of one physical trait: hair. Her first paragraph describes the hair of the narrator’s father and the hair of her siblings, using those descriptions to give the reader insight into each of their personalities. Cisneros also reveals the narrator’s feelings towards her mother in the passage, using a variety of stylistic devices to achieve this effect.

Think about the people in your own family, the characteristics you share with them, and those which make them (and you) distinctive. Decide which physical trait you would like to write about. Is the trait one you share with your family or yours alone? How might you present your piece similar to how Cisneros did with metaphors, similes, personification, alliteration, repetition and sensory details?

**Writing Directions:** Using “Hairs” as a model, write a vignette about your own life that discusses an important physical trait and how it reveals something about the person who possesses it *and* your relationship to him/her. You may choose to discuss a trait that all of you share, or one that makes a particular family member—or you—stand out from the others because it is different. You must incorporate **at least four** **literary devices** in your vignette.

## Student Sample #1: Hairs Modeling

# **Lips**

My mom says my lips are like my grandpa, her father. My lips are nice and smooth like the skin of a shark or a ground with no cracks in it. Everyone says that I am always looking mad like a mad dog. To me, I feel as if I don’t have to smile unless something is funny or I want to. My lips are sad most of the time because I am bored.

My sister says I have a big mouth, which is like saying I have big lips also. Maybe it’s because of whatever comes out of it. She says this and the word big reminds me of an ugly fish. My mom says I talk too much and that everything that comes out of my mouth has to be a smart remark. Maybe. But I like my lips. They describe me.