Small Group Analysis of Joy Harjo poetry

Monday, September 26/Tuesday, September 27

Dearinger—Fall 2019

**Directions:** Working in your groups today, carefully read, annotate, and analyze this next set of Harjo poems from your packet. Try to discuss and analyze the first (3) poems here in class—if you finish early, you can start working on the homework poems together. Make sure you pay special attention to the literary features and guiding questions listed below:

1. “The Woman Who Fell From the Sky” (pg. 25-28)

* Annotate for these literary devices in the poem:
  + **Point of view**—the perspective of the speaker; the angle or lens of the speaker through which we learn about the feelings or opinions of the speaker
  + **Analogy**—comparison between two things or ideas to explain how they are similar
  + **Allusion**—a reference to something or someone outside of the text that is not directly named or explained
  + **Theme**—the overarching message, moral, or lesson of the text
  + **Simile**—a comparison between two things using “like” or “as”

What is the significance of names or naming in this poem? How do names help to form identities?

What is the role of the cat in this narrative poem?

1. “For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth on Its Human Feet” (pg. 29-30)

* Annotate for these literary devices in the poem:
  + **Syntax**—the structure and arrangement of words and phrases in the poem
  + **Hyperbole**—exaggeration in order to make a point or emphasize meaning
  + **Metaphor**—a comparison between 2 unlike things in order to show their similarity
  + **Motif**—a reoccurring word, object, color, idea, etc. in a poem
  + **Denotation**—the dictionary definition of a word; what the word literally means
  + **Connotatio**n—the feelings, attitudes, or emotions elicited by a particular word

Why do you think Harjo uses the second person pronoun “you” throughout this poem?

What is the significance of the title?

1. “I Give You Back” (pg. 35)

* Annotate for these literary devices in the poem:
  + **Apostrophe**—speaking to an absent person or addressing an abstract idea through the poem
  + **Repetition**—repeated words, phrases, or whole sentences for a purpose
  + **Juxtaposition**—places ideas next to each other in the poem in order to draw attention to their similarities and/or differences
  + **Enjambment—**when a sentence, idea, or line does not end with the line of poetry but continues on to the next line or stanza, typically with no puncutation
  + **Tone/Mood**—the emotion or attitude of the speaker and of the poem as a whole
  + **Analogy-**- comparison between two things or ideas to explain how they are similar

What are the most provocative or compelling **images** in this poem for you?

Did you notice anything new or different from Harjo’s performance of this poem compared to just reading it in your group?

**Homework:** Read the remaining poems in the packet and annotate for any important literary devices you can find on your own.

\*\*Make sure you know, understand, and can use all of the literary devices in your dictionary.\*\*

\*\*Remember that you will turn in your Harjo packets for a final grade based on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of your annotations.\*\*

(The only (2) terms we did not directly discuss in class are CACOPHONY and ONOMATOPOEIA)

\*\*Be ready to discuss these last few poems together in our next class.\*\*

1. “Transformations” (pg. 31)
2. “The Power of Never” (pg. 33-34)
3. “This is My Heart” (pg. 36)

* Packets will be turned in for a final grade next week! ☺