

Explication 4
DUE 4/30/14
Hard Copy in class
No Extensions

Instructions:

Use **one** of the questions below to prompt you to select a specific quote to support your response to the particular question. Answer only ONE of the questions below. If you are interested in writing about an aspect of the plays not included in the questions below, please email me with your selected quote and thesis statement. Make sure you explain the significance of the quote you choose as well as relate the quote to the significance of the play as a whole. **Write approximately 500 words, double-spaced, 12pt. times new roman font. DO NOT EXCEED THE WORD LIMIT. INCLUDE A WORD COUNT AT THE END OF YOUR ESSAY.**

Select **one** of the following questions and use a quote to support your argument:

1. Consider the three takes on women's labor that we read and watched in class (Castillo's essays, Moraga's *Watsonville*, and *Maquilopolis*). How did these works support or interrogate one another's arguments about the labor of women of color?
2. *Watsonville* is a sequel, of sorts, to *Heroes and Saints*. What do you learn about these plays by having read them both that you would not have known had you read only one of them? Consider ways that each play sheds light on the other: how does each play expand the critique of labor, food justice, spirituality, or gender and sexuality dynamics?
3. *The Hungry Woman*'s protagonist Medea kills her son Chac. *The Hungry Woman* also invokes several myths or folk tales about this phenomenon. In addition to citing other instances, how does *The Hungry Woman* encounter the phenomenon of mothers killing their own children? How does this act relate to the political context of the post-apocalypse of a fictional future of a Balkanized U.S.?
4. Given your reading of Moraga's essay "Queer Aztlan," how do you interpret the world she creates in *The Hungry Woman*? Does this play offer an optimistic or a pessimistic view of the future of Chicana/o politics and activism?
5. Both *The Hungry Woman* and *Watsonville* comment upon Chicana spirituality. Specify an argument regarding Chicana spirituality in connection with one or both of these plays.