

**ENGL 3922**  
**Explication One**  
**DUE: Thursday, Feb 06**

Overview:

Explications are exercises in *close reading*, one of the primary skills necessary for literary analysis.

The word "explication" comes from the Latin term *explicare*, which means "to unfold"; accordingly, an explication unfolds or unpacks the meaning and workings of a literary text. Explications typically examine a text intensively, *line by line*, so they are usually used to interpret either short poems or short passages from longer works of fiction or drama.

An explication should account for all or most of the lines of the poem or passage, paying attention to whatever devices (connotations, allusions, metaphors and similes, symbols, rhythm, sounds, etc.) seem important. Explain how they relate to each other and to the overall meaning and/or effect of the work of literature. Your explication should have a strong thesis, and the rest of the paper should clearly support that thesis (think of your thesis statement as answering the question, "What is this poem or passage about?").

Instructions:

Use ONE the quotes below to offer an explication. Make sure you explain the significance of the given quote as well as relate the quote to the rest of the poem. Write between 485-500 words, double-spaced, 12pt. times new roman font.

Quotes:

From "I Am Joaquín"

"I sentenced him who was me. / I excommunicated him, my blood" (2).

"I am Joaquin. / I must fight / And win this struggle for my sons, / and they must know from me / Who I am" (8)

from "Earth to Earth"

"The dusty cloud, catching the sunlight, gained momentum and floated over City Hall and the County Buildings and La Ramada Condominiums and the Federal Buildings and the Hilton Resort Hotel—until it settled mote by golden mote, footprint by tiny footprint, on the parched and abandoned bed of the river." (40)

OR YOUR OWN CHOICE OF QUOTE FROM EITHER OF THE ABOVE WORKS