

## 1 "My Life's Sentences" by Jhumpa Lahiri

- A Writer's Experience with words

## 2 Do Now

- How is Lahiri's experience with writing similar to Morrison's experience with reading?
- Find a specific example from both documents that you feel support your correlation.
- Be prepared to share your findings with the class.

## 3 "For surely it is a magical thing for a handful of words, artfully arranged, to stop time."

- Lahiri describes the necessity of a "charge" in the words that are written on a page.
  - Notice her own use of language in this essay.
    - irony ("radiates yet sensibly discreet")
    - personification ("You have visited before, they say...")
    - similes ("like stars in the sky, like landmarks on a trail.")

## 4 Lahiri and Morrison

- Reading as an art vs reading as a skill
- Writing to convey information vs writing to create charge

## 5 A Writer's Quest

- "Constructing a sentence is the equivalent of taking a Polaroid snapshot: pressing the button, and watching something emerge." (brainstorming)
- "It is by fussing with sentences that a character becomes clear to me, that a plot unfolds." (drafting)
- "When a book is finally out of my hands I feel bereft." (final draft)

## 6 Finding your life's sentence

- Tonight, for homework, you are to locate a sentence that has struck you, made you re-read it, and has stayed with you long after the book has ended.
- Write that sentence (in quotation marks) noting the source information (title, author, page number in the book if possible)
- Then, using Lahiri and Morrison's essays as a guide, you are to accurately reflect the experience of reading this line.
  - Do you appreciate the process of writing now more? How? What made you do so?
  - Why was the line so evocative? Did you encounter it at a certain period in your life? If so, which? Be specific?
  - What do you now realize about the words chosen?
  - Include anything else you feel necessary to explaining your "second look" and appreciation for the language used.