**The Magical vs. The Realistic:**

**Literary Analysis for the Hispanic/Latin American Unit of World Literature**

(Times New Roman 12-point font, 4-5 pages double-spaced)

“It always amuses me that the biggest praise for my work comes for the imagination while the truth is that there’s not a single line in all my work that does not have a basis in reality. The problem is that Caribbean reality resembles the wildest imagination.”

 - Gabriel García Márquez

What is the relationship between the supernatural/magical world and the real world? During the Hispanic/Latin American literature unit, we have been contemplating this question, looking at different texts that fit into the genre of magical realism. Each time we discuss these texts, we examine their “basis in reality,” and consider arguments about an author’s intentions in writing these texts.

**Write a paper in which you explore the relationship between the supernatural and realistic aspects of one of the texts from this unit.** In your paper, analyze the text using the What/How/Why Structure we have been using to take notes during reading.Refer back to the to the definition of magical realism, to your discussion notes, and to your What/How/Why Handouts about the texts we have read throughout the Hispanic/Latin American unit.

You will be assessed on how you:

* Demonstrate your claim in the form of a thesis statement based on the What/How/Why structure so that your claim is debatable and focused.
* Show your thinking and the rationale behind your claim as part of your analysis using textual evidence.
* Explain why you chose the evidence you chose to support your claim. The reader should be able to clearly see the connection between your evidence (i.e. a quotation from a text) and your claim.
* Organize your paper using the MEAT structure so that any first time reader can follow your thinking process.

**Outline Due:** Monday, March 13th

**Peer Feedback Due:** Friday, March 17th

**Final Draft Due:** Friday, March 24th