**Symbolism**

What is the significance of the:

1. silver cocktail dress (pgs. 92, 93, 105 -108)
2. Taj Mahal (pgs. 83, 92)

**Characterization**

Read about Miranda’s recount of the Dixits on pages 95-96. Next, google the goddess Kali. Why did Lahiri choose to allude to Kali in the story? What do the Dixits help us understand about Miranda’s relationship to Indian identity? Why do her memories shame her now?

Why did Lahiri choose a child character to trigger Miranda’s choice to choose independence over deceit?

**Dialogue**

Why is Rohin’s definition of sexy (“It means loving someone you do not know” pg. 107) a turning point in the story?

**Themes**:

Lahiri’s stories are marked by a sense of alienation, longing, loss and hope which so often describe the immigrant experience. Consider Miranda’s relationship to Indian culture. How does her experience illuminate these themes?

Lahiri’s collection highlights immigrant identity and experiences. Considering this context, why are white women the object of Indian men’s extramarital affections? Is this an example of acculturation? Why or Why not?