**Discovering Personal Culture through Writing & Art**  
  
**Standards**  
WRITING Benchmarks  
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.  
4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.   
READING Benchmarks  
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes of topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take. 

**Performance Assessment**  
After reading *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, *The House of the Spirits* by Isabelle Allende, and a variety of short stories and poems by various authors, you have been exposed to many different examples of magical realism in literature. Since you are now able to define what magical realism is, we are going to bring it all together.  Using the rubric and checklist that you have been given, you are to construct a short and creative piece of writing that embodies the characteristics of magical realism you have learned throughout the unit. The topic of the writing will be of your choice, however it must be approved by Ms. Carney before you should begin.  As you are writing, you will be pulling characteristics of magical realism from the books, stories, and poems we have read.  In order to use the same techniques as the authors, you will also be writing a paper of reflection that describes in detail your personal writing process throughout this project, as well as specific citations of where you pulled ideas, methods, and characteristics of magical realism to include in your writing.  Your goal during this project is to fully delve into the understanding and writing of magical realism that will showcase your personal growth in writing and literary methods.

As we discussed during the first week of the unit, magical realism also has a grand influence in the art world, and we took a look at a variety of different artists that truly embodied the idea/genre of magical realism to portray a story. Along side of your short story, you will be working with Mr. Doe, the art teacher, to create a piece of art that is directly influenced and depicts a major scene, element, or idea that will demonstrate your understand of what magical realism is, and how you use it in your writing. The art project itself will be graded along side your writing by Mr. Doe and myself. He has constructed a rubric and checklist that allows the project to count for credit in his class as well.

**Process:** Throughout our in-class workshops, you will be working to create your short story. In order to do so, you will need to follow the steps of the writing process that will be described and worked through together during class time. However, so you are aware of what we will be working through over the next few class periods, they are listed below as well as laid out on the course calendar:

1. Brainstorming
2. Drafting
3. Peer Review and Conference
4. Revision
5. Editing
6. Final Draft/Product
7. Reflection

**Checklist:** The following checklist is the minimum of what you are to include in your creative writing pieces, as well as your writing process reflection paper.  Your project is not complete unless it includes all items on the checklist, and your project may not be turned in if it is not complete.   
\_\_\_Project is clearly a story of magical realism.

\_\_\_Reflection clearly depicts the writing process.

\_\_\_Student includes at least 4 methods/aspects of magical realism into the story.

\_\_\_Project is free of spelling errors.

\_\_\_Project is free of grammatical errors.

\_\_\_Student participated in peer group activities.

**RUBRIC:** Your project will be graded using this rubric.

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| **DOMAINS** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **3+** |
| **Subject Knowledge** | Project demonstrates general knowledge of magical realism. |  | Project demonstrates expertise in understanding of magical realism, and how to apply it to personal writing style. |  |
| **Voice** | Project indicates that student is aware of their personal writing style and voice in certain circumstances throughout the piece. |  | Project showcases student writing style and voice throughout creative writing piece while holding true to magical realism as a writing genre. |  |
| **Organization** | Project displays basic understanding of the organization of magical realism as a genre. There is clear and coherent organization, correct formatting, and a visible structure of text. |  | Project displays a proficient use of organization displayed through the genre of magical realism while encompassing clear coherent organization, correct formatting, a visible structure of text, distinguished stylistic choices, a clear plot, and an attention to the audience. |  |