***Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*; Chapters 4& 5**

**Chapter 4: Sentimental Education (1988-1992)**

Watch the following clip of Junot Diaz discussing the novel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lD44jmeAHJY&app=desktop>

In this clip, Diaz discusses why he constructs his male characters the way he does. Think about how Diaz continues to develop the characters of Oscar and Yunior in this chapter. Particularly, how would you describe Yunior’s narrative voice in this chapter? What does he reveal about himself through the way he tells the story? Also, to what extent is this chapter a “love story” like Diaz claims his book’s are at heart?

**Part II …. Chapter 5: Poor Abelard (1944-1946)**

Watch the following episode of The Twilight Zone, called “It’s a Good Life” (aired November 1961) <http://www.hulu.com/watch/440799>

The Twilight Zone *You're traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind; a journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination. That's the signpost up ahead; your next stop...the* Twilight Zone*.*—Rod Serling

American science fiction television series that ran from 1959-1964. Each episode presents an unlikely narrative. In common parlance, to enter a “twilight zone” means to enter a topsy-turvy, unbelievable, weird space. Often making commentary on society through what happens in the “Twilight Zone.”

What themes are brought up in this episode? What does this seem to be a commentary on?

Re-read page 224. Why does Diaz use this allusion here? How does this twilight zone episode relate to Trujillo’s regime, as seen in Chapter 5? What is the effect of comparing Trujillo to the character of Anthony?

*Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* Chapter 3

Your discussion today will focus on the character of Beli and how Diaz develops her through the backstory revealed in Chapter 3.

\*For questions 3 & 4 jot down your responses on the back of this sheet.

1. Briefly share with the group your **important quote** and why it is important. Why did it stick out to you?
2. Briefly share the **allusion** you chose to write about. Why is this allusion significant.
3. Discuss the **allusion** on p. 94 to the “One Ring.” First use your group members or other resources to help you figure out what this is an allusion to. Then, discuss the significance of this allusion. How does Beli’s sexuality play out as her “one ring” throughout the rest of this chapter? (Consider how her sexual “power” is complex here). Give examples.
4. As a group, choose **two critical theories/approaches** that you feel lend themselves to analyzing this chapter. Then discuss the chapter using each chosen critical lens. What details would you notice when using that lens? What claims might you make about the text if reading through this lens?