*Preparation:  
By noon on Thursday: Sara will type up last week’s stories; Silvi will send corrections; Hayley will select three passage from the google doc, to have as back-up texts for our dramatization. Anne will prepare the handouts; Sasha will xerox 20 copies.*

*You all will leave by 11:45 Friday, bringing the remainder of the books, paper and pencils. SASHA: there is STILL A PROBLEM with payment for the van.***Lesson Plan for 3/21/14  
*Initial set up: all tables in the center of the room***

**I. Carmen:**open class by inviting responses/questions/thoughts about the novel **II. Hayley:  
Get into small groups to find a passage of dialogue in the novel.**  
Discuss it: what are the characters saying? What are they feeling?  
What is the gap between what they say and feel?  
What is the tone each person takes in the conversation?  
How would you act it out? Really get into this:  
what gestures or body language might reveal how the characters feel?   
(Do you want to create thought bubbles behind them?)  
 **Ask each group to get up and perform what they’ve practiced.  
  
III. Jody:**What have we learned from doing this? (about the book,  
about our different interpretations, about the process of “acting out”?) **IV. Sasha:**We can turn anything into a dramatic scene. For example…  
if you are in the bathroom and run out of toilet paper,  
what would you do? Let’s create this dialogue together…  
 **Who did the writing assignment for this week?**(If offerings are slim, Hayley has selected three backups we can use).  
Get back into small groups (same? different ones, each w/ an author?)  
to work on turning our own writing into drama.  
How might we perform a piece of this?  
 **If there’s time: each group gets up and performs what they’ve practiced.**if not? Brief discussion…. **VI. Silvi: Homework assignment.**Finish reading the novel.  
**Write three pages** about a man in your life from two points of view:  
first let him explain himself. Then you do it—but don’t make excuses for him.

As inspiration for this project, here are two excerpts from the novel   
(= two examples of men making excuses for their behavior):  
  
“When August was a young man, he hadn’t known what he wanted for his children’s lives, but it surely wasn’t this. He knew he should have done better by them, should do better, but he also knew the game was rigged. He couldn’t figure why Hattie wouldn’t admit it. She put all the blame on August…If she would stop hating him for one day, one hour, he’d have the strength to do the right thing by her” (p. 111).  
  
“Lawrence had lived his life attending to the immediate, the basic things necessary to his survival—food, shelter, money. Hattie was incomprehensible. There was always…some big thing that couldn’t be fixed….He had always thought her discontent was sort of pretty, like a sad song, but maybe she was just dark and heavy. Too much for him. How was he to take care of a woman like that, who couldn’t be taken care of because she was always thinking about the whys of things” (p. 115).