Discussion Questions:

Q1. How does Castillo’s account of motherhood show how the performance of motherhood is intrinsically linked to one’s performance of identity (race, class, gender, sexuality)?

Q2. What elements if any of motherhood as described by Castillo transcend cultural/class/race? Is motherhood a universal experience?

Q3. How do themes of matrifocality and intergenerational conflict run through Black Dove? How does Castillo’s treatment of masculinity feed into this?

Q4. How might Castillo’s account of race relations (both as a child/young person and as a mother) play into contemporary questions of race and racial identity in the US and Mexico?

Q5. In what ways Black Dove reads as a continuation of Castillo’s vindications throughout her work, and If so how, and from what space?

Q6. Can we discuss childhood/children as a centripetal/centrifugal force/trope that offers a space for reflection and bonding, defying reification?

Q7. Castillo’s book includes song, email, and her son’s writings. What is the significance of her play with the memoir genre?

*Questions found at http://www.baas.ac.uk/usso/storifycastillo/*.