**Term 2 Week 1: Mahasweta Devi, “The Hunt”, “Draupadi” and “Douloti the Bountiful”**

**The Hunt**

1. Is it symbolic that it is a woman born of an Australian man and tribal woman that defies social expectations?
2. How can we interpret Mary hunting, and the murder of Tehsildar, the “city bastard”?
3. How can we interpret the “Abandoned” village train station?
4. How can we read Mary’s self-sufficiency?
5. Contrast Jalim with Tehsildar, do they illustrate different male identities?
6. Explore the symbolism of the festival? What opportunities does it provide for the women?
7. How is Mary different to the other women in her village?
8. Explore the symbolism of her machete?
9. Why is Mary treated differently? How does this difference affect the life she leads in the village?

**Draupadi**

1. Explore the theme of dismemberment in Draupadi.
2. How can we interpret Draupadi in connection with the Indian epic Mahabharata?
3. Examine how we can read Draupadi’s naked body.

**Douloti the Bountiful**

1. What do Nagesia Crook and Douloti have in common?
2. What is the symbolism of Douloti dying on the anniversary of Indian Independence?
3. Why do you think Devi decides to close the short story with two short sentences: a rhetorical question and a statement that is not an answer? – “What will Mohan do now? Douloti is all over India.”
4. If Douloti can be made to mean “traffic in wealth” what might the final sentence mean?