Kate Knox

Dr. Stubblefield

ENG/WGS 232

Creative Project

“Chrysalis”

“You just hate change. You’re afraid of it.”

I hear this all the time. It’s one of her favorite phrases. And it’s true, in a way.

I fear uncertainty.

Her future, her life- it’s all set, continuing.

Mine hangs by a spider thread, ready to be blown off course by the coming wind-

I need protection. Casing in which to grow, change without fear.

Try as I might to build it--

She breaks through like a child, eager to see what is inside,

Yet is seldom happy with the results.

“Why are you anxious? There’s nothing you can do about the outcome.”

I know. I know. I KNOW.

The spider’s thread, then my casing will break, I will be exposed, and there is nothing I can do.

Yet, like the unwitting bugs, I build again.

I case myself in the chrysalis, hang it by its thread.

Change is essential. And Hope is eternal.

She-They- may not understand,

But I-We- will persevere until our metamorphosis is complete.

**Artist Statement**

For this poem, I was really inspired by Amy Tan and Sandra Cisneros. I decided on a poem because it packs a lot of punch into a small space, and I really enjoyed Cisneros’s poetic quality of writing style. I also wanted to echo the mother-daughter relationship issues that Tan highlights in The Joy Luck Club.

Right now, especially as I’m writing this on the night of the election, my future feels like it’s hanging in the balance. Obviously, it’s not just my future, but the future of many people, but I think the theme of growth and finding oneself has been concurrent through a lot of what we have read this semester, and I think the idea of growth and how mother-daughter relationships can foster and impede growth were timely and relevant for this class and the current climate.

Like Cisneros’s writings, I wanted to bring a natural element into my writing, and I thought equating both my mother and I to two natural forces would be a good way to do so. When you see a spider web destroyed by a storm, you don’t really place blame on anything because it’s just what happens in nature, and that’s what I’m trying to explain here. The relationship is what it is, we have done what we can, and all that is left is to keep persevering, both in my personal fights and in the repair of our relationship. The perseverance links back to Cisneros’s selection about the scraggly trees in The House on Mango Street, and the repair links back to all of the main characters in Joy Luck and their choices to reconcile with their mothers.