 Prescribed Text: Contemporary Asian Australian Poets

‘This is where it begins’ – Merlinda Bobis

General Points

The epithet at the beginning

Bikol:

Pilipino:

English:

Structure

* Stanza organisation reflects the uncertainty of the composer
* Subverted creation story- episodic structure

Theme

* Struggling with identity
* Cultural superstition- lore in storytelling
* Oral nature of storytelling
* The diversity of identity
* The way the past informs the present
* The interaction between individual and collective identity

Focus on Language

* Allusions to fairy tales are a recurring idea
* Anaphora
* Repetition
* Multiple dialects
* Imagery
* Descriptive language
* Cumulative listing
* Anecdote