Diction

Consider:

Abuelito under a **bald** light bulb, under a ceiling **dusty** with flies, puffs his cigar and counts money soft and wrinkled as old Kleenex.

— Sandra Cisneros, "Tepeyac," *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*

Discuss:

1. How can a ceiling be *dusty* with flies? Are the flies plentiful or sparse? Active or still? Clustered or evenly distributed?

2. What does Cisneros mean by a *bald* light bulb? What does this reveal about Abuelito's room?

Apply:

Take Cisneros's phrase, *under a ceiling dusty with flies*, and write a new phrase by substituting the word *dusty* with a different adjective. Explain to a partner the impact of your new adjective on the sentence.