Discussion Questions: *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*

“Words, Words, Words” Book Club—May 2023

1. What are your first impressions of the novel? If asked, what would you say this novel is about?

2. Which of the characters, if any, were you particularly drawn to? Did you find one more sympathetic than the others?

3. Are Sam and Sadie good friends to each other? What are the moments that define their friendship? Were you sorry they never had a romantic relationship?

4. On page 336, Marx describes a game as “tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow. It’s the possibility of infinite rebirth, infinite redemption. The idea that if you keep playing, you could win. No loss is permanent, because nothing is permanent, ever.” Where in the novel do you see examples of this rebirth? How does Marx’s death comment on this theme of renewal?

5. “I know you already,” Marx says to Sadie, “I’ve played two of your games” (page 285). Do you assume artists always reflect themselves in their work? How do you feel you know someone?

6. What is your familiarity with video games? Did you think the novel accurately explored their appeal? If you weren’t familiar with them, are you more interested in them after reading this book? Which game would you most want to play?

7. Throughout the novel, Sadie and Sam draw on a range of historical and literary inspirations for their games, just as Shakespeare often adapted pre-existing stories and histories for his plays. What role should source material play in considering an artistic product? To what extent is credit/acknowledgement of these sources important?

8. Shakespeare’s plays existed at a time when the theater was considered a “low” art form, but they have since gained cultural prestige. Video games are currently undergoing a similar transition. What contributes to art forms making this transition? Is the classification between “low” and “high” art useful?

9. Shakespeare’s First Folio was put together by his friends after his death, and the Folger itself is a “memorial” library. What do you think of how Marx is memorialized? How do you think he would feel about it? How do you feel about art as a form of remembrance?

10. Do you think *Ichigo* would have been received differently if they had retained the character’s gender neutrality? How does sexism and gender assumptions affect the decisions and outcomes of characters in the novel?