



# Mirrors of Me Conference

## Latino Literature: Un Espejo al Alma

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# Today's Goals

- Share personal insights regarding Latino narratives
  - Gain a deeper understanding of the importance of this narrative
  - Take away resources to help share this narrative
  - Enjoy time in conversation with others
- 



# Sharing Personal Insights

- ▶ What do you know about the Latino narrative?
  - ▶ Historical
  - ▶ Cultural
  - ▶ Linguistic
- ▶ What have you read by Latino authors?

*A Notion: Expanding your world view enables you to expand that of your students'.*



# Appreciating the Narrative

I, Nezahualcoyotl, ask this:  
By any chance is it true that one  
Lives rooted in the earth?  
Not always in the earth:  
Here for only just a while;  
Though it be made of jade, it breaks;  
Though it be made of gold, it breaks;  
Though it be made of  
quetzal plumage,  
It shreds apart.  
Not forever here on earth;  
Here for only just a while.

Nezahuacoyotl, Poet 1402-1472



## Appreciating the Narrative

*“It turned out that the hair grew quickly and I learned slowly. As a result, I cut off the hair in punishment for my head’s ignorance, for it didn’t seem right to me that a head so naked of knowledge should be dressed up with hair, for knowledge is a more desirable adornment,”*

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz - from *The Reply to the Very Illustrious Sor Philotea de la Cruz*, written in 1691

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: November 12, 1651 – April 17, 1695

# Understanding the Narrative

## ▶ Linguistic Patterns Establish the Narrative's Character

### ▶ Topic Centered Discourse Patterns

- ▶ Linear
- ▶ Sequential
- ▶ No recognition of shared history/trust between speaker and listener

### ▶ Topic Associative Discourse Patterns

- ▶ Circuitous
- ▶ Story can start anywhere
- ▶ Recognition of shared history/trust between speaker and listener

Aquiles Iglesias

# Appreciating the Narrative

“Preparation:

Take care to chop the onion fine. To keep from crying when you chop it (which is so annoying!), I suggest you place a little bit on your head. The trouble with crying over an onion is that once the chopping gets you started and the tears begin to well up, the next thing you know you just can't stop. I don't know whether that's ever happened to you, but I have to confess it's happened to me, many times. Mama used to say it was because I was especially sensitive to onions. Like my great-aunt, Tita.”

***Like Water for Chocolate*** by Laura Esquivel



# Understanding the Narrative

## ➤ Rich linguistic history

- Indigenous – Maya, Nahuatl, Quechua
- European – Spanish/Arabic
- Spirituality – Indigenous/Animists, Catholicism
- *Latinos are not monolithic*

## ➤ Geo-political history

- Conquest and resistance
- Territory extended through current U.S.
- Imaginary borders

## ➤ Economic Dependence

- Enslavement
- Expansion of the West
- Braceros and agriculture
- Service Industry
- Shifting Demographics



# Understanding the Narrative

## ➤ Narrative Themes

- Magical Reality
- Wonders of Love
- Search for Identity
- Power of Self



## Appreciating the Narrative

“I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where. I love you simply, without problems or pride: I love you in this way because I do not know any other way of loving but this, in which there is no I or you, so intimate that your hand upon my chest is my hand, so intimate that when I fall asleep your eyes close.”

Pablo Neruda



# Appreciating the Narrative

I look at myself.  
I watch my brothers.  
I shed tears of sorrow. I sow seeds of hate.  
I withdraw to the safety within the circle of life --  
MY OWN PEOPLE  
I am Cuauhtémoc, proud and noble,  
leader of men, king of an empire civilized  
beyond the dreams of the gachupín Cortés,  
who also is the blood, the image of myself.  
I am the Maya prince.  
I am Nezahualcóyotl, great leader of the Chichimecas.  
I am the sword and flame of Cortes the despot  
And I am the eagle and serpent of the Aztec civilization.  
I owned the land as far as the eye  
could see under the Crown of Spain,  
and I toiled on my Earth and gave my Indian sweat and blood  
for the Spanish master who ruled with tyranny over man and  
beast and all that he could trample  
But...THE GROUND WAS MINE.

*Yo Soy Joaquín*  
Rudolfo “Corky” Gonzales  
1967

# Important Latino Authors

## ➤ México

- Carlos Fuentes
- Octavio Paz
- Laura Esquivel
- Sandra Cisneros

## ➤ Chile

- Pablo Neruda
- Gabriela Mistral
- Isabel Allende

## ➤ Perú

- Mario Vargas Llosa

## ➤ Colombia

- Gabriel García Márquez

## ➤ Puerto Rico

- Esmeralda Santiago
- José Luis González

## ➤ United States

- Reyes López Tijerina
- Rodolfo Anaya
- Rudy Acuña
- Rubén Martínez
- Rudy “Corky” Gonzales
- Celso A. de Casas
- Diana Gabaldón
- Domingo Martínez
- Gloria Anzaldúa
- Jimmy Santiago Baca
- Luis and Daniel Valdéz

# Websites for Latino Literature for Children

- ▶ ColorínColorado: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/books-authors/books-kids/hispanic-heritage-booklists>
- ▶ Scholastic: <http://www.scholastic.com/ups/booklists>
- ▶ ThoughtCo: <https://www.thoughtco.com/hispanic-and-latino-heritage-in-books-627003>
- ▶ Mamiverse: <http://mamiverse.com/top-latino-childrens-books-60054/>



# Understanding the Narrative

- And then there's the music!
  - Ruben Blades
  - Gloria and Emilio Estefan
  - Agustín Lara
  - Pher Olvera (Maná)
  - José Feliciano
  - Amando Manzanero
  - Carlos Gardél
  - María Teresa Vera
  - José Alfredo Jiménez
  - Guty Cárdenas
  - Pablo Milanés

## Qué Culpa Tengo Yo?

Si amas la blanca  
Libertad de las palomas  
Y la nostálgica alegría de las olas  
Y en cada parte de tu piel, el sol asoma  
Eres de donde soy  
De donde soy

Si alguna vez una guitarra soñadora  
Te hizo el amor bajo la luna trovadora  
Y en uno que otro amanecer fuiste la aurora  
Eres de donde soy  
De donde soy

Qué culpa tengo yo de ese tambor  
Que me golpea la vida sin clemencia?  
Qué culpa tengo yo de esa insolencia  
Para sudar el sol de mi interior?  
Qué culpa tengo yo de este calor  
Que me fundió al guajiro y la santera?  
Qué culpa tengo yo de estas caderas?  
Qué culpa tengo yo de este sabor?  
Qué culpa tengo yo  
De que mi sangre suba?

Qué culpa tengo yo  
De haber nacido en Cuba?

Albita Rodríguez

If you love the white  
Liberty of doves  
And the joyful remembrance of lapping waves  
And if on every inch of your skin, the sun rises  
You are from where I am from  
From where I am from

If ever a dreaming guitar  
Made love to you under a troubadour moon  
Or during some morning dawn you were the aurora  
You are from where I am from  
From where I am from

What fault do I have for this drum  
That beats my life without mercy?  
What fault do I have for this insolence  
So the sun inside me can glow?  
What fault do I have for this heat  
That soldered me to the guajiro and sorceress?  
Why fault me for these hips?  
Why fault me for this essence?  
What fault do I have for my blood that rises?

What fault do I have for having been born in Cuba?

Albita Rodríguez



Thank You!

¡Gracias!