



Why Does Poetry Matter?

Arely Lazaro, Chelsea Maydish, Mia Ossandon

STUDENT RESULTS

Dr. Priscilla Gac-Artigas
Advanced Spanish: Composition FS-300B

HAY UNA MUJER

Grace Allison, Ximena Cano Guerra, Katie Pizarro, and Arely Lazaro

Hay una mujer que viene de muy lejos en busca de libertad, y de un trabajo.

Salió de Cuba sin avisarle a nadie sin su familia y lo que conoce.

Hay una mujer que daría todo por regresar a su tierra pero sabe que eso no está escrito en las estrellas.

Hay una mujer que sueña regresar con su familia.

Esta mujer es una migrante pero no la define el lugar donde vive sino lo que ha hecho para estar donde hoy está.

MIGRAR ES

Chelsea Maydish, Mia Ossandon, and Asya Zenin-Segr

¿Qué es migrar? Es dejar a tu familia y a tus seres queridos. It's to leave a home you've always known. Es acostumbrarte a una cultura extraña. It's to start over.

¿Qué es migrar? Es experimentar una nueva sociedad. It's the weight of multiple cultures on your shoulders. Es aprender una nueva lengua. It's the struggle of finding where you belong.

¿Qué es migrar? It's hearing "you're not ... enough but not ... enough." Es tener el deseo de volver a lo familiar. It's hearing "go back to your country" y sentir vergüenza de ser quien eres.

¿Qué es migrar? Es salir de tu país para buscar oportunidades. It's needing to work to support yourself but not being able to. Es tener que trabajar más que tus compañeros. It's the race for obtaining "el sueño americano."

LA NIÑA PERDIDA

Arely Lazaro, Chelsea Maydish, and Mia Ossandon

Hoy, caminando mis ojos chocaron con un póster: una niña perdida, doce años, el pelo castaño, 4'11", ojos azules.

Enmarcado por flores ¿sería alguien conocido? Tal vez una amiga, una prima, o una hija. El resto del trayecto me quedé pensando en ella.

¿Qué le habrá pasado? Tal vez tomó otra ruta para llegar a casa. Pero no puede ser porque yo hago lo mismo y siempre llevo bien. ¿Tal vez jugaba sola en el parque? Pero no puede ser porque yo siempre espero a mis amigas sola en el parque y nada pasa.

Al llegar a mi casa pregunté a mi papá: ¿Qué le pasó a esa niña? Mi papá guardó silencio por un momento; no sabía cómo explicarme.

La niña perdida, de doce años, pelo castaño, 4'11", ojos azules.

Fue secuestrada y no la pueden encontrar, su familia sale todos los días a buscarla — Tienes que tener cuidado. — dijo mi papá.

THEMES ANALYZED

Immigration, women's rights, gender equality, racism, education rights, war and peace, identity, and more.

REFERENCES

LA PALABRA MALGASTADA

Gustavo Gac-Artigas

la palabra no sirve si no es para romper la regla para escapar de las ánforas para escapar del pergamino para escapar de las prisiones y revelar sus secretos

la palabra no sirve si no es para cambiar el mundo

o al menos intentarlo

WHERE YOU FROM?

Gina Valdés

where you from? soy de aquí y soy de allá I didn't build this border that halts me the word from tera splits on my tongue

PABLO NERUDA'S NOBEL SPEECH (1971)

"El poeta no es un "pequeño dios". No, no es un "pequeño dios". No está signado por un destino cabalístico superior al de quienes ejercen otros menesteres y oficios."

REFLECTIONS

DO NOT STOP BELIEVING THAT WORDS AND POETRY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

—Walt Whitman

In my opinion, poetry matters because it can represent and acknowledge feelings or thoughts we did not have the ability to put into words ourselves. Poets can speak eloquently for the people at large and for that reason I like to think of them as advocates. They present what they feel or experience, which people can often identify with and are therefore affected by them. I feel as though the art of poetry has been widely lost throughout our world; one where a pen and paper will almost always be surpassed by the new technology taking their place. Even with all of the new developments surrounding AI, the words crafted by those machines could never have the emotion behind them that the words of actual people with lived experiences do. For this reason, poetry matters.

For me, poetry is an emotional release that I use when I need it to help me through the less glamorous parts of my life. I believe that writing things down on paper is the best way to let out my thoughts that I don't feel comfortable sharing with anyone.

The impact that poetry has had on my learning experience has been powerful. Not only do I get to learn about history through the art of poetry but also the feelings of those who were experiencing these historic moments in their home country. Poetry has been an outlet for many to state their political opinion and share experiences that they have felt in new settings where people can be singled out. It is because of poetry that we can see how little things have changed or how far we have come. Poetry is meant to be surprising and for the audience to reflect on their way of thinking about current events.

Learning that poetry can convey so much more depth truly facilitated my growth. My class with Professor Gac-Artigas further broadened my perspective on poetry. In her class, she never imposed a rigid structure; instead, she encouraged our creativity to flourish when writing about education, women, and various other topics. Through taking all these courses, I realized that poetry is an excellent medium for allowing creativity to flow. I now perceive poetry from a different standpoint, appreciating how each word is meticulously chosen to convey the underlying messages within the poetry.

ABSTRACT

Poetry is an important, unique, and timeless form of human expression and thought, which has served as an artistic outlet to share many different aspects of humanity. In that light, we propose the following questions: In a society where material wealth and desire overshadow morality and compassion, in a world where war and corruption are normalized over peace and humanity, where love and spiritual values are replaced by hate and greed, we ask you: Does a poet's ability to articulate the complexities and troubles of our world matter? Does the act of shedding light in the darkness with nothing but paper and pen matter? Ultimately, does poetry, a beacon of empathy, reflection, and resistance, matter?