"My Pen, My World"

Exploring, Defining, and Expressing Identity through Poetry

By Angelina Leanos

Three Poets, Three Themes

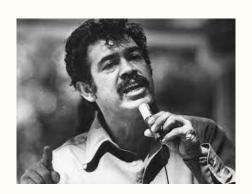
Sor Juana

A self-educated nun who wrote about <u>gender inequality</u>



Rodolfo Corky Gonzales

A Chicano activist who wrote about national identity



Ana Castillo

A bisexual Chicana who wrote about <u>queer shame</u>



Gender Inequality and Sor Juana's Writing

- Wrote the first feminist manifesto titled "Response to Sister Filotea"
 - Argued for women's rights to education
- Consequently forced to swear off non-religious studies, her library, and her instruments

"You Foolish Men"

"You foolish men who lay the guilt on women, not seeing you're the cause of the very thing you blame"

Modus of Nationality and Gonzalez's Writing

- Wrote a document for freedom and self-determination: "The Spiritual Plan of Aztlán"
 - Chosen as the Chicano Movement's manifesto
- Chicano struggles and identity outlined in epic poem I Am Joaquín

I Am Joaquín

"I am Joaquín.
The odds are great
But my spirit is strong,
My faith unbreakable,
My blood is pure.
I am Aztec prince and Christian Christ.
I SHALL ENDURE!
I WILL ENDURE!

Queer Shame and Castillo's Writing

- Wrote a series of lyrical memoirs titled
 BLACK DOVE: Mamá, Mi'jo, and Me
 - 2017 LAMBDA Award: Best bisexual non-fiction
- Most of her protagonists are queer and/or Latinx
- Commonly shares the story of her 'lesbian' love affair

Are Hunters Born or Made?

If they knew a woman
Once broke my heart,
they really wouldn't respect my opinion.
They might even throw me out.
That's how deep
gynophobia goes—
a woman pities a woman
Who doesn't have a man
even if
she's lesbian.

