

“My Pen, My World”

Exploring, Defining, and Expressing
Identity through Poetry

By Angelina Leños

Three Poets, Three Themes

Sor Juana

A self-educated nun who wrote
about gender inequality



Rodolfo Corky Gonzales

A Chicano activist who wrote about
national identity



Ana Castillo

A bisexual Chicana who
wrote about queer shame



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.

