

POETRY EXPLICATION ESSAY ASSIGNMENT
DUE THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009 NO LATER THAN 10 PM
VIA **TURNITIN.COM** AND **MYACCESS.COM**

Explicate one of three poems by Luis J. Rodriguez (“The Concrete River”, “Tía Chucha” or “Soundtracks”).

Just as you would with an analysis of a fictional narrative, discuss the central theme and author’s use of literary devices to convey that theme.

To help you in this process, use the essay-helper distributed in class; read examples of poetry explications in the latest issue of the class newsletter; and follow this suggested outline:

- I. Intro with **title, author, speaker, theme** and list of **two literary devices** you will discuss.
- II. Discuss the **author, speaker and audience** – the purpose behind the piece and the intended audience – as far as you know (OPTIONAL).
- III. Discuss the **theme** – what it is and why the author wants to convey it. Prove your point by discussing, at the very least, the title and opening and closing lines. Also mention one or two **additional themes**, but only if you are prepared to defend them with one or two quotes/excerpts.
- IV. Discuss the first **literary device** – perhaps **diction**. In the case of Luis J. Rodriguez, you might want to discuss his penchant for using contrasting pairs of words, such as “despot of desire”. Make sure to back up your argument with evidence from the text and to cite the quote/excerpts by using line numbers (18-20). Also, make sure to analyze **how and why the excerpt supports the theme**. Don’t just play “I spy a literary device”.
- V. Discuss another **literary device** – perhaps **imagery**. In the case of Luis J. Rodriguez, you might want to discuss how figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification et al) works to evoke images in the reader’s mind. Use examples and cite them.
- VI. Discuss how you **relate to the poem** (OPTIONAL).
- VII. Conclude by rephrasing what you have already said and perhaps saying something new – but not **TOTALLY** new, meaning don’t bring up a whole new literary device or argument you aren’t prepared to immediately defend. The conclusion is a good place to at least **restate the theme**.

No matter what, your essay should, at the very least, state the theme and discuss literary devices. It should do so in **at least 650 words**.

Don’t be afraid to write a lot. Don’t be afraid to make a mistake. You learn by doing!!!

LOGIN INFO:

myaccess.com

User ID: firstnameID#
Password: 999lastname

turnitin.com

Period 1 Class ID: 2426311
Password: upward

Period 2 Class ID: 2422403
Password: visionquest

Period 4 Class ID: 2426313
Password: forward

Period 5 Class ID: 2426312
Password: tothestars

Period 6 Class ID: 2426314
Password: moveonup