

Engl 2310 / World Lit
Reading Response #2: symbols

Fall 2017

Due Date: Wed., Oct. 4 (submit in class OR on Blackboard)

Readings: Paredes, "The Rio Grande"
Anzaldúa, from *Borderlands/La Frontera*

Your assignment is to write a 400-500 word Reading Response in which you identify and analyze **two symbols** in both or either of these poems (Paredes and/or Anzaldúa).

Possible symbols include (but are not limited to):

From "Rio Grande": The Rio Grande river; the sea ; the currents

From *Borderlands/La Frontera*: the border fence; the sea; the *mestizos*

Explain where the symbol appears in the poem, why it is significant to the poem, and what its larger significance might be to the speaker and/or the reader. Keep in mind our discussion of symbols from class, and *be specific*.

You must analyze examples from the texts to support your interpretation.

Use MLA citation, including a Works Cited page. You are not required to refer to outside sources in this assignment; as always, any and all sources you use **must** be cited.

MLA tips:

- Quotes from poems should be cited with line numbers if possible.
Example:
In her poem, Rich describes the ladder as "always there / hanging innocently" (14-15).
(If there are no line numbers given, just use page numbers.)
- The poems by Paredes and by Anzaldúa belong to the citation category "entry in an anthology" because the *Water and Culture Reader* is an anthology.
Example:

Paredes, Americo. "The Rio Grande." *The Water and Culture Reader*,

edited by Matthias Schubnell et al., 2nd ed., Fountainhead Press, 2013, pp. 607-608.