



## STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (057)

TEXT: *Blasones y Talegas* (1871)

AUTHOR: José M. de Pereda

EDITOR: Raquel Gutiérrez Sebastián

### PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Prologue by Raquel Gutiérrez Sebastián and other Critical Studies)

#### 1. JOSÉ M. DE PEREDA AND THE "COSTUMBRISTA" TRADITION:

##### *Authorial Profile:*

José María de Pereda (1833-1906) was a prominent Cantabrian writer, known for his conservative ideology and extensive work in *costumbrismo* (depicting customs and manners), particularly focused on his native Santander.

##### *Early Literary Foray:*

First serialized in *La Revista de España* (1869) and later published in *Tipos y paisajes* (1871), "Blasones y Talegas" represents one of Pereda's earliest ventures into the short novel genre, moving beyond simple costumbrista articles.

#### 2. THE CLASH OF OLD AND NEW WEALTH:

##### *Central Conflict:*

The novel's core theme is the proposed marriage between Don Robustiano Tres-Solares, a proud but impoverished hidalgo representing the decaying nobility, and Antón, the son of Toribio Mazorcas, a "jándalo" (emigrant to Andalucía who returned wealthy) embodying new economic power.

##### *"Blasones y Talegas":*

The title itself, "Coats of Arms and Purses," symbolizes the central dichotomy: the prestige of ancient lineage versus the influence of acquired wealth, a common societal tension in 19th-century Spain.

##### *Character Transformation:*

Don Robustiano undergoes a significant psychological shift, eventually accepting the "mestizaje" (mixing) of classes, suggesting the benefits of integrating traditional values with modern economic dynamism.

#### 3. LITERARY INFLUENCES AND PEREDA'S EVOLUTION:

##### *Quijote Echoes:*

The work shows clear stylistic and thematic influences from Cervantes' *Don Quijote*, particularly in the portrayal of Don Robustiano's anachronistic pride and the antithetical pairing of characters.

##### *Pereda's Developing Vision:*

While initially satirizing figures like Don Robustiano, Pereda's later novels would often idealize the figure of the hidalgo into benevolent patriarchs. "Blasones y



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"Talegas" serves as an important bridge in this evolution, showcasing his observational realism before a more ideologically driven approach.

### **Critical Acclaim:**

Praised by contemporaries like Galdós and Menéndez Pelayo, the novel is recognized for its literary quality and for foreshadowing many themes that would become central to Pereda's major works, such as *Sotileza* and *El sabor de la tierra*.

## **PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION**

### **Class and Social Mobility:**

Discuss the representation of social classes in the novel (hidalgos vs. new rich). How does Pereda portray the challenges and opportunities for social mobility in 19th-century Spain?

### **The Concept of "Honor":**

Examine how "honor" is understood and valued by different characters, particularly Don Robustiano, and how it clashes with economic realities.

### **Pereda's Narrative Stance:**

Analyze Pereda's narrative perspective. Is it purely satirical of the hidalgo, or is there a degree of benevolence or understanding towards the traditional ways of life?

### **Influence of Don Quijote:**

Discuss specific examples where the influence of Cervantes' *Don Quijote* can be seen in character portrayal, themes, or narrative techniques in "Blasones y Talegas."

### **The Role of Marriage:**

Explore the role of marriage as a social and economic tool in the novel, contrasting it with romantic love (as seen in earlier works by Pereda).

### **Regionalism and Social Change:**

How does the specific Cantabrian setting contribute to the themes of tradition versus modernity and the social transformations depicted in the story?

## **PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Pereda, José M. de.** *Blasones y Talegas*. Stockcero.

**Gutiérrez Sebastián, Raquel.** *El reducto costumbrista como eje vertebrador de la primera narrativa perediana (1876-1882)*. Ayuntamiento de Santander-UNED Cantabria, 2002.

**Bonet, Laureano.** "José María de Pereda." *Historia de la literatura española*. Vol. VI, edited by J. M. Díez Borque. Madrid: Guadiana, 1970.

**Santos, Dámaso.** *Pereda, novelista de la Montaña*. Santander: Institución Cultural de Cantabria, 1980.



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## PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

### 1. Who is the author of *Blasones y Talegas*?

- A) Benito Pérez Galdós
- B) Juan Valera
- C) José M. de Pereda
- D) Fernán Caballero

**Correct Answer: C**

### 2. What is the central theme of *Blasones y Talegas*?

- A) Religious conversion
- B) Political revolution
- C) The clash between old nobility and new wealth
- D) Rural folklore

**Correct Answer: C**

### 3. What does the character Toribio Mazorcas (the "jándalo") represent?

- A) The impoverished aristocracy
- B) The traditional peasant
- C) New wealth acquired through emigration
- D) An urban intellectual

**Correct Answer: C**

### 4. Which classic Spanish novel is noted as a significant influence on *Blasones y Talegas*?

- A) *La Celestina*
- B) *Don Quijote*
- C) *Lazarillo de Tormes*
- D) *El Quijotito*

**Correct Answer: B**

### 5. What literary genre did Pereda primarily work in, especially in his early career?

- A) Gothic novel
- B) Science fiction
- C) Costumbrismo
- D) Epic poetry

**Correct Answer: C**



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