



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (087)

TEXT: *Cuentos Mexicanos, Antología*

EDITOR: Luis Leal (Universidad de California Santa Bárbara)

PART 1: CRITICAL CONTEXT

(Based on Prof. Leal's Preliminary Note)

1. THE EVOLUTION OF THE MEXICAN SHORT STORY:

From Oral Tradition to Modernism:

Prof. Leal traces the genre from pre-Hispanic myths (Popol Vuh) and colonial chronicles to its emergence in 19th-century journalism and its artistic peak with modernists like Gutiérrez Nájera and Amado Nervo.

The "Golden Age" of the Short Story: The 20th century saw the short story achieve international prestige with authors like Juan José Arreola and Juan Rulfo.

2. THE REVOLUTIONARY NARRATIVE:

Context for the Bundle:

This anthology includes stories specifically "dedicated to that important historical event [The Revolution]" and to indigenous issues, providing a rich complement to *Los de abajo* and *La bola*.

Beyond Novels:

It highlights how the Revolution was also captured and interpreted through shorter forms.

3. LUIS LEAL: A VOICE OF AUTHORITY:

The Editor:

Luis Leal is a renowned scholar of Chicano and Latin American literature. His curation and critical perspective make this anthology a definitive collection.

Stockcero's Role:

Prof. Leal explicitly thanks Pablo Agrest Berge for "careful annotation of the text," highlighting the academic rigor of this edition.

PART 2: CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

THEME A: The Short Story as Historical Document

Discussion: How do the selected short stories reflect different periods of Mexican history (Revolution, post-Revolutionary, indigenous issues)?

Comparison: Compare the portrayal of the Revolution in a short story versus a novel (e.g., *Los de abajo*). What are the advantages/disadvantages of each format for conveying historical events?



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THEME B: Myth, Legend, and Social Critique

Analysis:

Examine the earliest stories (Popol Vuh, Sahagún) for their cosmological and etiological functions. How do these compare with later stories that use fiction for social or political critique?

The Role of Journalism:

Discuss the relationship between the short story and journalism in Mexico, particularly in the 19th century.

THEME C: The "Mexicanidad" through Short Fiction

Exploration:

How do these diverse voices and themes contribute to understanding the concept of "Mexicanidad"?

Literary Trends:

Identify and discuss the presence of literary trends (romanticism, realism, vanguard) within the anthology.



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PART 3: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

1. According to Luis Leal, what major historical event inspired many short stories in the early 20th century in Mexico?

- A) The French Intervention.
- B) The Mexican Revolution.
- C) The Independence War.
- D) The Cristero War.

(Correct: B)

2. Which pre-Hispanic text is mentioned as an ancient collection of myths in Mexico?

- A) The Florentine Codex.
- B) The Popol Vuh.
- C) The Chilam Balam.
- D) The Codez Mendoza.

(Correct: B)

3. What was a significant source for short stories during the colonial period in Mexico?

- A) Specialized short story collections.
- B) Chronicles, histories, and travel accounts by conquerors and religious figures.
- C) European romantic novels.
- D) Oral traditions only.

(Correct: B)

4. According to Leal, which two authors were crucial in giving prestige to the short story as a literary genre in Mexico in the late 19th century?

- A) José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi and Octavio Paz.
- B) José María Roa Bárcena and Vicente Riva Palacio.
- C) Carlos Fuentes and Elena Garro.
- D) Juan José Arreola and Juan Rulfo.

(Correct: B)

5. How does this anthology complement a study of the Mexican Revolution alongside novels?

- A) It offers a more detailed historical account.
- B) It provides alternative perspectives and interpretations through shorter narratives.
- C) It focuses exclusively on the military aspects.
- D) It only includes works by European authors.

(Correct: B)

PART 4: CITATION GUIDE (Stockcero Edition)

Why cite this edition? This Stockcero edition (ISBN 978-1-934768-04-4) is curated by Luis Leal, a pivotal figure in Chicano and Latin American literary criticism, offering a panoramic and authoritative selection of Mexican short stories.

Sample Citation (MLA): Leal, Luis, editor. *Cuentos Mexicanos, Antología*. Stockcero, 2007.

Explore the "Mexican Revolution & Beyond" Collection: This anthology is part of our comprehensive collection on Mexican literature, including *Los de abajo* (Azuela), *La bola* (Rabasa), and *El Zarco* (Altamirano).

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