



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (117)

**TEXT:** El sueño de la razón

**AUTHOR:** Antonio Buero Vallejo

**EDITION:** Annotated Spanish Edition (Stockcero)

## PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Introduction by Prof. Yosálida Rivero-Zaritzky)

1. TOTAL IMMERSION (Efectos de Inmersión):

### Sensory Experience:

Buero uses a technique called "efectos de inmersión" to force the audience to experience Goya's deafness. When Goya is on stage, the sound is cut off or distorted; the audience hears only what he hears (silence or buzzing). This creates empathy and shared isolation.

### The "Black Paintings":

The play integrates Goya's "Pinturas Negras" as projections or stage elements. They are not just decoration; they represent the externalization of his internal demons and the horrors of the political reality.

## 2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT (1823):

### The Ominous Decade:

The action takes place during the restoration of absolute monarchy by King Ferdinand VII. It is a time of terror ("El Terror Blanco"), persecution of liberals, masons, and free-thinkers.

### Goya as Symbol:

Goya represents the enlightened intellectual trapped in a barbaric, obscurantist society. His struggle is the struggle of Reason against the "monsters" of tyranny.

## 3. THE TITLE:

Derived from Goya's etching *El sueño de la razón produce monstruos* (The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters). The play explores what happens when a nation's reason "sleeps" (allows tyranny) and when an individual's reason is threatened by fear and isolation.

## PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

### Sensory Deprivation:

How does the use of silence/deafness affect the audience's understanding of Goya? Discuss the effectiveness of this theatrical device.

### Art and Politics:

How does the play use Goya's art (*Caprichos*, *Disparates*) to comment on political repression? Is art shown as a weapon or a refuge?

### The Antagonist:

Analyze the character of King Ferdinand VII (who never appears but is omnipresent) and his voice on stage (often represented by Calomarde). How is power depicted?



The Stockcero Guarantee

SpanishBookPress Editions.

Printed in the USA. Never backlisted. Always available.

## PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Buero Vallejo, Antonio.** *El sueño de la razón*. Stockcero, 2010.
- **Edwards, Gwynne.** Dramatists in Perspective: Spanish Theatre in the Twentieth Century. St. Martin's Press, 1985.
- **Rivero-Zaritzky, Yosálida.** *Introduction to El sueño de la razón*. Stockcero, 2010.

## PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

**1. Which famous Spanish painter is the protagonist of the play?**

- A) Velázquez
- B) Picasso
- C) Francisco de Goya
- D) El Greco

Correct Answer: C

**2. What physical disability of the protagonist is simulated on stage?**

- A) Blindness
- B) Deafness
- C) Paralysis
- D) Muteness

Correct Answer: B

**3. The play is set during the reign of which Spanish monarch?**

- A) Philip II
- B) Charles V
- C) Ferdinand VII
- D) Alfonso XIII

Correct Answer: C

**4. What artistic works are projected or referenced throughout the play?**

- A) The Black Paintings (Pinturas Negras)
- B) Cubist masterpieces
- C) Renaissance portraits
- D) Surrealist landscapes

Correct Answer: A

**5. The phrase "El sueño de la razón produce monstruos" comes from:**

- A) A poem by Lorca
- B) An etching (grabado) by Goya
- C) A speech by the King
- D) The Constitution of 1812

Correct Answer: B

[Browse Collection](#)

Interested in adopting this text for your course?

[Request an Evaluation Copy](#)

or [Browse our Full Catalog](#)



The Stockcero Guarantee

SpanishBookPress Editions.

Printed in the USA. Never backlisted. Always available.