



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (117)

TEXT: El sueño de la razón

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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?



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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.
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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

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