



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (123)

TEXT: *Bodas de sangre*

AUTHOR: Federico García Lorca

EDITOR: Borja Rodríguez-Gutiérrez

PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Introduction by Borja Rodríguez-Gutiérrez and critical studies)

1. TRAGEDY AS INEVITABILITY:

Rejection of Causality:

Unlike modern narrative forms based on cause-and-effect, *Bodas de sangre* embraces the classical concept of tragedy where events are inevitable. The characters do not choose their fate; they are swept away by forces greater than themselves.

Fate and Nature:

The tragedy is driven by organic, primordial forces—Blood and Earth. The characters' actions are not psychological decisions but responses to a biological and telluric imperative ("the fault is the earth's").

2. SYMBOLISM AND MYTHOLOGY:

The Moon and Death:

Lorca revives ancient myths, personifying the Moon (a "vampiric" deity demanding blood for warmth) and Death (as a Beggar Woman). They are active agents in the drama, orchestrating the final sacrifice.

Vegetal Imagery:

The play is saturated with botanical references (carnation, geranium, wheat, orange blossom). Men are often compared to plants or flowers destined to be cut down (sacrificed) by the knife, returning their blood to the earth to ensure the cycle of life continues.

3. SOCIAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT:

Against Bourgeois Theater:

Lorca's work stands in contrast to the prevailing bourgeois realism of the time (Benavente). He sought to bring "poetry that rises from the book and becomes human" to the stage, aiming for a direct, emotional impact on the masses.

The Crime of Níjar:

The plot is based on a real event from 1928, but Lorca strips away the anecdotal details to create a universal myth about passion, repression, and the tragic destiny of the individual in conflict with social codes.



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PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

Fate vs. Free Will:

Do the characters in *Bodas de sangre* have any agency, or are they entirely puppets of fate? Discuss the Bride's speech ("I didn't want to... but the other's arm dragged me").

The Role of the Mother:

Analyze the Mother as a figure of premonition and suffering. How does she embody the cycle of life, death, and memory?

Symbolism of the Moon and Knife:

Discuss the function of the Moon and the Knife (or razor) in the play. How does Lorca use these symbols to build tension and convey the theme of sacrifice?

Nature and the Organic:

Explore the extensive use of agricultural and botanical imagery. How does this connect the human drama to the cycles of the earth?

Social Codes vs. Individual Desire:

How does the play critique the rigid social structures of rural Spain (marriage for land/money, honor codes) versus the unstoppable force of individual passion?

Lorca's "Poetic Theater":

Discuss how Lorca blends poetry and drama. How do the lyrical passages (e.g., the Moon's soliloquy) function within the theatrical action?

PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

García Lorca, Federico. *Bodas de sangre*. Stockcero.

Edwards, Gwynne. *Lorca: The Theatre Beneath the Sand*. Marion Boyars, 1980.

Gibson, Ian. *Federico García Lorca: A Life*. Pantheon, 1989.

Rodriguez-Gutiérrez, Borja. "Introducción" to *Bodas de sangre*. (This edition).

Stanton, Edward F. *The Tragic Myth: Lorca and Cante Jondo*. University Press of Kentucky, 1978.



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PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

1. Who is the author of *Bodas de sangre*?

- A) Jacinto Benavente
- B) Federico García Lorca
- C) Antonio Machado
- D) Ramón del Valle-Inclán

Correct Answer: B

2. What real-life event inspired the plot of *Bodas de sangre*?

- A) The Spanish Civil War
- B) A local election in Granada
- C) The "Crime of Nijar" (1928)
- D) A myth from Greek antiquity

Correct Answer: C

3. In the play, who or what demands the blood of the male characters?

- A) The Mother
- B) The Government
- C) The Moon
- D) The Church

Correct Answer: C

4. How does the introduction describe the genre of *Bodas de sangre*?

- A) A bourgeois comedy
- B) A modern tragedy
- C) A romantic melodrama
- D) A social satire

Correct Answer: B

5. Which character represents the voice of fate and premonition from the beginning of the play?

- A) The Bride
- B) Leonardo
- C) The Mother
- D) The Father

Correct Answer: C

Explore the "Love and Tragedy" Collection: This book is part of our comprehensive collection examining the intersection of passion, social constraint, and inevitable fate in Spanish literature: *La Lozana Andaluza* (Delicado); *Bodas de sangre* (Lorca); *Quiero vivir mi vida* (Burgos); and *Viento de grop* (Bertrana).

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