



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (187)

TEXT: *Viento de grop*
AUTHOR: Aurora Bertrana
EDITOR: Silvia Roig

PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Introduction by Silvia Roig and critical studies of Aurora Bertrana)

1. AURORA BERTRANA: AN UNCONVENTIONAL LITERARY FIGURE:

Independent Spirit:

Aurora Bertrana (1892-1974) was a singular figure in Catalan letters, marked by her independent life, adventurous travels (Polynesia, Morocco), and unwavering commitment to women's rights, often clashing with traditional expectations.

Feminist Trajectory:

Her feminist ideology evolved through different stages, from early activism (Lyceum Club, attempts to create a Women's Workers University) to later reflections on gender, identity, and the fluid nature of sexuality, challenging rigid societal codes.

2. THE IMPACT OF TOURISM ON CATALAN IDENTITY:

Critique of Mass Tourism:

Viento de grop (Stormy Wind) is a critical chronicle of the socio-economic and cultural impact of mass tourism on the Costa Brava during the 1950s and 60s under the Franco regime. It documents the erosion of traditional ways of life in fishing villages like "La Cala."

Cultural and Linguistic Erosion:

The novel exposes the loss of Catalan cultural identity, the marginalization of the Catalan language under Francoist suppression, and its further dilution by foreign influences.

Generational Conflict and Economic Change:

It portrays the shift from traditional livelihoods (fishing) to tourism-related jobs, leading to generational clashes (Rafel's desire for change vs. Met's traditionalism) and the complexities of economic "progress."

3. GENDER INEQUALITY AND SEXUAL LIBERATION:

Double Standards:

Bertrana vividly illustrates the double moral standard applied to men and women during this period. While local men sought sexual freedom with foreign tourists, Catalan women faced strict traditional expectations.

Women's Limited Liberation:

The novel shows how tourism, despite bringing superficial "liberation" and new opportunities for women (e.g., employment in the service sector), often reinforced underlying machismo and condemned them to traditional roles, becoming objects of male gaze.



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Foreigners as "The Other":

Tourists, especially foreign women (Mabel, Rebeca), are depicted as embodying exotic beauty and liberal customs, simultaneously attracting local men and provoking jealousy and disdain from local women.

4. THE NOVEL'S LANGUAGE AND FILM ADAPTATION:

Authentic Vernacular:

Bertrana's intentional use of colloquial, often grammatically "incorrect" Catalan, rich in regional idioms, serves as a subversive act against the linguistic repression of the Franco regime. It authenticates the voices of the local people.

Distorted Film Adaptation:

The novel's film adaptation, *La larga agonía de los peces fuera del agua* (1970), is presented as a "plundering" of the original work. It sanitized Bertrana's sharp social critique, shifted the setting to Ibiza, and prioritized commercial promotion (e.g., of singer Joan Manuel Serrat) over faithful thematic representation.

PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

Impact of Mass Tourism:

Analyze the socio-economic and cultural impact of tourism on the Costa Brava as depicted in *Viento de grop*. How does the novel critique this phenomenon?

Generational Divide:

Discuss the conflict between Rafel and his father, Met. What does this represent in terms of changing values and aspirations in 20th-century Spain?

Gender Roles and Sexual Morality:

How does the novel expose the double standards and gender inequalities prevalent in Francoist Spain? Compare the portrayal of local women with that of foreign tourists.

Cultural and Linguistic Identity:

Examine how *Viento de grop* addresses the struggle of the Catalan language and culture to survive amidst both political repression and the homogenizing effects of tourism.

Bertrana's Feminist Perspective:

Although Bertrana was sometimes reluctant to label herself a feminist, how does her work, particularly *Viento de grop*, reflect a strong feminist critique of society?

Literary Representation of "The Other":

Discuss how the novel portrays both the local population (as "the other" for tourists) and the tourists (as "the other" for locals). How do stereotypes and preconceived notions influence these representations?



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Novel to Film Adaptation:

Analyze the changes made in the film adaptation, *La larga agonía de los peces fuera del agua*. What was gained or lost in this transition, particularly regarding the novel's social critique?

PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

1. Who is the author of *Viento de grop*?

- A) Carmen de Burgos
- B) Federico García Lorca
- C) Aurora Bertrana
- D) Francisco Delicado

Correct Answer: C

2. What is the central theme of *Viento de grop*?

- A) The Spanish Civil War
- B) The impact of mass tourism on traditional communities
- C) Political corruption in Barcelona
- D) Romantic love in the city

Correct Answer: B

3. The novel is set in "La Cala," a fictional town representing which real-life Spanish region?

- A) Andalusia
- B) Castile
- C) Costa Brava, Catalonia
- D) Basque Country

Correct Answer: C

4. How does the novel portray the influence of foreign tourists on gender dynamics?

- A) It shows them promoting traditional values.
- B) It highlights their role in reinforcing male chauvinism and double standards.
- C) It depicts them as completely integrating into local customs.
- D) It suggests they had no impact on gender relations.

Correct Answer: B

5. What is Aurora Bertrana's stance on the Catalan language in the novel?

- A) She advocates for its complete replacement by Spanish.
- B) She expresses indifference to its use.
- C) She criticizes its decline and uses it as a subversive act.
- D) She only uses standard, formal Catalan.

Correct Answer: C

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