The Many Faces of La Llorona: Reflections on La Llorona Through Creative Writing

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The Many Faces of La Llorona: Reflections on La Llorona Through Creative Writing
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Two-Part Research Objective, with a Pedagogical Application

Part I: Critical Understanding of La Llorona in Poetic Representations in New Mexico
How is La Llorona represented in contemporary New Mexican poetry written by women?

Part II: Creative Production about La Llorona (Self-Produced)
How does poetry, as a creative writing process, critically consider the figure and voice of La Llorona? How is nuevomexicana identity negotiated through this story?

Part III: Development of Pedagogical Applications in the Spanish as a Heritage Language Classroom
In what ways can La Llorona narratives be implemented as pedagogical tools to engage students in critical cultural and social reflection?

“We sit on the sand, dipping my feet into the cold acequia water, la puerta entre los mundos.
Nana and Mami join us.
The four of us sit, laughing beneath the summer sun.”
From “Todas nosotras” Part of a collection of poems by Sutherland Jaramillo

“La Llorona” (2002, oil on wood) by Lizz Lopez

Part I: Critical Method
Critically analyze poems about La Llorona written by women authors in New Mexico to explore a regionally-specific narrative, offering creative writing as a way of understanding the ever-changing and dynamic narratives of La Llorona.

Part II: Creative Production
Explore of the creative writing process to uncover how her figure is one that echoes and manifests the complexities of women’s lives and resilience.

Part III: Development of Pedagogical Applications
Spanish as a Heritage Language students engage in activities I developed related to:
Reading and analyzing texts
Identifying themes
Reconciling community narratives with written texts
Connecting creative productions with cultural studies conversations

“The figure of La Llorona, as represented in poetic narratives, negotiates the complex identities, experiences, and histories of the nuevomexicano hispanohablante community, embodying a narrative of resilience.”

“‘I am a wandering ofrenda, a burning white flame, a woman without footprints’
From “Una Carta de Amor de La Llorona” By Jessica Helen Lopez

“She was my sadness, my resentment and my disbelief in God all wrapped up in a body that looked just like me.”
From “La Llorona Speaks” By Mercedez Holtry

“We are all family. We speak the same language. We share the same history. We are all part of the same community.”
From “Todas los dias” By Sutherland Jaramillo