

Earth, Landscape & Myth

Latino poetry emphasizes multiple relationships to the earth, invoking everything from ancestral myths, to profound and reverent attentiveness to landscape, to urgent eco-consciousness. How might Latino poetry help us understand our interconnectedness with nature and heighten our sense of responsibility for the stewardship of the land?

**Read an essay on
this theme by Vincent Toro**



“Myths, in the form of folktales and *leyendas* (legends) created and shared within a given community, help make sense of the world, pass on necessary knowledge for survival, imprint cultural values and mores, elevate our daily lives beyond the mundane, and examine history beyond the surface of names and dates.” --Vincent Toro

This brochure was compiled from
*A project reader to Latino Poetry, The
Library of America Anthology,*
Rigoberto González, editor, ©2024.

The full resource is at
<https://www.latinopoetry.org>

Discussion Guide Earth, Landscape & Myth



The Center for the Book, in collaboration with New Hampshire Humanities and UNH, and thanks to a grant from the Library of America invites you to join us in a celebration of Latino Poetry here in the Granite state in 2024/2025. Our celebration will center around *Latino Poetry: The Library of America Anthology*, edited by Rigoberto González, 2024.

A national public humanities initiative directed by Library of America with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Emerson Collective, comprising a groundbreaking anthology, events around the country, and an online media archive.

Una gran iniciativa pública en el campo de las humanidades, dirigida por Library of America con el generoso apoyo del Fondo Nacional para las Humanidades y Emerson Collective, que comprende programas públicos por todo el país; un archivo multimedia; y una nueva antología sin precedentes.

<http://nhsl.dncr.nh.gov/latino-poetry>

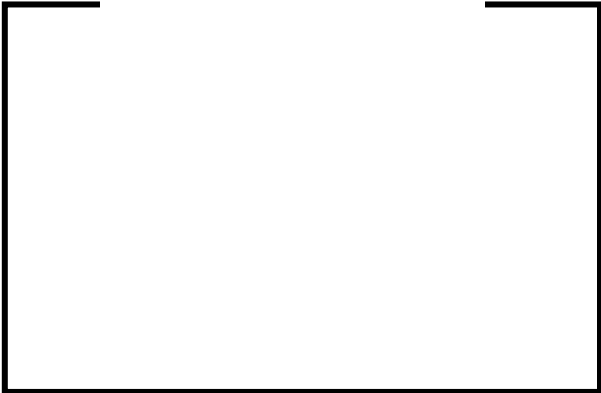
Start with these poems

“Tortilla Smoke: A Genesis” by Natalie Diaz (*Anthology*, p. 480)

“Sonata of the Luminous Lagoon” by Vincent Toro (*Anthology*, p. 539)

“La Ciguapa” by Elizabeth Acevedo (*Anthology*, p. 449)

Notes on the theme generally



These three poems are also at <https://www.latinopoetry.org/humanities-themes>

Questions to Consider

1. What did you expect based on the title of the poem? Were your expectations met?
2. Did the structure or tone of any of the poems affect your reading experience?
3. Did the poem remind you of any other poems (or novels, or movies)?
4. Did the poem make you think about any of your own experiences?
5. What are the different functions of myths or legends evoked in each poem? Which ones are drawn directly from folklore and which ones are expanded or invented by the poet?
6. What are the different roles that myth plays in each poem?
7. In what ways is the everyday projected into the mythical, or vice-versa in these poems?

Poems for further reading

“Letter to an Exile” / “Carta a un desterrado” by Claribel Alegría (p. 144)

“Yaguareté White” by Diego Báez (p. 457)

“My Voice” by Rafael Campo (p. 372)

“Loose Woman” by Sandra Cisneros (p. 250)

“dieta indigena” by Ir’ene Lara Silva (p. 440)

“Notes on the Below” by Ada Limón (p. 404)

“drought (California)” by Rachel McKibbens (p. 419)

Page numbers are from *Latino Poetry, The Library of America Anthology*