Jose Antonio Villarreal Pocho

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this remarkable novel is set in california s lush santa clara valley and tells for the first time the story of the pocho mexican californian american pocho is especially about richard rubio the youngest son of a mexican migrant worker a sensitive

questioning boy whose coming of age was hastened by the poverty and primitive surroundings into which he was born it tells of richard s bewildered conflicting feelings toward his mexican heritage his bitter experiences in a wealthy non mexican society his rude awakening to the pleasures and perils of sex his frustrated hunger for knowledge and his aimless rebellion against everything that his name and background stood for pocho is a dramatic novel which introduces a new california author inside front flap of bookcover

fictionalized account of a mexican family s experiences in the united states

jose antonio villarreal illuminates here the world of pochos americans whose parents come to the united states from mexico set in depression era california the novel focuses on richard a young pocho who experiences the intense conflict between loyalty to the traditions of his family s past and attraction to new ideas richard s struggle to achieve adulthood as a young man influenced by two worlds reveals both the uniqueness of the mexican american experiences and its common ties with the struggles of all americans whatever their past

this book blends biography history and literary criticism in its analysis of pocho 1959 josé antonio villarreal s evocative and semi autobiographical novel about richard rubio a mexican american youth raised in a pastoral community in central california where people self identified according to race ethnicity or religious affiliation richard is the son of an indigenous maya mother and a mexican fair skin father who fought in the 1910 mexican revolution as a cavalryman placing richard outside the town s imposed and regulated ethnic identities in spite of his varied ancestry his american birth and his probing intelligence richard s indigenous appearance casts him as a social outsider pocho was written over a nine year period of vigorous creativity and with villarreal s power of recall and imagination at their prime in writing his inaugural novel villarreal drew inspiration from modern narratives paintings novels films and from ancient greek tragedy to create a mexican american version of its classical drama ancestor this book s critical approach to villarreal s literary work is intelligibly written so as to be of access to a broad and all inclusive readership and institutions from college and university professors public libraries and the general reader to students of us mexican american and world literatures

examines the history and culture of mexico and its relations with its neighbors to the north and east from the spanish conquest to the current presidency of vicente fox

u s latino literature is defined as latino literature within the united states that embraces the heterogeneous inter groupings of latinos for too long u s latino literature has not been thought of as an integral part of the overall shared american literary landscape but that is slowly changing this dictionary aims to rectify some of those misconceptions by proving that latinos do

fundamentally express american issues concerns and perspectives with a flair in linguistic cadences familial themes distinct world views and cross cultural voices the historical dictionary of u s latino literature contains a chronology an introduction and an extensive bibliography the dictionary section has cross referenced entries on u s latino a authors and terms relevant to the nature of u s latino literature in order to illustrate and corroborate its foundational bearings within the overall american literary experience this book is an excellent access point for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about this subject

professor luis leal is one of the most outstanding scholars of mexican latin american and chicano literatures and the dean of mexican american intellectuals in the united states he was one of the first senior scholars to recognize the viability and importance of chicano literature and through his perceptive literary criticism helped to legitimize it as a worthy field of study his contributions to humanistic learning have brought him many honors including mexico s aquila azteca and the united states national humanities medal in this testimonio or oral history luis leal reflects upon his early life in mexico his intellectual formation at northwestern university and the university of chicago and his work and publications as a scholar at the universities of illinois and california santa barbara through insightful questions mario garcía draws out the connections between literature and history that have been a primary focus of leal s work he also elicits leal s assessment of many of the prominent writers he has known and studied including mariano azuela william faulkner octavio paz carlos fuentes juan rulfo gabriel garcía márquez jorge luis borges tomás rivera rolando hinojosa rudolfo anaya elena poniatowska sandra cisneros richard rodríguez and ana castillo

recovering the u s hispanic literary heritage is a compendium of articles by the leading scholars on hispanic literary history of the united states the anthology functions to acquaint both expert and neophyte with the work that has been done to date on this literary history to outline the agenda for recovering the lost hispanic literary heritage and to discuss the pressing questions of canonization social class gender and identity that must be addressed in restoring the lost or inaccessible history and literature of any people

a vexed figure inhabits u s literature and culture the visibly racialized immigrant who disavows minority identity and embraces the american dream such figures are potent and controversial for they promise to expiate racial violence and perpetuate an exceptionalist ideal of america swati rana grapples with these figures building on studies of literary character and racial form rana offers a new way to view characterization through racialization that creates a fuller social reading of race situated in a nascent period of ethnic identification from 1900 to 1960 this book focuses on immigrant writers who do not fit neatly into a resistance based model of ethnic literature writings by paule marshall ameen rihani dalip singh saund josé garcia villa and josé antonio villarreal symbolize different aspects of the american dream from individualism to imperialism assimilation to upward mobility the dynamics of characterization are also those of contestation rana argues analyzing the interrelation of persona and

personhood race characters presents an original method of comparison revealing how the protagonist of the american dream is socially constrained and structurally driven

seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject english language and literature studies literature grade 2 3 university of freiburg course ethnic novel in american literature language english abstract index i introduction 1 ii pocho 2 1 background to the novel 2 2 2 territorial obscurity 2 2 3 education 4 2 4 richard s relation to his parents 4 2 5 the dissolution of the family 6 iii mona in the promised land 9 3 1 background to the novel 9 3 2 mona s relation to her parents 9 iv conclusion 13 v bibliography i introduction this term paper deals with two pieces of american immigrant literature of different culture political background time and setting the novel pocho by jose antonio villareal published in 1959 was the first chicano novel it was written primarily for an anglo american audience in order to explain the life of a pocho villareal wrote the novel without any guideline as no one had entered this political vacuum before 1 the novel mona in the promised land by the chinese american writer gish jen published in 1996 introduces us into the multicultural life of the predominantly jewish new york suburb of scarshill in 1968 i will show in this term paper that despite the many differences in the two novels there also are many commonalities and parallels what life and the problems between the two protagonists and their parents concerns i will furthermore try to present in detail that the familiar sorrow in both novels is closely connected with the complex conflict of generations within two cultures as well as the protagonist s search for identity that results from this in the first part i will analyze richard s changing relationship towards his parents in the second part i will show that also mona despite her completely different background and environment faces similar problems which finally lead to the break up with predominantly her mother furthermore i will expose that mona and richard share common interests and ways at the end of my work i will finally compare the parallels but also show differences between the two novels ii pocho 2 1 background to the novel the term pocho is an expression for a mexican who is born and raised in the united states it is used with an abusive connotation to describe mexican americans in the usa pochos are often perceived by mexicans to be badly educated and without a proper sense of culture jose antonio villarreal s novel pocho is set after the mexican revolution of 1910 when millions of mexicans migrated to the usa in order to get work by the so called first bracero program

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includes more than 360 interpretative essays on works of twentieth century fiction published in the united states and latin america

this text is designed to introduce students not only to ethnic american writers but also to the cultural contexts and literary traditions in which their work is situated

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Introduction

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