

FINAL EXAM: HIGHER LEVEL THINKING ABOUT LA CRUZ DEL DIABLO & LA CORZA BLANCA

The beloved Spanish romantic poet Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer wrote his famous versions of these two ancient Spanish legends in the 1800's, but they had been told in Spain for hundreds of years before that time. Legends last because they contain elements of truth that appeal to people, even when those people are widely separated by time and space. Legends express something about the universal human condition. There is something in them that resonates with widely different groups across the centuries. G.K. Chesterton, the famous British philosopher and novelist, put it this way:

"It is quite easy to see why a legend is treated, and ought to be treated, more respectfully than a book of history. The legend is generally made by a majority of the people in the village who are sane. The book is generally written by the one man in the village who is mad."

Legends endure because they express truths in an accessible way to different people across different time periods. To show that you have read, understood, and most importantly, **thought** about these stories, you will need to focus on these big questions: **What do these legends say to you?** (opinion) and **What is true about them?** (application). A snotty, ignorant, low level answer to these two questions would be something like: "Nothing, because they are fiction." But you are being asked to show that you are operating at a higher level than that. You need to demonstrate that you are thinking.

WRITE 2-3 PARAGRAPHS ABOUT TWO (2) OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.
USE EXAMPLES FROM THE NOVELS TO SHOW YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

Remember: It is not always how much you know, but what you can do with what you know that matters.

TRUTH

1. Both of these stories are legends, works of fiction, yet they have had lasting value because there is something true about them. What might be true about the human interactions in these stories?
2. What might be some reasons that these legends have endured?

OUR WORLD

3. What are the virtues/vices that are portrayed in these stories? How are they expressed in our modern world?
4. What aspects of these stories intrude into our real lives?
5. Can evil ever really be destroyed, or even contained? Why/Why not?
6. **El Señor del Segre** (La cruz del diablo) and **Don Dionis** (La corza blanca) both went to the same crusades but returned as very different men. Why? What parallels might exist today?
7. How might these legends originally have served as explanations of the changes of those returning from war?

YOU

8. What do these legends say to you?
9. With whom do you identify in these stories?
10. Have you faced similar challenges in your life?
11. Are these stories that matter, that stick in your mind? If so, how?
12. What have you taken or learned from these stories?

IMAGINATIVE REHEARSAL

13. What is in these stories that might help to prepare you for the challenges that are coming in your life?
14. Explain parallel situations in your life.

Obviously, you will need read and understand the stories to answer questions like these intelligently.