



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (118)

TEXT: *Viaje de recreo* (1909)

AUTHOR: Clorinda Matto de Turner

EDITOR: Mary G. Berg

PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Prologue by Mary G. Berg and Matto de Turner's personal writings)

1. CLORINDA MATTO DE TURNER: EXILE, INTELLECTUAL, AND TRAVELER:

Purpose of the Journey:

In 1908, Clorinda Matto de Turner (1852-1909), a prominent Peruvian journalist and novelist exiled in Argentina, embarked on a six-month European tour, commissioned to investigate women's education in England, France, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany.

Travelogue as Personal Reflection:

Viaje de recreo, published posthumously, is not merely a travel diary but a deeply personal meditation on her experiences, emotions, and memories, blending objective observations with autobiographical elements.

Critical Gaze:

Matto de Turner, with her sharp journalistic eye, critiques European culture and its relevance (or irrelevance) to the developing American nations, constantly comparing what she sees to her beloved Peru.

2. CULTURAL COMPARISONS AND NATIONAL IDENTITY:

Europe vs. America:

Matto meticulously catalogs cultural differences, from culinary experiences to labor conditions, and examines museum collections as reflections of national passions. She continuously draws parallels and contrasts between European and Andean/Peruvian cultures.

Nostalgia and Identity:

Despite her European mission, she expresses profound nostalgia for Peru and the Andean world, often highlighting the absence of American artifacts in European museums or questioning the superiority of European heritage.

Ambivalence Towards Modernity:

Matto grapples with the rapid changes of modernity. While admiring European advancements (especially in women's roles and industry), she also critiques what she perceives as moral decadence and loss of traditional values.



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3. WOMEN, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL PROGRESS:

Advocacy for Women:

A fervent advocate for women's education and rights, Matto is particularly impressed by the progress of European women in education, suffrage movements, and professional careers, especially in England and Germany.

Critique of Traditional Institutions:

She criticizes Spain's antiquated, religiously controlled education system for women and France's perceived moral decline, contrasting them with her idealized vision of English society.

The "Decadence of the Race":

Matto de Turner engages with prevailing 19th-century scientific ideas, expressing concern about "racial degeneration" observed in physical deformities in Rome and the potential weakening of the human "race" through societal choices (e.g., the harmful effects of corsets on women's bodies).



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PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

The Travelogue as a Genre:

How does *Viaje de recreo* blend the conventions of a travelogue with personal memoir and social commentary? How does it challenge traditional boundaries between observation and imagination?

Cultural Comparisons:

Analyze Matto de Turner's comparative observations between Europe (especially England, France, Spain, Italy) and the Americas (Peru, Argentina). What aspects does she praise or criticize in each, and what does this reveal about her vision for Latin American progress?

Women's Education and Empowerment:

Discuss Matto de Turner's interest in women's education and her observations on the status of women in Europe. How do these insights relate to her own feminist activism?

Nostalgia and Identity in Exile:

How does Matto de Turner express her nostalgia for Peru while in Europe? How does her experience as an exile shape her perspective on national identity and cultural heritage?

Critique of Colonial Legacies:

Despite her admiration for aspects of European culture, where does Matto de Turner implicitly or explicitly critique the legacies of colonialism or European dominance?

The Role of the Journalist:

How does Matto de Turner's background as a journalist influence her observational style, her meticulous note-taking, and her approach to "reporting" on European society and culture?

Personal Beliefs and Contradictions:

Identify any apparent contradictions in Matto de Turner's views (e.g., her embrace of modernity vs. concern for "racial degeneration," or her critique of French values vs. her own European heritage). How do these reflect the complexities of her thought?

PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Matto de Turner, Clorinda.** *Viaje de recreo*. Stockcero.
- **Berg, Mary G.** "Prólogo" to *Viaje de recreo*. (This edition).
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- **Hintze, Gloria.** "Memoria y testimonio en dos textos de Clorinda Matto de Turner." *Revista Iberoamericana*, 2005.
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PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

1. What was the primary purpose of Clorinda Matto de Turner's trip to Europe in 1908?

- A) To seek political asylum.
- B) To investigate women's education.
- C) To promote her novels.
- D) To study European art.

Correct Answer: B

2. Which European country did Matto de Turner particularly admire for its moral rectitude and women's progress?

- A) France
- B) Italy
- C) Spain
- D) England

Correct Answer: D

3. What specific historical landmark in Rome deeply moved Matto de Turner, prompting reflections on both Roman and Inca empires?

- A) The Pantheon
- B) St. Peter's Basilica
- C) The Colosseum
- D) The Spanish Steps

Correct Answer: C

4. What aspect of European culture did Matto de Turner frequently compare to Andean/Peruvian traditions, often finding the latter richer or more enduring?

- A) Scientific advancements
- B) Architectural styles
- C) Museum collections and textiles
- D) Political systems

Correct Answer: C

5. How does Matto de Turner describe her own character and passions in *Viaje de Recreo*?

- A) Indecisive and cautious.
- B) Strong and defined, detesting lukewarm attitudes.
- C) Reserved and detached.
- D) Highly emotional and sentimental.

Correct Answer: B

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