

## Hispanic Heritage Month: **Impromptu Prompts**

Created by the National Speech & Debate Association and the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies

### I. QUOTATIONS

“We have to be honest, we have to be truthful and speak to the one dirty secret in American life, and that’s racism.”

— Henry Cisneros, Politician

“Sí se puede. (Yes, we can.)”

— Dolores Huerta, Activist

“Es mejor morir de pie que vivir de rodillas. (It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees.)”

— Emiliano Zapata, Revolutionary

“Los jóvenes tienen el deber de defender su Patria con las armas del conocimiento. (Young people have a duty to defend their country with weapons of knowledge.)”

— Pedro Albizu Campos, Politician

“Chicano meant looking at oneself through one’s ‘own’ eyes and not through Anglo bifocals.”

— Ruben Salazar, Journalist

“Non-violence is very weak in the theoretical sense; it cannot defend itself. But it is most powerful in the action situation where people are using non-violence because they want desperately to bring about some change. Non-violence in action is a very potent force and it can’t be stopped.”

— Cesar Chavez, Activist

“Some people are meant only to stay in your heart, not in your life.”

— Dolores Del Rio, Actor

“My only weapon is the question.”

— Jorge Ramos, Journalist

### II. FAMOUS CONTEMPORARY LATINA/O/X

#### **Julián Castro, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development**

*Castro is an American Democratic politician who served as the 16th United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Barack Obama from 2014 to 2017. Castro served as the mayor of his native San Antonio, Texas, from 2009 until he joined Obama’s cabinet in 2014.*

#### **Julia Alvarez, Author**

*Alvarez is a Dominican-American poet, novelist, and essayist. She rose to prominence with the novels *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991), *In the Time of the Butterflies* (1994), and *Yo!* (1997). Her publications as a poet include *Homecoming* (1984) and *The Woman I Kept to Myself* (2004), and as an essayist the autobiographical compilation *Something to Declare* (1998). Many literary critics regard her as one of the most significant Latina writers, and she has achieved critical and commercial success on an international scale.*

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### **Carlos Santana, Musician**

*Santana is a Mexican and American musician who first became famous in the late 1960s and early 1970s with his band, Santana, which pioneered a fusion of rock and Latin American jazz. The band's sound featured his melodic, blues-based guitar lines set against Latin and African rhythms featuring percussion instruments such as timbales and congas not generally heard in rock music. Santana continued to work in these forms over the following decades. He experienced a resurgence of popularity and critical acclaim in the late 1990s. In 2015, Rolling Stone magazine listed Santana at number 20 on their list of the 100 Greatest Guitarists. He has won 10 Grammy Awards and three Latin Grammy Awards.*

### **Carolina Herrera, Fashion Designer**

*Herrera is a Venezuelan fashion designer known for exceptional personal style and for dressing various First Ladies, including Jacqueline Onassis, Laura Bush, Michelle Obama, and Melania Trump.*

### **Jorge Ramos, Journalist**

*Ramos is a Mexican-born American journalist and author. Regarded as the best-known Spanish-language news anchor in the United States of America, he has been referred to as "The Walter Cronkite of Latin America." Currently based in Miami, Florida, he anchors the Univision news television program Noticiero Univision, the Univision Sunday-morning political news program Al Punto, and the Fusion TV English-language program America with Jorge Ramos. He has covered five wars and other events ranging from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the War in Afghanistan. Ramos has won eight Emmy Awards and the Maria Moors Cabot Prize for excellence in journalism.*

### **Sonia Sotomayor, U.S. Supreme Court Justice**

*Sotomayor is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, appointed by President Barack Obama in May 2009 and confirmed in August 2009. She has the distinction of being its first justice of Hispanic descent and the first Latina.*

### **Dolores Huerta, Activist**

*Huerta is a Mexican-American labor leader and civil rights activist who, with Cesar Chavez, was the co-founder of the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW). Huerta helped organize the Delano grape strike in 1965 in California and was the lead negotiator in the workers' contract that was created after the strike. Huerta is the originator of the phrase, "Sí, se puede. (Yes, we can.)"*

### **Anthony Romero, Director ACLU**

*Romero is the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union. He assumed the position in 2001 as the first Latino and openly gay man to do so. The ACLU's massive growth under Romero's leadership allowed for the organization to expand its activities with regard to racial justice, religious freedom, privacy rights, reproductive freedom, and LGBT+ rights. In recent years, this has enabled the organization to create a new Human Rights program as well as a division dedicated to privacy issues arising from new surveillance technology, including data mining and the collection of genetic data.*

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### **Gina Torres, Actor**

*Torres is an American television and movie actor. She has appeared in many television series, including Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, Xena: Warrior Princess, the short-lived Cleopatra 2525, Alias, Firefly, Angel, 24, Suits, The Shield, and Westworld. She starred opposite Chris Rock in the feature film I Think I Love My Wife, as Carla in the independent film South of Pico, and she reprised her Firefly role in its feature film sequel Serenity. Since 2011, she has had a main role on the USA Network series Suits as Jessica Pearson. She and her husband Laurence Fishburne played a married couple on the NBC television series Hannibal.*

### **Edward James Olmos, Actor and Director**

*Olmos is an American actor and director. He is known for his roles as William Adama in the re-imagined Battlestar Galactica, Lieutenant Martin “Marty” Castillo in Miami Vice, teacher Jaime Escalante in Stand and Deliver, patriarch Abraham Quintanilla, Jr., in the film Selena, Detective Gaff in Blade Runner and Blade Runner 2049, narrator El Pachuco in both the stage and film versions of Zoot Suit, and the voice of Chicharrón in Coco. In 1988, Olmos was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for the film Stand and Deliver.*

### **America Ferrera, Actor**

*Ferrera is an American actor. Born in Los Angeles, California, to Honduran parents, Ferrera developed an interest in acting at a young age performing in several stage productions at her school. She made her feature film debut in 2002 with the comedy drama Real Women Have Curves, winning praise for her performance. Ferrera is the recipient of numerous accolades including an Emmy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award among others. She ventured into television roles and landed the leading part on the ABC comedy drama Ugly Betty (2006-2010). Ferrera garnered critical acclaim for playing the protagonist of the series Betty Suarez and won the Best Actress Awards at various award ceremonies in 2007 including the Golden Globe Awards, the Screen Actors Guild Awards, and the Primetime Emmy Award, the first for a Latina woman in the category. She co-produces and stars in the NBC comedy series Superstore (2015-present).*

### **III. FAMOUS HISTORICAL LATINA/O/X**

**Cesar Chavez** – Activist

**Pancho Villa** – Revolutionary

**Ruben Salazar** – Journalist

**Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales** – Boxer, Poet, Activist

**Reies Lopez Tijerina** – Activist

**Gloria Anzaldúa** – Author, Activist

**Frida Kahlo** – Artist

**Celia Cruz** – Musician

**Selena** – Musician

**Julia de Burgos** – Poet

**Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz** – Philosopher

**Piri Tomas** – Author, Poet, Activist

**María Félix** – Actor

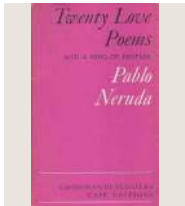
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### IV. LATINX LITERATURE



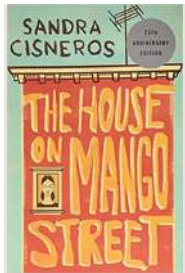
#### **How the García Girls Lost Their Accents** by Julia Alvarez

*How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* is a 1991 novel written by Dominican-American poet, novelist, and essayist Julia Alvarez. Spanning more than 30 years in the lives of four sisters, the story begins with their adult lives in the United States and ends with their childhood in the Dominican Republic, from which their family was forced to flee due to the father's opposition to Rafael Leónidas Trujillo's dictatorship. The novel's major themes include acculturation and coming of age. It deals with the myriad hardships of immigration, painting a vivid picture of the struggle to assimilate, the sense of displacement, and the confusion of identity suffered by the García family, as they are uprooted from familiarity and forced to begin a new life in New York City.



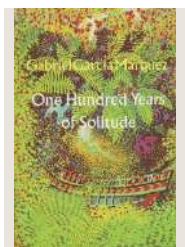
#### **Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair** by Pablo Neruda

*Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* is a collection of romantic poems by the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, first published in 1924 by Editorial Nascimento of Santiago, when Neruda was 19. It was Neruda's second published work, after *Crepusculario* (Editorial Nascimento, 1923) and made his name as a poet. It remains the best selling poetry book in the Spanish language ever, almost 100 years after its first publication.



#### **The House on Mango Street** by Sandra Cisneros

*The House on Mango Street* is a 1984 coming-of-age novel by Mexican-American writer Sandra Cisneros. It deals with Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl, and her life growing up in Chicago with Chicanos and Puerto Ricans. Esperanza is determined to "say goodbye" to her impoverished Latino neighborhood by turning to a life on the streets. Major themes include her quest for a better life and the importance of her promise to come back for "the ones [she] left behind." The novel has been critically acclaimed and has also become a New York Times Bestseller.



#### **One Hundred Years of Solitude** by Gabriel García Márquez

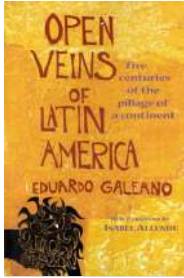
*One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a landmark 1967 novel by Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez that tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family, whose patriarch, José Arcadio Buendía, founded the town of Macondo, a fictitious town in the country of Colombia. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* has been translated into 37 languages and has sold more than 30 million copies. The novel is recognized as one of the most significant works in the Spanish literary canon.



#### **When I Was Puerto Rican** by Esmeralda Santiago

*When I Was Puerto Rican* is a 1993 autobiography written by Puerto Rican native Esmeralda Santiago. It is the first of three installments, followed by *Almost a Woman* and *The Turkish Lover*. This first book begins by describing Santiago's life in Macún, Puerto Rico. It details the circumstances that led to her mother bringing her and her siblings to New York. The second part of the book describes Santiago's initial adjustment to life in America. The memoir closes with Santiago's audition to New York's Performing Arts High School.

## Hispanic Heritage Month: **Impromptu Prompts**



### **Open Veins of Latin America** by Eduardo Galeano

*Open Veins of Latin America* is a book written by Uruguayan journalist, writer, and poet Eduardo Galeano, published in 1971. It has sold more than a million copies, has been translated into more than a dozen languages, and has been included in university courses “ranging from history and anthropology to economics and geography.” In the book, Galeano analyzes the history of the Americas as a whole, from the time period of the European settlement of the New World to contemporary Latin America, describing the effects of European and later United States economic exploitation and political dominance over the region.



### **The House of the Spirits** by Isabel Allende

*The House of the Spirits* is the debut novel of Isabel Allende. It became an instant best-seller, was critically acclaimed, and catapulted Allende to literary stardom. The novel was named Best Novel of the Year in Chile in 1982, and Allende received the country’s Panorama Literario award. *The House of the Spirits* has been translated into more than 37 languages. The story details the life of the Trueba family, spanning four generations and tracing the post-colonial social and political upheavals of Chile.



### **The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love** by Oscar Hijuelos

*The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* is a 1989 novel by Oscar Hijuelos. It is about the lives of two Cuban brothers and musicians, Cesar and Nestor Castillo, who immigrate to the United States and settle in New York City in the early 1950s. The novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1990, being the first novel by a United States-born Hispanic to do so. It was the basis for a 1992 motion picture, *The Mambo Kings*, as well as a musical in 2005. It tells the story of Cesar Castillo, an aged musician who once had a small amount of fame when he and his brother appeared on an episode of *I Love Lucy* in the 1950s. The book chronicles Cesar’s last hours as he sits in a seedy hotel room, drinking and listening to recordings made by his band, the Mambo Kings.

## V. LATINA/O/X MUSICIANS AND GROUPS

Jennifer Lopez

Pitbull

Los Lobos

Ozomatli

Freddy Fender

? and the Mysterians

Celia Cruz

Shakira

Amara La Negra

Demi Lovato

Jose Feliciano

Menudo



## Hispanic Heritage Month: **Impromptu Prompts**

### VI. LATINO/A/X ARTWORK

The Two Fridas – Frida Kahlo (1939)



Mujer de La Guerra – Aurora Reyes Flores (1934)



Detroit Industry Murals – Diego Rivera (1933)



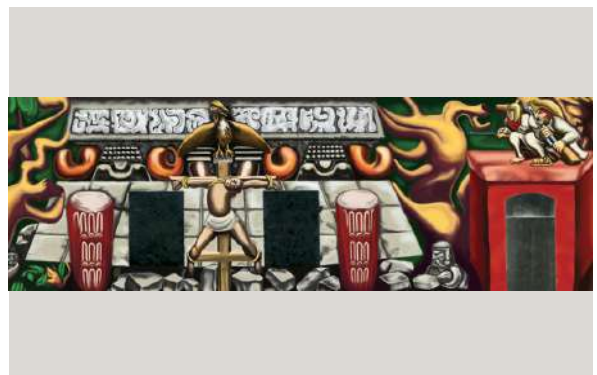
La Gloriosa Victoria – Rina Lazo & Diego Rivera (1954)



La Dama A Caballo – José Campeche (1785)



America Tropical – David Alfaro Siqueiros (1932)



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The Great Wall of Los Angeles – Judy Baca (1984)



Untitled – Jean-Michel Basquiat (1982)



Edita (la de plumero) – Sandra Eleta (1979)



Ride or Die – Miguel Luciano (2017)



The Epic of American Civilization  
– José Clemente Orozco (1932-34)

