



The Gaucho Martín Fierro

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Martín Fierro es un personaje heroico. Reflejo de un entorno endémico, ligado a Argentina. El texto está escrito con un estilo peculiar que imita el habla de los gauchos de la época. Ese realismo de fondo contrasta, en cambio, con la versificación exaltada y la rima que el autor impone a su libro.

The Gaucho Martín Fierro Details

Date : Published June 30th 1974 by State University of New York Press (first published 1872)

ISBN : 9780873952842

Author : José Hernández

Format : Paperback 99 pages

Genre : Poetry, Classics, European Literature, Spanish Literature, Fiction, Academic, School

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From Reader Review The Gaucho Martín Fierro for online ebook

Sarah Cleland says

A Gaucho is a symbol of rural Argentina and this poem (read in English) offered an extensive view of the historical setting in the late 1800's. A fascinating read highly recommended to anyone interested in the Gauchos of Argentina.

Ivan Soto says

I read the whole book aloud to enjoy it more. Kindle edition for Android, Motorola Razr.

Leí el libro completo en voz alta para gozarlo mejor. Tiraje Kindle para Android, Motorola Razr.

Claudio Yáñez says

Yo juro que traté de disfrutarlo, pero... pero no pude... Lo he leído hasta el final por compromiso más que por gusto.

Audrey says

Martín Fierro es el libro perfecto para descansar de los clásicos más serios. A pesar de las dificultades del dialecto, es un libro divertido y en que se puede sumergir fácilmente. Cuenta un mito nacional de Argentina sin demasiado sentimentalismo ni pseudograndezza.

Trini says

This book is not for me. I knew that from the moment I learned I had to read it for school. It is one of the most important pieces of Argentine literature, so I guess I'm glad I read it.

I appreciate how the author managed to represent a part of the population of the country that was mostly ignored and used to fight wars that weren't theirs. Everything about the book, even the way words were intentionally misspelled, painted a clear image of the culture, lives and thoughts of the Argentinian gauchos in that time.

That being said, most of the words used were slang which was hard to understand, and the fact that it was written in verse like a "payada" didn't really help either.

So basically, as a teenager in the twenty-first century I did not enjoy reading it, but I am aware of the value it has as a means of giving a voice to those who didn't have one.

Fausto Betances says

Triste historia del Gaucho Martin Fierro. Antes de leer este libro tenia ideas equivocadas del famoso gaucho. Sin duda un super hombre de las pampas, pero no carente de faltas. Reflejo del espiritu argentino?

Ana Eleonor says

Es un texto que recoge elementos de oralidad y se inscribe en la poesía gauchesca, construyendo al gaucho desde una mirada letrada.

El ritmo de las estrofas retoman la oralidad de la payada, género popular rioplatense, pero la estructura total de la obra responde a una mezcla compleja de esas expresiones populares con cánones académicos y una intención superior que responde a un proyecto de estado y nación.

Creo que juzgar con “estrellitas” esta obra como otras de la literatura de América latina y de otros continentes es muy reductor y lamentable. Por lo que mi lectura de esta obra y lo poco que he señalado no debiera circunscribirse a este sistema.

Agustina Bogado says

Ya terminé la famosa ida de nuestro gaucho argentino más famoso. Es triste verlo recordando su pasado, durante un presente tan difícil, donde la gente lo ve como un gaucho matrero, un gaucho malo, un ladrón, y por ello la justicia lo persigue. Veremos más adelante si me engancho con su regreso

Ignacio Estivill says

This book is written as an epic poem, which aims at explaining the gaucho's, a segregated social grouping throughout Argentinian history, life and daily struggles. It is divided into two parts, part one was written in 1872, 7 years before the second part. The first part describes the struggles of a gaucho named Martín Fierro, and how he had to be resilient and persistent against the daily challenges he had to face as a member of this marginalized social group. These challenges include: losing his family, losing his land and having to work for the military as a soldier to defend the civilized region of Argentina against the constant native-American raids and attacks, a service for which he was promised a reward but never received a cent for risking his life. Part two focuses on his return to civilization after having left it at the end of the first part, when he headed out into the wild regions of Argentina, where different native-American tribes ruled and lived. He has to get back to civilization and deal with all the consequences his exile into the wilderness had caused. The author, José Hernández, aims not exclusively at criticizing Argentina's governing system and social segregations in Argentina, but also tries to bring attention to the struggles this social group to try and make it so that all of Argentina can improve.

Jim says

We have Melville's white whale, Hawthorne's scarlet letter, and Whitman's "barbaric yawp" -- but what literary model does the Argentinian have to look back to? While there are others, few of whom have been translated into English, the one usually named is José Hernández's **The Gaucho Martin Fierro**, a work that the Argentinians revere.

Probably the closest thing to **Martin Fierro** in the U.S. is cowboy poetry. There is the same reliance on easy rhymes verging at times on doggerel; and there is the same sad sense of fatality:

And this is my pride: to live as free
As the bird that cleaves the sky;
I build no nest on this careworn earth,
Where sorrow is long, and short is mirth,
And when I am gone none will grieve for me,
And none care where I lie....

Also:

The desert for me is a bed of flowers,
When I have my liberty,
With a knife, a lasso, and a horse,
herever I will I set my course,
And the trackless plain on the darkest night,
Is an open trail for me.

The gaucho's life in the nineteenth century was characterized by seemingly endless wars. First there was civil war between the *fедерales* and *unitarios*, which Domingo Sarmiento described so well in his book **Facundo**; then there was the *Conquista del Desierto*, during which **Martin Fierro** is set, with its endless conflicts with the Indians of the Pampas, leading ultimately to their extinction; and finally, there was the dreadful War of the Triple Alliance, in which Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay were arrayed against Paraguay. The slaughter in the last contest was the worst that South America had ever seen; and the majority of the population of Paraguay lost their lives. It was the gauchos who formed the Argentinian cavalry. They were hunted down by press gangs, forced to fight, and saw their pay and food go into the pockets and maws of their corrupt officers.

It is unusual for an American to see a deserter like Martin Fierro as a hero: There are few deserter heroes in North American literature. That Fierro is seen as a hero is a commentary on how Argentinians view their history. After they won their independence with Bolivar and San Martin, they settled into an era of seemingly endless conflicts.

If you, like me, are interested in how an Argentinian views his history, you will understand the popularity of Hernández's poetic epic. Many families south of the Rio Plate have this book, lovingly bound in horse-hide, next to their family Bible.

Philip Lane says

Lovely short verse story. I wan't expecting to like this but it reminded me of a blues song. The story of two gauchos and their struggles against the cruelties of an emerging society which uses them and abuses them. In translation only some of the verses work and I wish I could attempt it in Spanish to get the full flavour of the poetry. However some of the descriptions I found very appealing, particularly the beginning of a gaucho's day. I certainly sympathised with Martin and was wishing for a good outcome. It definitely felt like the right medium for a gaucho to express himself. Great little find.

Pablo says

My father was raised in Buenos Aires. This was, he told me numerous times, his favorite piece of literature from back home. I claim no ability to remain objective once I'm finished reading it. I do, however, find it a little upsetting the the work that essentially established modern Argentinean literature, written 135 years ago, has only 4 reviews among 20 million Goodreads users.

Diana Aranda says

Luego de tres años de maltratos, trabajo duro, guerras contra los indios, sufrimientos y privaciones, sin recibir paga alguna, Martín Fierro, huyó a su rancho: desertor, pobre y desnudo/ a procurar suerte nueva. Pero al llegar: no hallé ni rastro del rancho/ ¡sólo estaba la tapera!/ [...] sólo se oían los aullidos/ de un gato que se salvó.

Tampoco estaban allí su mujer y sus hijos. Más tarde supo que las autoridades los despojaron de todo y cada quien se marchó por distinto rumbo.

Alaide Mo says

Martín Fierro hablando bonito de las mujeres: WOW, tkm Martín Fierro, gracias por existir.

* dos segundos después *

"Mujer... perra parida. Interesada y llorona".

Eso no afecta en mi (inexistente) calificación por el libro, pero...

IVETTE QUINONES RAMIREZ says

Muy interesante esta historia, lastima que muchos de los vocablos, refranes y palabras sean regionalistas, ignorando muchas veces su significado, pero esa es la esencia de la historia contada por el gaucho Fiero.

Muy interesante esta historia, lastima que muchos de los vocablos, refranes y palabras sean regionalistas ignorando muchas veces su significado, pero esa es la esencia de esta historia desde la perspectiva del gaucho M.Fiero
