

Written Responses to *Medea* and *Mojada*

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Question 1: What did you notice in your reading of *Medea* that informed your understanding of *Mojada*?

This was actually my first time reading any version of *Medea*. I was vaguely familiar with the story from when we did our production of *Argonautika* by Mary Zimmerman in 2018, so I had a general idea of her backstory and the events that took place leading up to her marrying Jason. In terms of what I noticed from *Medea* that helped my understanding of *Mojada*, it seemed that it was used as almost a skeleton of sorts that allowed for the author, Luis Alfaro, to build upon and create a raw, visceral adaptation that spoke to the struggles of being a Latinx person in America today. *Medea* gave me a base to go from in reading *Mojada* and the two stories together greatly helped me empathize more with Medea. It was interesting to see the cultural differences between how the two were written and how Medea is portrayed as a woman, but also how shockingly similar the two situations are despite being of different times and cultural origins.

Question 2: What did you notice in your reading of *Mojada* that influenced your understanding of *Medea*?

First of all, reading *Mojada* was an incredibly emotional experience. Minor translations aside, I was unable to stop reading once I started, being fully engrossed in the story. I feel that reading *Mojada* allowed me to see the more emotional aspects of *Medea*, whereas before I was more upset with Medea for acting so rash and causing her children to suffer for her own injustices. After reading *Mojada*, I felt deeply for what Medea was suffering through. In both stories she was a young woman, ready to uproot her entire life to be with the person she loved, only for him to turn and spit in her face once he got what he wanted. She sacrificed a home, her

family, everything she knew for a chance at happiness that she never got. Looking at the translation of Medea after reading Mojada, I now see the original Medea as what she truly was, an immigrant girl trying to create a new life for herself despite the hardships and tragedies she has faced. It is both tragic and inspiring that the message given during its creation is something that is relatable today.