Vanessa Gonzales

Creative Writing Product

Creative Writing Product Poem

The summertime high

With air so dry makes time pass by

Water and highlands with flowers

And sea right by

November 20 of 1954 is the best time

Volcanoes so tall and full of beauty

Never knowing when danger can erupt

And cover the cobblestone ground

Here is a story of my grandpas Guatemala

He ventures off wild and free

Feeling invincible you see

A young boy with nothing to fear

The bike he rides takes him all the way up

To the sky and looks down to see

How proud he feels to be from here

15 years pass and he must go

He leaves for a better life

For his children and me

It was a time

where people sought for political asylum

for good reason he left

and took his life and family for the best

United States was the gold

There was lots of conflict growing old

Post- conflict in Guatemala has undoubtedly

affected many people and their soul.

These social and violent conflicts are evident

The current level of violence is prevelant

threatens the country's economic and social development

and the current level of violence-related

morbidity, mortality, and disability

represents a large public health burden.[[1]](#footnote-1)

“Would you ever go back abuelo ?”

In a heartbeat he would go

post war conflict was one of the reasons

that pushed my family away

Violence has always been an issue.

civil war was going on in 1980s

grandfather decided to take the family out.

post war there is still conflict

but my grandma fears for her life to go back

unlike the young boy on his bike

yearns to go back

history about the Mayans

Is part of our blood

Mayan culture has fought to stay and continue

their practices in Guatemala despite the increase

of organized religion such as Catholicism and Protestant

The Mayan culture such as the Rajawala

a part of Mayan practices

shows the importance the land is to their culture

one of many relationships that people

such as the Mayans have with the environment.

The ritual practices are in a certain community

within the highlands which is important in their ritual practices,

“the influence of spirit-owners

reaches into every corner

of Maya life, but nowhere is it

more deeply felt than among Mayas

who live in rural, farming-dependent

communities like Comalapa.

This Community's need for a healthy relationship

With the spiritual beings of its hinterlands

is expressed in how the people of Comalapa,

as do those of many highland Maya communities

periodically go to places in the countryside

and make ritual offerings”.

Traditions are being broken by the urban society

and this includes the military, organized religions, and the education system[[2]](#footnote-2)

The land back in my day was so beautiful

times have changed.

The environment should be respected.

“I used to love being with my siblings”

enjoying the land now because of forestry

and corporations Guatemala slowly has changed.

the government of Guatemala

in the forestry management

lack policy or action taken to prevent destruction.

The government's role was crucial and important

at least in Guatemala there was not enough action

“Rigorous and comprehensive regulatory forest

management directives were intended to decrease

the negative operational, ecological, economic, and social impacts

and outcomes of tropical forest management

increase overall forest sustainability.

insufficient or inadequate organizational

structures, means, and processes for policy implementation

diminished the potentially positive outcomes of regulatory

rigor and comprehensiveness”.

Sustainability in Latin America

has been challenging which is why

in this case they used three different countries

and saw the challenges and choices

that the government had to make.

Many contributions led to poor choices

to make forests sustainable

and now there is a need for policy

and management changes

to be made and challenged[[3]](#footnote-3)

Latin American countries

are starting to change their ways.

Tourism is a big part of their economy,

But how does this affect indigenous people?

Are they not getting pushed out and practices being forgotten?

Guatemalans prominent regions

divides it to show the importance of each

and the resources they hold.

In the country of Guatemala

we find two sides

where people may fall under the pendulum.

Those who will lose their land

as well as their cultural practices,

those who do not fall

tourist’s category,

and those who will integrate in tourism

and make territory into profit.

territorial structure of tourism in Guatemala

suggests that all countries in the region

are competing to get access

to the international tourism market

and that this competition will be decided

in favor of those nations that mastermind

the administration of their natural

and cultural resources[[4]](#footnote-4).

I miss my country the boy says. It is the best.

Even though I was not born there

Guatemala is a part of me

my roots are there

be proud of where you are from

and you will connect with a part of you

1. Dinesen, Cecilie, et al. "Violence and social capital in post-conflict Guatemala/Violencia y capital social en la Guatemala posterior al conflicto." *Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública*, vol. 34, no. 3, 2013, p. 162. *Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine*, https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/apps/doc/A356267720/HRCA?u=txshracd2598&sid=HRCA&xid=1404c2be. Accessed 26 Mar. 2020.
2. Hinojosa, Servando. "Mayas, spirituality, and the unfinished history of conflict in Guatemala.." *Revista Cultura y Religión* [Online], vol. 5no. 2, 2011. pp. 173-187.
3. McGinley, KathleenA., and FrederickW. Cubbage. “Governmental Forest Policy for Sustainable Forest Management in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua: Regulation, Implementation, and Impact.” *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, vol. 31, no. 4/5, 2012, pp. 355–375. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/10549811.2011.588467. Accessed on 25 Mar 2020d 27 Mar. 2020
4. Sánchez Crispín, Álvaro, Gerardo Mollinedo Beltrán, & Enrique Propin Frejomil. "Estructura territorial del turismo en Guatemala." *Investigaciones Geográficas*, vol. 0.78 no. 104, 2011. Accessed on 28 Mar. 2020

1. **Dinesen, Cecilie, et al. "Violence and social capital in post-conflict Guatemala/Violencia y capital social en la Guatemala posterior al conflicto." *Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública*, vol. 34, no. 3, 2013, p. 162. *Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine*, https://link-gale-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/apps/doc/A356267720/HRCA?u=txshracd2598&sid=HRCA&xid=1404c2be. Accessed 26 Mar. 2020.** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **"Mayas, spirituality, and the unfinished history of conflict in Guatemala.." *Revista Cultura y Religión* [Online], vol. 5no. 2, 2011. pp. 173-187. Accessed 27 Mar. 2020** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **. McGinley, KathleenA., and FrederickW. Cubbage. “Governmental Forest Policy for Sustainable Forest Management in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua: Regulation, Implementation, and Impact.” *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, vol. 31, no. 4/5, 2012, pp. 355–375. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/10549811.2011.588467. Accessed on 25 Mar 2020** [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Sánchez Crispín, Álvaro, Gerardo Mollinedo Beltrán, & Enrique Propin Frejomil. "Estructura territorial del turismo en Guatemala." Investigaciones Geográficas, vol. 0.78 no. 104, 2011. Accessed on 28 Mar. 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)