

SHE USED TO SAY

By Romeo Garcia

She used to say...
Never forget the acento
It is part of your identity
Y como todos los Mexicanos
You need to keep your dignity

Say your first name proud
And your last name prouder
Throw a grito out loud
And represent who you are louder

Take pride in where you are from
The Rio Grande Valley is a curious space
The border separates some
Pero esta tierra has no singular name

Your reality is different from others
En la frontera the minority is the majority
But on the outside you are perceived as THE “other”
 They will set you aside with their authority....
 They will silence you because you are a minority...
 They will cut you down with all their might...
 But you must not let down—you must always fight.

Never forget the acento
Say your full name proud
With some Mexican might
Never forget where you’re from...
Always continue to fight!

Romeo Garcia is a doctoral student (fellow) in the Composition and Cultural Rhetoric program at Syracuse University. His areas of interest are borderland studies (rhetoric, identity, homeland), cultural literacy, and composition theory and practice (literacy narratives). He was born and raised in Harlingen, Texas. He earned his B.A. at Texas A&M University and M.A. at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.