Literary Criticism about Viramontes: A Bibliography


Grewe-Volpp, Christa. "'The Oil was made from their Bones': Environmental (in)Justice in Helena Maria Viramontes's Under the Feet of Jesus." Isle: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment 12.1 (2005): 61-78. Reserves PN48 .I58 V.12 no.1 & common book e-reserves . This article addresses Under the Feet of Jesus as eco-literature defined as those concerned with the relation of people to the land and social justice for the poor.


Considers the topics of journey, home, and why characters in Under the Feet of Jesus do not speak to each other, and the lack of a linear time line. Lawless connect these themes for a deeper understanding of the novel.


Explanations of how Estrella learns from experience, and of her consciousness that becomes transformed as she understands the world around her, a prerequisite for social action.


Discusses Viramontes’s The Moths and Other Stories and "The Cariboo Cafe" as samples of her feminist statements about women within Chicana/o families.


Discusses under Under the Feet of Jesus and workers' narratives about the stereotypes of "illegal alien" and other strategies for safer working conditions and political battles.