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Latinx Education Policy and Resistance in the Trump Era

Guest Editors

Patricia D. López,
California State University, Fresno

William Pérez,
Loyola Marymount University

Editors

Patricia Sánchez
*The University of Texas at San
Antonio*

Antonio J. Camacho
AMAE, Inc.

Associate Editors

Julie L. Figueroa
Sacramento State

Lucila D. Ek
*The University of Texas at San
Antonio*

Pilgrim

By Matt Sedillo

See some were born to summer homes
And palatial groves
Where pain was only to ever unfold
From the pages of Secret Gardens
Where the Red Fern Grows
But not I
See I come from the stock
Of starry-eyed astronauts
Who greet the night sky
With big dreams and wide eyes
Always Running
Down the Devil's Highway
Through Occupied America
On the way back to
The House on Mango Street
And all those other books
You didn't want us to read
Raised on handball
Off the back wall
Of a panaderia
Born
East the river
Post Mendez vs Westminster
One generation removed
From the redlines
And diplomas that were signed
That those dreams

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In that skin
Need not apply
See I come from struggle
And if my story offends you
It's only cause you made
The mistake of seeking your reflection
In my self portrait
See this
Well this may not be about you
Because while some were born
To the common core
Whose reflected faces
196Where old world hardships
Crashed against new shores
New England
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
For others pushed off
Turtle island
Aztlán
Do not call this brown skin immigrant
Child of the sun
Son of the conquest
Mexicano blood
Running through the veins
Of the East side of Los Angeles
Do not tell him
In what native tongue
His song would best be sung
Do not tell me

Who I am
Cause I was raised just like you
Miseducated in some of those very same schools
Off lessons and legends
Of honest injuns and Christian pilgrims
And a nation of immigrants
All united in freedom
That is until they pulled aside
My white friend
Pointed directly at me
And said Scott
I judge you by the company you keep
And you spend your time with this
And that's the same old story since 1846
The adventures of Uncle Sam
The stick up man
Hey wetback
Show me your papers
Now give me your labor
The Melting Pot
Was never meant for the hands
That clean it
The American dream
Has always come at the expense
Of those who tucked it in
And you don't know that
Cause you don't teach it
Could write you a book
But you won't read it
So you know what
This is about you

And 1492
And the treaty of Guadalupe
California missions
And Arizona schools
And these racists
That try to erase us
As we raise their kids
In cities that bare our names
But you're going to learn
Something today
Cause from Ferdinand
To minuteman
From Arpaio
To Alamo
From Popol Vuh
To Yo Soy Joaquin
To the Indian that still lives in me
From Mexico 68
To the missing 43
They tried to bury us
They didn't know we were seeds
From Cannanea mine
To Delano strike
From the Plan De Ayala
Emiliano Zapata
Joaquin Murrieta
Las Adelitas
Brown Berets
Y Zapatistas
From Richard Nixon
To the Third Napoleon

From Peckinpah
To Houston
From Lone Star Republic
To Christopher Columbus
All the way down
To Donald Trump
We didn't cross the borders
The borders crossed us
Who you calling immigrant
Pilgrim