

## Chapter 1 - The Debt-Production Process

### Writerly Choices

- Listing, orderly (process) stanzas (pg 21)
- Lots of different word choice
- Use of Spanish words with English Poems (language comparison) (pg 14 “pan de agua”)
- Unknown phrases (pg 15 “adoquin”) - “paving stone”
- Poems have short stanzas with long lines
- Abbreviations (pg 14) - “i.o.you”
- Use of “scenes” in the first chapter, ex: “Scene 4:”
- Use of anecdotes to depict a more personal connection with the writing and show a common struggle (pg 33)

### Notes

- Focus on reputation and Puerto Rico (identity) - Specifically Puerto Rico’s struggle with employment along with paying and dealing with debt
- Poems relate to people of the country not just her making it less personal
- Living life in debt - lives in you forever - (pg 20) - “You will have to pay with the labor of your children and your children’s children”
- Hope in America? Moving there to leave poverty and debt only to find the same problems - (pg 23) - “You go to philadelphia / And say here they are / I would like to pay that debt / but without looking up they answer / here in philly we dont accept coats”
- Holiness and religion important topics to Rivera - (pg 27) (pg 29)
- Empty promises made by politicians and investors who leave the country more and more in debt

### Terms

\*use-value - Economics concept that the value of a good or service is related only to its mode of use, or to an equivalent value in cash, and not to any fundamental value.

## Chapter 2 - The Debt Circulation Process

### Writerly Choices

- Story like writing adding to the personal connection Rivera has with their writing of debt and Puerto Rico (pg 38)
- Comparison of two things
- Use of “: word :”
- Use of a string of run on to confuse the reader
- Repeating phrases - (pg 52)

## Notes

- Influence in their life and relationship they have with America - Two identities? (PR + US)
- Own identity and problems with that - how it shapes their poetry - (pg 42)
- Pivotal moment where Rivera describes that change in language and culture they have felt (change in identity) - (pg 43)
- Metaphors and symbols used a lot throughout poems - (pg 46)
- History and representation of Puerto Rico
- Talk about Gender - society's norms and standards (pg 54)
- Water problem?

## Chapter 3 - Notes on a Derailed Circulation

### Writerly Choices

- Use of “they, my, her...” without context of whose perspective it is from (pg 62)
- Use of questioning in poetry (pg 62)
- “Wine and broken glass” representation of chaos - symbolism - (pg 62)
- Use of “or” and “and” to make connection between two things in their poetry
- Capitalization to give more emphasis
- Humanization of different things (pg 65)
- Depicting a change of identity as more physical change
- Spelling of words “Amerikkkan” - “kkk” (pg 74) - hidden meanings for reader

### Notes

- Patriotism - what that means for Rivera when living in America and being a person do color (pg 62)
- Debt leads to death, zero reciprocity, no benefit when giving your life to debt - important struggle (pg 64 + 67)
- Connection to ancestry - Taino people (pg 68)
- Idea of destruction brought up many times (pg 68)
- Two sided views - different perspectives - representation of that (pg 71 + 72)
- Idea of outsiders - corruption to country? (pg 72 + 73)
- Good vs bad of ruling a country

### Terms

Reciprocity - give and take