



LACS & The Hispanic Languages and Literature Department
present:

CALAVERITAS CONTEST 2021

SUBMISSIONS BY NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Calaveras Literarias, or Literary Skulls, are compositions of verse and rhymes, originally from Mexico. These are typically circulated in the days leading up to the Day of the Dead. They are fun, irreverent expressions that usually satirize a well-known person or event by playfully parodying the inevitable death of those involved.

Though they have been around since the colonial era, they were popularized in newspapers in the nineteenth century. Inspired by long and ostentatious epitaphs of nobles, Mexican literary artists used this format to criticize governing officials. Some literary critics believe that friar Joaquín Bolaños' "La portentosa vida de la muerte" is a precursor to the Literary Skulls of the 1800s. The first Skull to appear in a newspaper was in 1849, in Guadalajara, Jalisco.

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) and the Hispanic Languages and Literature Department invite you to participate in our Calaveras Literarias Contest. Have fun creating humorous rhymes and verses, reference current events, your friends, classes and more; write a political critique or a social commentary. Remember a good Literary Skull is ingenious, ironic, subtle, uses caricatures and has a certain rhyme and rhythm. These can be in English, Spanish or bilingual.

The structure of the calaveritas literarias typically consists of stanzas of four lines in which the second line rhymes with the last, or stanzas of five in which the third line rhymes with the last. The length of the poem varies, but this is often short. However, nowadays people do not follow a particular structure, sometimes these being written in a form of 'blank verse' or even free verses. The calaveritas always put an emphasis on musicality.

Send an original calaverita (between four and twenty verses) in an editable file to lacs@stonybrook.edu before November 1st, 2021. A multidisciplinary jury will choose the best ones, which will be announced and shared on November 3rd in social media and in our websites. Use this Day of the Dead tradition to be creative and have a good time. We look forward to reading your calaverita.

2020 WINNING CALAVERITA

“El hielo” (Samatha Bravo)

She wanted to get un pescado
without having to go al supermercado.
She put on boots and headed to el río,
she added a jacket, hacía mucho frío.
She waited for hours, she was sin suerte,
little did she know, she'd be meeting la muerte.
Angrily, she screamed up at el cielo,
When, de repente, she fell through el hielo.

Click [here](#) or
scan for inspiration:

