

The Underdogs

Discussion Note
Monday March 14, 2005

Main Characters

- Luis Cervantes- *el curro*, major character, joined Demetrio and his men after deserting the *federales*, wasn't received well at first but he was accepted by the revolutionaries, later left the war with the money he had accumulated and went to the U.S. to educate himself
- Demetrio Macías- major character, leader of a small army of revolutionaries
- La Pintada (War Paint)- mistress to a number of the men, toward the end of the story she is cast out the army group by Demetrio
- *el güero* Margarito (Blondie)- fights alongside Demetrio and hold some position in his army
- Valderrama- fights alongside Demetrio and hold some position in his army

Questions concerning these characters:

Which of these characters did you like most/least?
Who is the hero in this story, if there is one at all?

Comparisons to draw:

Members of Mexican Revolution vs. Members of Russian Revolution

Uneducated Peasants

Citizens that were educated to some degree

Major Themes:

- Motivation for fighting
- Immoral behavior of the revolutionaries
- City vs. Country (rural farming people)
- Greed
- Ideas of justice and rights
- Disorder in Mexico (politically, socially, etc.)
- Individualism/selfish motivation
- Personal ambition

Messages:

Pointlessness of war
Loneliness of war

Important Questions to ask after reading:

What are the emotions of the soldiers?

Do they feel that they have accomplished anything?

What have they accomplished?