

Discussion Notes
Between the Lines

Between lines was a set of letters that were written by individuals from Mexico that had crossed the border to come to America, and then realized how horrible it is for them to live their life in America.

1st Letter

- Large description of what it was like crossing the border and how much work was put into it.
- Once they reached America they found that it was no better than how they were living in Mexico because they had new situations to deal with.
- One of those main situations was dealing with the language barrier.
- Go through a large amount of culture shock because of how different things are.

2nd Letter

- They found that the people in America are very hostile towards them.
- The people in America are not united as the name “United States” would suggest. Instead it is the gambler that wins.
- Family members that are left in Mexico become scared that the relatives that leave to America will forget them as well as their goals once they get there.

3rd Letter

- In America all there is to do is fight for their life and work.
- Many of them come to America to work so that they can send money back to their families in Mexico because of the exchange rate.
- They find that money is the central focus of American society.
- There is a large scare about returning to Mexico with a sexually transmitted disease.

Questions posed

1. Would they go back if things went well for them in the US?
General consensus in class was probably not.
2. How were the Mexicans alike or different compared to the people that went to Manchester during the Industrial Revolution.