

2024 Elie Wiesel Competition

2nd Place Junior Poetry

Meylin Zuniga, 7th Grade

Crestwood Middle School, Laura Murphy

I Love Your Culture

I love your culture
"I love your culture"
But you call "Mexican" every hispanic person you know
You wear our jewelry ignorantly
Don't bother to learn its significance
You say "Spanish is such a attractive language"
But make fun of our accent or broken English

You love to eat our food
But what about when you made fun of me
When I brought Baleadas for lunch and called it "beaner food"
You say you want a Latina girlfriend
But stereotype Hispanic women as
Toxic, loud and vain

You say our dancing is beautiful
But then turn around and call it promiscuous
Being hispanic is feeling the pain of not being
Able to see your family and friends for years
Now every girl wants to be "copy and paste latina"
But if we listen to Taylor swift we're "white washed"

You love my culture but only when it's convenient for you
Question Number 3
Everyday I had to be the stereotypes of Latinas for years
And my parents expect me to be perfect
Because we're here for me to have a better future
But where I come from will always be in my heart
As someone who prides herself in loving in two languages

Being Hispanic it's not just about how we look like
It's about our delicious foods, our special clothes
Our beautiful language and accent
I'm a proud hispanic
And you don't have to love our culture, just be respectful.