

Coyolxauhqui's Daughters: Healing and Storytelling in Latinx Young Adult Novels

In "Now Let Us Shift" Chicana theorist Gloria Anzaldúa explains that the *conocimiento* process requires "putting Coyolxauhqui together." The feminist retelling of the myth of Coyolxauhqui states that after being dismembered by her brother, Huitzilipochtli, Coyolxauhqui put herself together again and became the moon. Anzaldúa employs such healing practice to suggest that we can reject oppressive dominant narratives and instead reconstruct more empowering personal narratives. I utilize Anzaldúa's theory on healing and storytelling to read Latinx young adult novels that center protagonists' journey to unlearn racist, sexist, and/or classist narratives that exist about their subjectivity in order to create their own alternative personal narrative. In this presentation, I provide an analysis of texts like Angela Cervantes's *Gaby, Lost and Found* and Isabel Quintero's *Gabi, a Girl in Pieces* in order to demonstrate the ways that Latinx young adult novels can serve as tools for decolonial healing.