The PUBLIC DOMAIN REVIEW

The Calaveras of José Guadalupe Posada

José Guadalupe Posada (1851–1913) was a Mexican illustrator known for his satirical and politically acute calaveras. Derived from the Spanish word for "skulls," these calaveras were illustrations featuring skeletons that would, after Posada's death, become closely associated with the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos, (Day of the Dead). Most of these calaveras were published by the press of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo which produced inexpensive literature for the lower classes, including thousands of satirical broadsides that Posada illustrated. Through this focus on mortality Vanegas Arroyo and Posada satirized many poignant issues of the day, in particular the details of bourgeois life and the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz.

On January 20th 1913, three years after the start of the Mexican Revolution, José Guadalupe Posada died at his home in obscurity. He was penniless and buried in an unmarked grave. It was only years later in the 1920s that his work became recognized on a national and international level after it was championed by the French ex-patriot artist Jean Charlot who described Posada as "printmaker to the Mexican people".

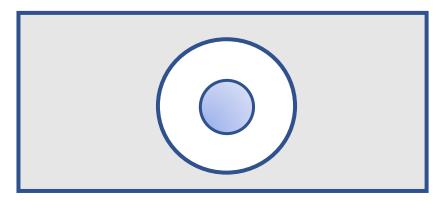
Above you were given a little about José Guadalupe Posada and his art. You need to now do your own research on the man and his art; reporting back your findings in a Circle Thinking Map.

On the front you will fill it like this:

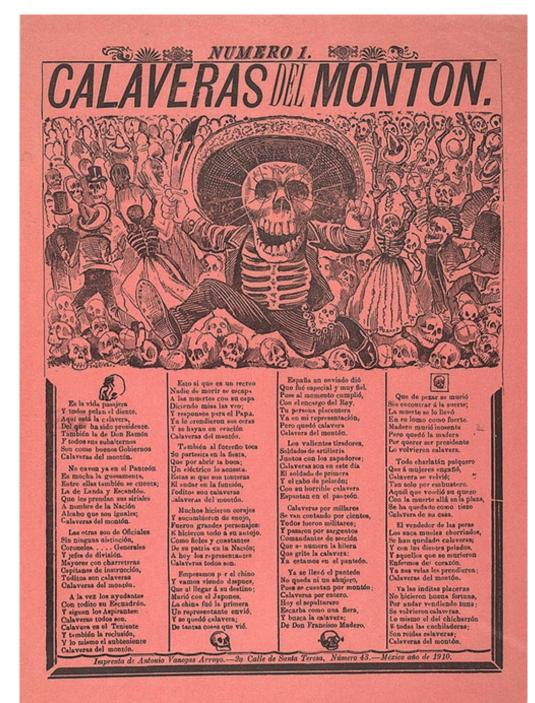
- ✓ Inner circle is the topic "José Guadalupe Posada"
- ✓ Outer circle are adjectives or short phrases that describe him and his art
- ✓ Square AKA Frame of Reference is where you document that which had influenced him, formed who he was, important facts about him, etc.
 - o Keep in mind that all of this is to be written in your own words and complete sentences.
 - This section is also where you can include information that includes people in his life.

On the back side of the Circle Thinking Map include:

- ✓ Your name, date, hour
- √ 3-5 sources you used to complete the Circle Thinking Map



Here is a sample of what you need to draw for your Circle Thinking Map. The back is left blank for you to include the above information as listed. This assignment is to be turned in by the end of class today for full credit. Teacher- if you prefer, draw this map & copy for student.



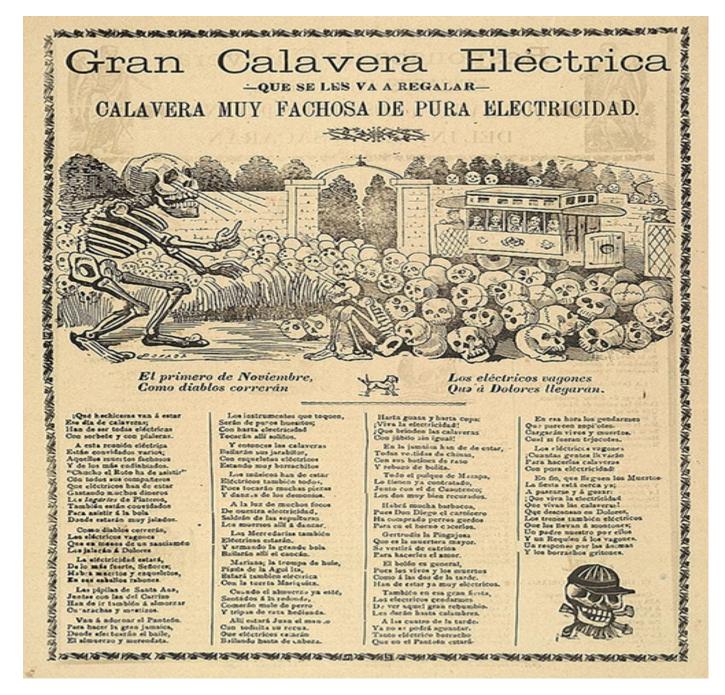
You will work with a partner on this collection of illustrations by José Guadalupe Posada. As you look at these illustrations discuss with your partner and then please answer the following questions together. When your time is up you will do a Pair-Share with the class. You are expected to take notes on the sharing from the other partners in class; especially noting observations that differ from yours.

Teacher Note: Here is where you decide on the quantity of illustrations your students are to do. Only on this copy will you find a description of the illustration underneath each for your support in providing detail.

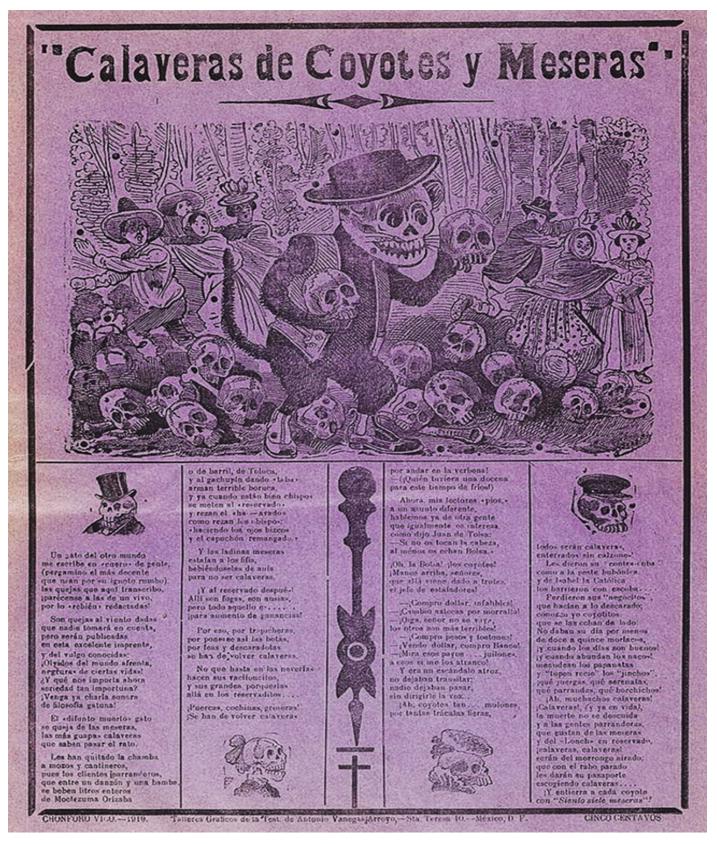
The Visual Thinking questions are:

- 1. What's going on in this picture?
- 2. What do you see that makes you say that?
- 3. What more can you and your partner find?

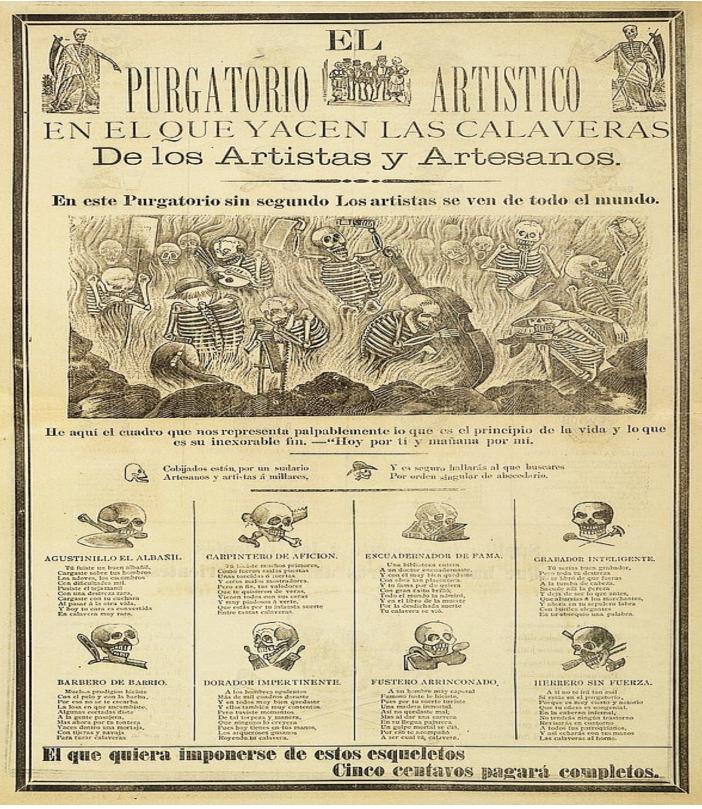
Broadside shows a male skeleton dressed in a charro outfit wielding a machete in a graveyard, apparently in the process of creating more skeletons—a crowd of skeletons surround him and skulls lie at his feet. The text block is decorated with four small skulls. (1910) — Source



Broadside showing a large skeleton hypnotizing a group of skulls and a sitting skeleton; an electric car with skeletons riding in it is in the background. The text is a calavera in verse conveying the fascination with the modern wonder of electricity as used in Mexico City's trolleys (1907) – Source



"Coyotes (conmen) and waitress calaveras" – broadside showing a cat, with a skull for a face, standing on its hind legs holding two skulls. The text, in calavera verse, conveys how waitresses are out to get customers once they are drunk, and also how conmen go for any man's money (1919) – Source



"The artistic purgatory, where the calaveras of artists and craftsmen lie" – broadside showing the second level of hell, in which the calaveras of artists and artisans hold objects relating to their profession, including musical instruments, a palette, and paper. Below the main image, the text block consists of eight skulls with objects relating to their profession and short verses that provide attributes (ca.1890-1910) – Source

CALAVERAS DEL MONTON.

Pasé por la primavera
Y me litamó la atención
El ver una calavera,
Que trajeren del panteón.
Daba pena y tentación,
Mirar que pelaba el diente
Era el duello, el patrón;
Oh sin duda el dependiente.

Al otro lado un empeño Macha fué la sémiración, Tendido estaba su duello, Y con velas el cajón..... Estaque feé empeñoro, Robaba sin compación Que por amar el dinero; Calavera es del montós.

Adelante el carnic-ro
En la mano su morcón,
Mas niñ el tocinero;
Con su hetiondo chicharrón
Estos pronto se murieron
Y se fueron al panceón,
Calaveras se volvieron;
Calaveras del montón.

En la esquina un pulquero Tomando de compromiso. Al ciro lado del piso Le scompaña su jicarero. Brindo porque lo quiero Decia con amor professão. Hoy calavera es el primero. Y le acompaña el segundo.

El vicio so napatero Que alegre se emborrachó. Por andar de pendenciero; Hasta la zueta perdió. En la calle se pelió Pues insultava ó cualquiera, Otro como él lo mató Y ahora ya es calavora.

No corras tanto Madero Deten un poco tu trote. Porque con ese galope. Te volviste narangero. Ya no corras.....detente Acerta ya tu carrera. Que te gritara la gente; ¡A que horribte calavera!

Madero, on esta ocusión
Es mucho lo que has corrido
Perdistes ya la razón,
Y en muerte te bus cenvertido.
A hora to filmación
La tiene el nuevo partido;
Tu calsvera ban metido,
Al borno de cremación.

Adondo está tu viveza
Millonario y con dinero,
Alza un poco la cabeza;
Y dalo vuelta al tintero,
Te llevan á la prisión
Más corriendo que de prisa,
Ya te volvió ceniza.....
El herno de cremación,

De tu roida calavera

No queda ya ni pedazos
Al borno f.-é la primera,
Y se quemó á tizonasos.
Tu huesumenta becha trizas
La metieron al montós,
Abora si que ai cenizas;
Regojo la cromación.

Quiero que sepan mi cuita Porque el geñoro me tnerzo, Si quieren su propinita No se olviden de este verso. El decirlo no quiciera Pues me duele el corazón, Pero esta pobre eslavera, Los saluda en el mentón.

En todas las fiestecitas Se debe tener cuidado, Que los crueles motoristas; A muchs gente han matado. Que sigan con sus tonteras Que los espera el panteón Todos hechos calaveras Salienda de la prisión.

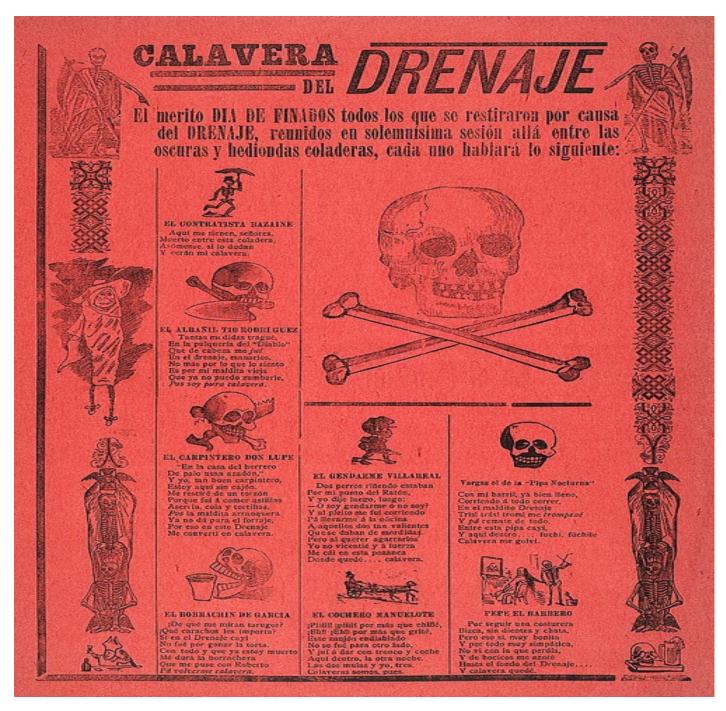
Se acabaron los premistas. No hay encuadernadores, Se murieren los cajistas; Ya no quedan impresores. Con todos los escritores Baifando la sandunguera, Se volvieron calavora En el panteón de Dolores.

Los toreros camo sabies Sufrieron su revolcón, Vengó el tero sus agrabios Los mandó para el panteón. También á los del expres Y empleados de papelera Sin br. 200, manes ni pies Los volvieron calevera.

El mundo va ú t-rminar
Por el cólera enfurecido,
Que sea pues bien venido.
Si nos tiene que tocar.
Pues decirlo no quisiera
Me causa desesperación
Porque tenemos que ser
Calaveras del montón;

mprenta de Antonio Vanegas Arroyo.-2a. Calle de Santa Teresa, utimero 43-Mézico 1910.

"Calaveras from the heap, number 2" – broadside showing the skeleton of a drunken peon wearing a sombrero, serape, and sandals, holding a bottle of Aguardiente de Parras, a reference to Madero's family's maguey plantation and distillery operation. The distinctive mustache and beard further identify the calavera as Madero (1910) – Source



"Drainage Calavera. Those who retired exactly on the Day of the Dead due to the drainage" (ca.1890-1913) – Source



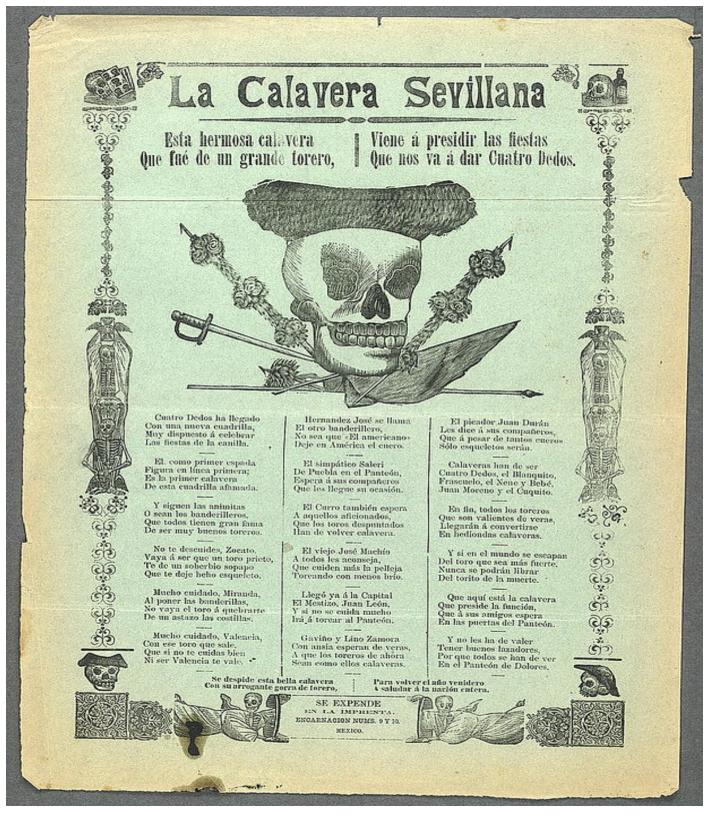
"From this famous hippodrome on the racetrack, not even a single journalist is missing. Death is inexorable and doesn't even respect those that you see here on bicycle" – broadside showing showing calaveras bicycling, with identifying labels, "Voz de México," "Patria," "Universal," "Tiempo," "Partido Liberal," "Gil Blas," names of popular newspapers, and "Siglo XIX," and "Siglo XX." They trample additional calaveras, labeled "Razalatin" and "Quijote." (ca.1898-1902) – Source



"Because of the end of the world everyone will certainly now become calaveras; farewell to all the living, this is for real" – detail from a broadside showing skeletons in pandemonium because of cataclysmic natural events around them. The text, a calavera in verse (epitaph), predicts an apocalypse as the year 1899 ends (1899) – Source



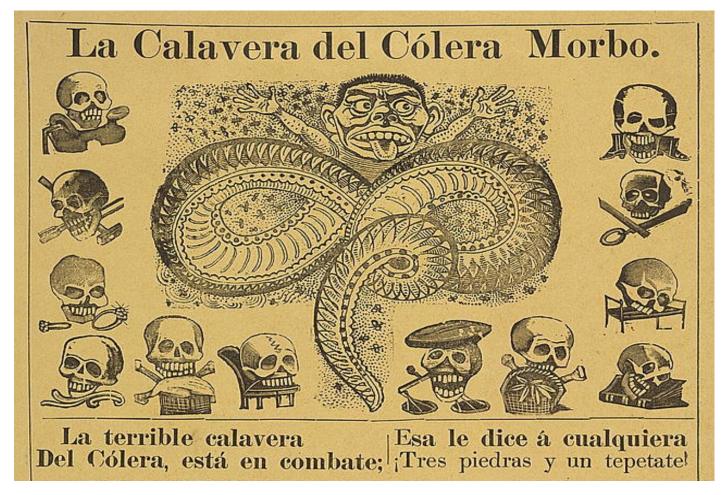
"The calavera of popular editor Antonio Vanegas Arroyo" – broadside showing the skeleton of publisher Antonio Vanegas Arroyo (who published many of Posada' Calaveros) dressed in a bowler hat, dark glasses and a suit and sporting a long beard and mustache, standing in his print shop. Small skeletons work at aspects of publishing at his feet: printing, engraving, and proofreading (1917) – Source



The Bullfighter of Seville – a broadside showing a skull decorated with the implements and costume of bullfighting. The text in calavera verse conveys a listing of the better known bullfighters in Mexico which Cuatro Dedos (Four Fingers) is presenting – Source



"This is Don Quixote the first, the giant calavera without equal" – broadside depicting a calavera of Don Quixote riding an equally skeletal horse. A second image below that of Don Quixote shows calaveras outside a cemetery pursuing a group of young men and women (ca.1910-13)- SourceSource



"The calavera of the morbid cholera" – a broadside showing a man with the body of a snake in the center of a group of skulls, representing the disease cholera, his arms are outstretched and tongue out, flying insects surround him. The skulls that surround him are depicted with worldy objects. The image is accompanied by a sarcastic and ironic ballad describing how cholera has afflicted the various social classes of Mexican society. Death kills everyone, regardless of the their place in society (1910) – Source

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