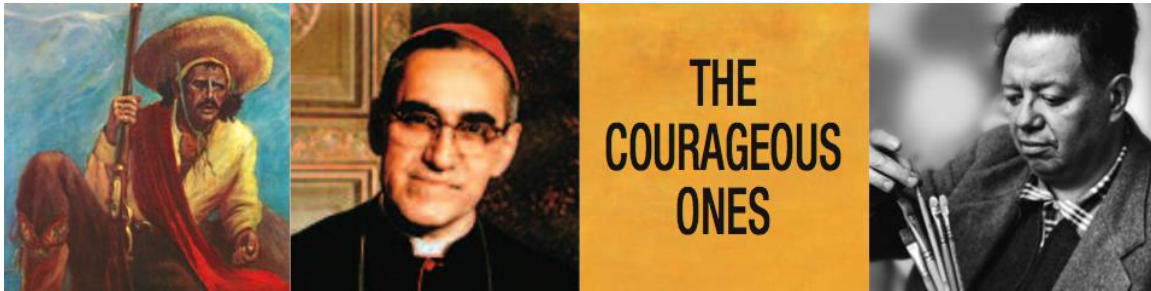


# CORE ENSEMBLE

*Celebrating Diversity through Chamber Music Theatre*

## Los Valientes



### WELCOME & OVERVIEW

We are delighted to have you in the audience of *Los Valientes*. In order to assist you in responding to the performance this guide has been developed to help tie your classroom work to the production. It is intended to be a catalyst for discussion and further research about the information, ideas, and themes the piece. In response to the importance of curricular integration the performance and this guide address Florida Sunshine State Standards in social studies, theatre, and music. Those standards can be found in the table at the back of this guide.

Questions or comments about *Los Valientes* are welcome. Please let us know how we're doing and about the experience of this production. On your school's website you and your students can post reviews as well as respond to reviews written by other students.

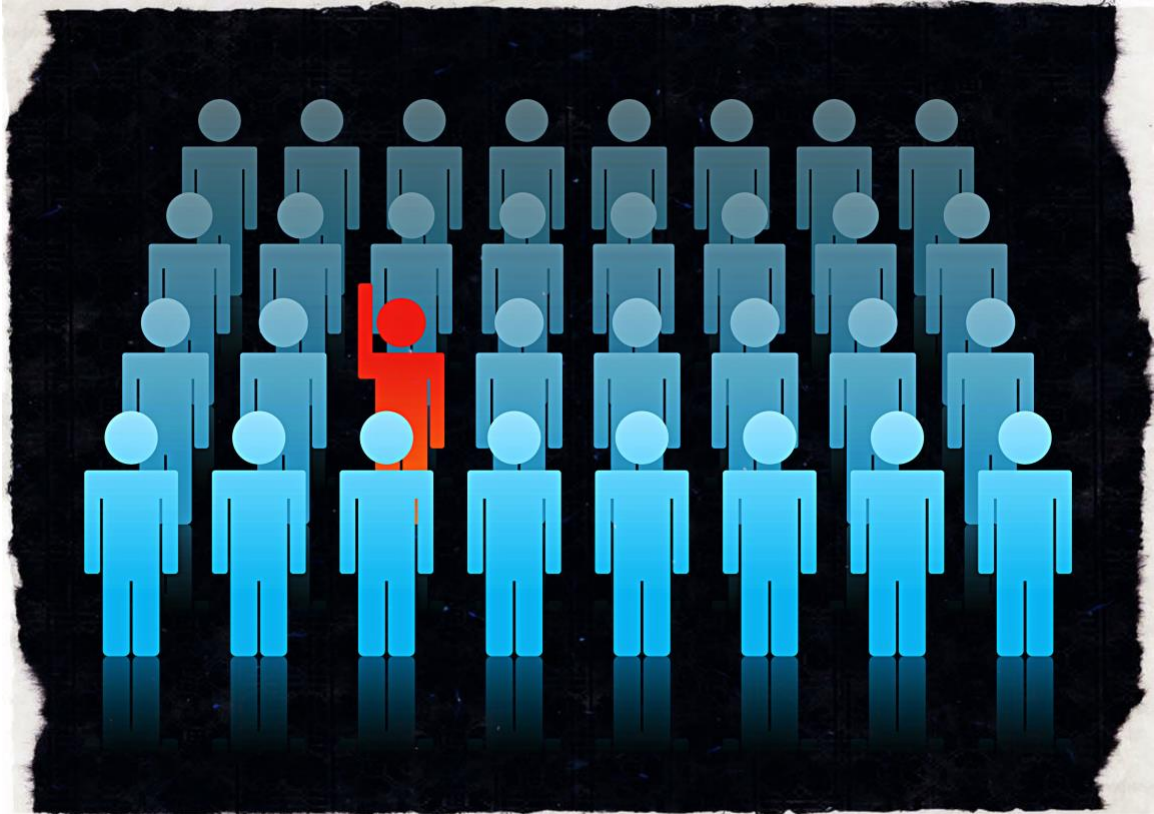
Thank you for joining us. We are delighted to have you in the audience *Los Valientes*, a powerful and impassioned call for justice, compassion, and humanity.

Margot Emery  
Managing Director  
**The Core Ensemble**

**WHAT IS FEAR?**



**WHAT IS COURAGE?**



To do. or not to do. That is the question.

character / personaje / personnage / karakter / carattere / znak / de  
caractere / karaktär ...

... a universal word, of universal importance. And with several different definitions. In the case of *Los Valientes*, two specific meanings come to mind.

**char·ac·ter:** *ker-ik-t ər:* **1:** one of the persons of a drama or novel **2:** the personality or part which an actor recreates <an actress who can create a *character* convincingly>; **PERSONAGE.**

Diego Rivera, Archbishop Oscar Romero, and Joaquin Murrieta - each is an historical person given a dramatic personality created by playwright Jose Cruz Gonzalez in *Los Valientes*. Each of the three men is recreated by an actor whenever this piece is performed.

But another meaning for this word has even greater relevance.

**char·ac·ter:** *ker-ik-tər:* **1:** one of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual; **REPUTATION: 2:** moral excellence and firmness <a man of sound *character*>.

In *Los Valientes* the three men are faced with situations that require choices, followed by decision-making and corresponding behavior. These circumstances create conflict with others or within themselves, conflicts which sometimes are humorous. But often as the conflicts hold a deeper level of personal questioning - requiring the characters to assess their own values, followed by taking action. In these situations we realize that risk and courage can be a part of making the appropriate choice.

### What is the right thing to do?

This is a question which we are always learning to better ask and to better answer. *Character Counts!* is an approach to character education administered by the non profit Josephson Institute's Center for Youth Ethics. It is a program designed around on six basic values called "Pillars of Character." These values are: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.*

These values exist across diverse cultures, religious faiths, and spiritual programs.

They are the basis for standards of conduct - personal and public. Just as young people today face daily challenges in ethical decision-making inside their schools and communities we can find examples throughout *Los Valientes* in which these three men display or disregard these values.

Using the grid below "grade" or rank each man as to whether he demonstrated or ignored any of the six values at some point. Each box can be filled in **Y** (yes), **N** (no), or **M** (maybe). Identify an example of what he said or did that illustrates or supports the ranking.

It is likely that there will be both unanimity as well as disagreement in this exercise! This is fine - it is such dialogue and debate that are an essential and valuable part of the process of critical thinking.

	<b>Trustworthiness</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Fairness</b>	<b>Caring</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
<b>DIEGO RIVERA</b>						
<b>ARCHBISHOP ROMERO</b>						
<b>JOAQUIN MURRIETA</b>						

**Again, what is the right thing to do?**

**What is the right thing to do?**

**What is the right thing to do?**

## **Trustworthiness**

Be honest · Don't deceive, cheat or steal · Be reliable - do what you say you'll do · Have the courage to do the right thing · Build a good reputation · Be loyal - stand by your family, friends and country.

## **Respect**

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule · Be tolerant of differences · Use good manners, not bad language · Be considerate of the feelings of others · Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone · Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

## **Responsibility**

Do what you are supposed to do · Persevere: keep on trying! · Always do your best · Use self-control · Be self-disciplined · Think before you act - consider the Consequences · Be accountable for your choices.

## **Fairness**

Play by the rules · Take turns and share · Be open-minded; listen to others · Don't take advantage of others · Don't blame others carelessly.

## **Caring**

Be kind · Be compassionate and show you care · Express gratitude · Forgive others · Help people in need.

## **Citizenship**

Do your share to make your school and community better · Cooperate · Get involved in community affairs · Stay informed; vote · Be a good neighbor · Obey laws and rules · Respect authority · Protect the environment.

**“When the police decide what is not religion, what is not art, what is not love – then love, art, and religion all must become crimes.”**

**– HAKIM BEY**



## CHARACTERS THAT YOU WILL MEET IN LOS VALIENTES

### ***DIEGO RIVERA (1886-1957)***

The Mexican painter Diego Rivera was the first Latino painter to attract international recognition for his art. After an apprenticeship in Europe, he returned to Mexico in 1921 and began to develop an immediately recognizable personal style based on incorporating Mexican history and everyday Mexican life into his art.



Rivera popularized a program of large-scale mural painting that would be accessible to all. Yet he continued to paint easel pictures to support himself and his family—which he sold largely to wealthy patrons from the US. Rivera invented extravagant fables about his life and exploits with which he would regale listeners. Yet the central relationship of his life, to the equally dramatic painter Frida Kahlo, needed no embellishment—it was already full of larger-than-life qualities.

Rivera was celebrated in the US and painted several large murals in America—most notably the murals in Rockefeller Center, which were ordered, destroyed due to their leftist content. In our scene, Diego Rivera is in San Francisco, California, painting a mural for the Golden Gate Exposition of 1940.



*Diego Rivera: Dream of a Sunday Afternoon In The Alameda*

## CHARACTERS THAT YOU WILL MEET IN LOS VALIENTES

### ***OSCAR ROMERO (1917-1980)***

Salvadoran Archbishop Óscar Romero was assassinated while saying Mass on March 24, 1980. Widely referred to as “San Romero” throughout Latin America, Romero became a leader in defense of human rights and against the oppression of the poor during the Salvadoran Civil War of the 1970s and 1980s.

He embraced the Catholic social teaching for a “preferential option for the poor” and became known as a “bishop of the poor” because of his concern for social justice. Because of its social teaching in defense of the poor, the Salvadoran Catholic Church endured persecution, including the torture and murder of priests and nuns, from “death squads” aligned with the US-backed government.



Romero’s funeral on March 30, 1980 was attended by 250,000 people; smoke bombs exploded and rifle shots were fired, resulting in chaos in which dozens of people were killed. It is widely believed that elements from the US-backed Salvadoran military were responsible for Romero’s assassination; however no one was ever prosecuted for it. In 2004 a US District Court found former Salvadoran Air Force Captain Álvaro Saravia responsible for Romero’s death.

The Catholic Church has begun the official process of canonization for Romero; a statue of Romero has been erected at Westminster Abbey in London, in the company of other 20<sup>th</sup>-century martyrs Martin Luther King and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



## CHARACTERS THAT YOU WILL MEET IN LOS VALIENTES

### ***JOAQUIN MURRIETA (c. 1830- c. 1853)***

Joaquín Murrieta was called the Mexican Robin Hood and an inspiration for the stories of Zorro by Johnston McCulley. An infamous figure during the time of the California Gold Rush of the 1850s, Murrieta was called a bandit by Anglo Californians but a patriot by the Mexican population.

While many details of his life are shrouded in myth, a real person named Joaquín Murrieta did exist. Murrieta can also be viewed as a composite figure representing the Mexican experience during the California Gold Rush. When gold was discovered in California in 1849, many people from Sonora, Mexico, including Murrieta, were attracted to the Gold Rush. Many of the early 49ers were Mexican

and were quite successful, due to their experience mining in Sonora. The Anglo 49ers gradually forced many of the Mexican miners off their mining claims through intimidation and through a confiscatory Foreign Miner's Tax imposed by the state legislature.

Murrieta and many other Mexicans turned to banditry as a result of the injustices they suffered. In 1853 the California state legislature created the California Rangers, composed largely of veterans of the Mexican-American War, to track down Murrieta and his companions. The Rangers killed three armed Mexicans and cut off the head of one, claiming it as Murrieta's. The head, preserved in a glass jar, was exhibited throughout California. Controversy arose as to whether the head on display was truly Murrieta's—some legends have him returning to Mexico.

Murrieta has become an iconic figure in Latino culture, with representations in a play by Pablo Neruda, songs recorded by Victor Jara, and, most importantly, in the famous poem by Rodolfo Gonzáles, "Yo Soy Joaquín" ("I Am Joaquín"), a foundational text for Chicano consciousness.



## WHAT IS AN ACHILLES' HEEL?

An "Achilles' heel" is the one weakness, fault, flaw, or vulnerable spot in a person's otherwise strong character

In *The Iliad*, the famous story about the Trojan War by the Greek poet Homer, Achilles was a great hero and warrior. However, he had one weak spot, the heel of one foot. When he was a baby, his mother wanted to be certain that her son could never be harmed, so she dipped little Achilles upside-down in the magical River Styx. Wherever the water touched his body, he became invulnerable. But since she was holding him by his heel, that part of him never got wet. Years later Achilles was killed in the Trojan War by an enemy who shot a poisoned arrow into his heel.

**And so an Achilles' heel is a fatal weakness in spite of overall strength, actually or potentially leading to downfall.**





**In what ways, in spite of their individual brilliances, do Diego Rivera, Archbishop Oscar Romero, and Joaquin Murrieta each possess this flaw, this Achilles' heel?**



## FLORIDA SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS addressed in LOS VALIENTES

SS.8.A.4.1	Examine the causes course and consequences of United States westward expansion and its growing diplomatic assertiveness.
SS.912.A.7.11	Analyze the foreign policy of the United States as it relates to Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East.
SS.912.A.7.12	Analyze political economic and social concerns that emerged at the end of the 20th century and into the 21st century.
SS.912.A.7.5	Compare nonviolent and violent approaches utilized by groups to achieve civil rights.
SS.912.W.1.6	Evaluate the role of history in shaping identity and character.
SS.912.W.9A	Describe the causes and effects of twentieth century nationalist conflicts.
SS.912.H.1.2	Describe how historical events social context and culture impact forms techniques and purposes of works in the arts including the relationship between a government and its citizens.
SS.912.H.1.3	Relate works in the arts to various cultures.
SS.912.H.1A	Explain philosophical beliefs as they relate to works in the arts.
SS.912.H.1.5	Examine artistic response to social issues and new ideas in various cultures.
SS.912.H.2A	Examine the effects that works in the arts have on groups individuals and cultures.
SS.912.C.2.8	Analyze the impact of citizen participation as a means of achieving political and social change.
SS.912.CA.3	Assess human rights policies of the United States and other countries.
TH.912.C.1.6	Respond to theatrical works by identifying and interpreting influences of historical social or cultural contexts.
TH.912.H.2.8	Analyze how events have been portrayed through theatre and film balancing historical accuracy versus theatrical storytelling.
TH.912.H.3.2	Compare the applications of various art forms used in theatre production.
MU.68.C.1.3	Identify, aurally, instrumental styles and a variety of instrumental ensembles.
MU.68.0.1.1	Compare performances of a musical work to identify artistic choices made by performers.
MU.912.C.3.1	Make critical evaluations based on exemplary models of the quality and effectiveness of performances and apply the criteria to personal development in music.

## VOCABULARY

After you learn the definition of the following words or ideas you will then see how each word is used in the text of *LOS VALIENTES*.

### Diego Rivera

**interstate highway:** *(its interstate highways and factory lines are great artistic achievements.)*

**Achilles' heel:** *(But you have an Achilles' heel: your hunger to consume and control everything.)*

**Golden Gate International Exposition:** *(Yes, I'm pleased to be back here in San Francisco, in California, in the year 1940. The Golden Gate International Exposition has opened its arms to me.)*

**plumed:** *(On one side it has the neck of Quezalcoatl, the plumed snake.)*

**conveyor belt:** *(From the south comes the plumed serpent, from the north the conveyor belt.)*

**midwife:** *(The midwife disposed of me in a dung bucket.)*

**dung:** *(The midwife disposed of me in a dung bucket.)*

**entrails:** *(It was my grandmother who saved me by killing some pigeons and wrapping me in their entrails.)*

**vein:** *(The price of silver fell and the veins in the mines ended.)*

**pawn:** *(My mother had to pawn our silverware, the gilt chairs, anything of value.)*

**gilt:** *(My mother had to pawn our silverware, the gilt chairs, anything of value.)*

**Communist Party:** *(There are people who want me dead, Communist Party members.)*

**visa:** *(Trotsky was a man who inhabited a planet without a visa.)*

**philanderer:** *(I admit it, I am a philanderer.)*

**machete:** *(I chased after him with a machete.)*

**pound:** *(This one will bring pounds sterling.)*

**sterling:** *(This one will bring pounds sterling.)*

**franc:** *(This one American dollars. And this one French francs.)*

**bohemian:** *(Artists in Paris allied a bohemian life.)*

**orgy:** *(He once threw a woman through a window during an orgy.)*

**cherub:** *(I loved drawing devils and cherubs as a child.)*

**Spanish Inquisition:** *(Victims of the Spanish Inquisition had been burned.)*

**Ethereal:** *(I am sustained by an ethereal drunkenness.)*

**repugnance** *(I feel a strong repugnance toward each of them.)*

**amoral:** *(Nor do u to think whether what you do is moral, amoral, or immoral.)*

### Oscar Romero

**repression:** *(Stop the repression!)*

**subversive:** *(All the pages are subversive.)*

**Second Vatican Council:** *(The call from the Second Vatican Council in 1965 was for the church's renewal in the modern world.)*

**cassock:** *(Young priests began to appear without cassocks.)*

**liberation theology:** *(I took my progressive brothers to task for introducing liberation theology.)*

**adobe:** *(The homes were made of adobe with tile roofs.)*

**apprentice:** *(I began as an apprentice to a carpenter.)*

**seminary:** *(The day I entered the seminary my father blessed me.)*

**ordain:** *(I was ordained at the age of twenty-four.)*

**doctoral studies :***(I wanted to stay in Rome to pursue my doctoral studies.)*

**oligarchy:** *(The government and oligarchy of fourteen families were delighted by my selection.)*



**adulterate:** *(Romero adulterates the figure of Christ.)*

**obligated:** *(I am obligated by divine mandate to give up my life for those I love.)*

**mandate:** *(I am obligated by divine mandate to give up my life for those I love.)*

**abomination:** *(The Church cannot stay silent during so much abomination.)*

**dynamism:** *(Peace is dynamism.)*

**immolate:** *(May this Body immolated and this Blood sacrificed for mankind nourish us.)*

### Joaquin Murrieta

**posse:** *(The San Joaquin Republican reported that a posse of hundreds of men went to look for me.)*

**lynch:** *(They lynched two Mexicans.)*

**habitation:** *(They resolved to burn the habitations of the Mexicans indiscriminately.)*

**indiscriminately:** *(They resolved to burn the habitations of the Mexicans indiscriminately.)*

**fork:** *(The entire Mexican population has been driven from San Andreas and the forks of the Calaveras.)*

**Manifest Destiny:** *(Their President, James K. Polk, with his "Manifest Destiny," started the war in Mexico.)*

**Decapitate:** *( ... was recently captured and became very suddenly decapitated.)*

**mustang:** *(I caught mustangs.)*

**cantina:** *(I found their leader in a cantina.)*

**proprietor:** *(The legal proprietors of this respectable name outlawed by the Legislature should petition.)*

## A Starter List of Courageous People throughout History



**Jesus Christ** (0AD - 33 AD) Jesus stuck to the truth of his message, despite the consequences. On many occasions, he had the opportunity to escape or change his message. But, he felt the right thing to do was to suffer outer humiliation and pain in order to leave a legacy of spiritual truth.



**Buddha** Siddhartha was a great prince of an Indian kingdom. He had the courage to forsake all worldly luxuries to try and illumine his self. Through his own meditation he challenged his own inner demons and attained final illumination.



**Galileo Galilei** Galileo was willing to challenge the orthodoxy of the church through his own scientific discoveries. This commitment to truth and science came despite personal threats to his well-being .



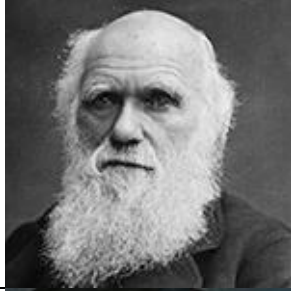
**Dietrich Bonhoeffer** (1906 - 1945) German Lutheran Pastor who was consistently outspoken in his criticism of Nazism in Germany. Preferring to stay in the country of his birth, he was eventually arrested and executed in Flossian concentration camp .



**Helen Keller** Overcame dual disability of deafblindness to champion the deaf and help improve societies treatment of deaf people.



**Moses** After escaping from his slavery in Egypt, led his people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea.



**Charles Darwin** was first to publish the radical theory of evolution. When his theory was finally circulated he became a figurehead in the debate between evolution and the church, helping to change attitudes on a key scientific issue.



**Martin Luther** was the leader of the great reformation, which challenged the abuses and corrupt practices within the Catholic church.



**Alexander the Great** Greatest military leader of all times. His will power took his army across the globe.



**Ludwig van Beethoven** A genius of musical composition, who stretched the boundaries and possibilities of music. Despite suffering deafness, he overcame public criticism to remain one of the greatest composers.



**Thomas Jefferson** A key figure in the American revolution and foremost author of the declaration of independence. Jefferson sought to challenge existing policies on religious tolerance, education and slavery



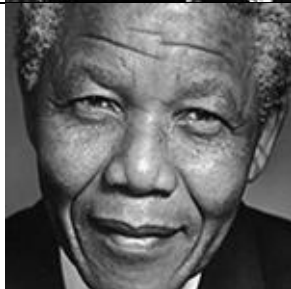
**Mikhail Gorbachev** was willing to erode his own power base, though his policies of liberating the politics and economics of the Soviet Union. His policies invoked the ire of those who lost out, leading to his replacement in 1990.



**Mother Teresa** Born in Albania, Mother Teresa left for India with virtually no money and devoted her life to serving the poor of Calcutta – overcoming poverty, disease and criticism.



**Martin Luther King** A symbol of the fight against racial discrimination. Martin Luther King passionately supported the civil rights movement, despite virulent opposition and discrimination in parts of America.



**Nelson Mandela** Mandela had the courage to fight against the unjust system of apartheid. For his political activities, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but he was released to lead a free South Africa.



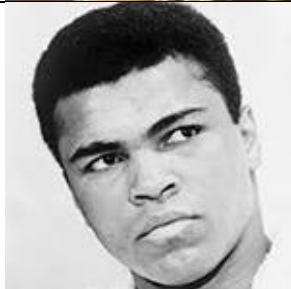
**Winston Churchill** In 1940, Britain stood, alone against Nazi Germany. Some in Britain wanted to seek a deal with Hitler, but Churchill wanted to fight on, and he inspired a country through their darkest hour.



**Rosa Parks** Refused to give up seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama and started a mass protest which led to the end of segregation on public transport.



**Socrates** (469BC- 399 BC) Greek philosopher. Socrates was willing to die for his beliefs. Arrested for his philosophic teachings, Socrates was willing to accept death rather than change his opinions and beliefs. It is said he calmly accepted his fate.



**Muhammad Ali** Refused to fight in Vietnam despite having the threat of public opprobrium and jail.

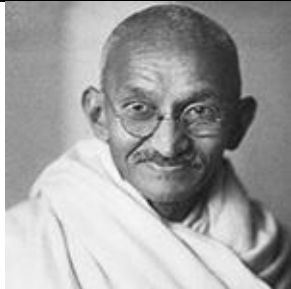


**Charles de Gaulle** Leader of the Free French during World War Two. Encouraged French to keep resisting the Nazi occupation.





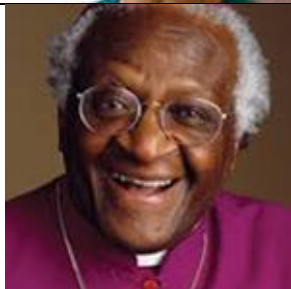
**George Orwell** Went to fight in the Spanish civil war because of his sympathies for the Republican movement. Also, gave up his privileged upbringing to work as a 'down and out' worker in Paris and London.



**Mahatma Gandhi** Leader of non-violent movement for Indian independence.



**Aung San Suu Kyi** Leader of Burmese opposition party. Kept under house arrest for several years.



**Desmond Tutu** Outspoken critic of the apartheid regime in South Africa. Leading figure in the reconciliation movement in the post-apartheid era.



**Dalai Lama** Spiritual and political leader of the Tibetan people. Led non-violent resistance to Chinese rule in Tibet.





**Amelia Earhart** First female to fly solo across the Atlantic.



**Emmeline Pankhurst** Leading suffragette in the UK. Emmeline Pankhurst went to jail several times for her protests to gain women the vote.



**Joan of Arc** Peasant girl who went to Dauphin of France to encourage him to fight English occupation. Led French army into battle.



**St Teresa of Avila** Founded many religious orders and wrote about mystical experiences at a time of the Spanish inquisition, when women rarely played any role in public life.



**Boudicca** Leader of British revolt against Roman occupation.



**Edith Cavell** Nurse in Belgium during World War One. Arrested and executed for helping allied servicemen escape back to England. Shortly before her execution, said 'Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.'



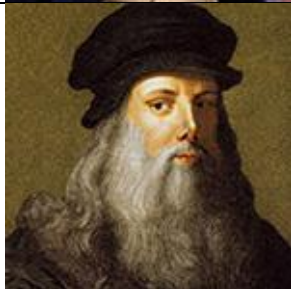
**Odette Sansom** British secret service agent during World War Two. She was captured, tortured and sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp, but she survived the war.



**Abraham Lincoln** US president during American civil war. Later extended aims of civil war to ending slavery in America.



**William Wilberforce** Leader of campaign against slavery.



**Leonardo da Vinci** Italian scientist and noted polymath who made discoveries in areas such as human anatomy which were discouraged at the time.



**William Tyndale** Translated Bible into English, which at the time was forbidden. For his controversial views he was later arrested and executed.



**Leonard Cheshire** British pilot in RAF during World War Two. Made over 103 missions during six years of war. After war, set up charity for the disabled.

*Page Citation: Pettinger, Tejvan, "Courageous people", Oxford, www.biographyonline.net 2 November 2013*

"Los Valientes" -- the courageous ones. The brave. The subject matter holds lessons to be learned by the actions of three men who did not retreat from a strong personal sense of duty to family and to community. Fortunately, courage can be looked at through the lenses of humor as well. One of the most memorable examples occurs in this song from the film THE WIZARD OF OZ.



### **COWARDLY LION**

**Courage. What makes a King out of a slave? Courage.**

**What makes the flag on the mast to wave? Courage.**

**What makes the elephant charge his tusk in the misty mist or the dusky dusk?**

**What makes the muskrat guard his musk? Courage.**

**What makes the Sphinx the 7th Wonder? Courage.**

**What makes the dawn come up like THUNDER?! Courage.**

**What makes the Hottentot so hot?**

**What puts the "ape" in ape-ricot?**

**Whatta they got that I ain't got?**

**Dorothy & Friends: Courage!**

**Cowardly Lion: You can say that again.**

*Watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23ZqedYqBpQ>*

## Quotes on Courage

*"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex ... It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of **COURAGE** to move in the opposite direction. "*

Albert Einstein

*"**COURAGE** is what it takes to stand up and speak; **COURAGE** is also what it takes to sit down and listen."*

Winston Churchill

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the **COURAGE** to continue that counts. "*

Winston Churchill

*"**COURAGE** is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear."*

Mark Twain

*"It is curious that physical **COURAGE** should be so common in the world and moral **COURAGE** so rare. "*

Mark Twain

*"Faced with what is right, to leave it undone shows a lack of **COURAGE**. "*

Confucius

*"One man with **COURAGE** is a majority. "*

Thomas Jefferson

*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Is there a person in your family or community whom you consider to be courageous? Who is that person and why?**

## Turning history into myth and legend...

Of the three men in *Los Valientes*, Diego Rivera and Archbishop Oscar Romero lived in twentieth century times. Their lives and work were well documented in the press and in telecommunications - even before there was the internet!

Joaquin Murrieta, on the other hand, lived only to the age of twenty-four, dying in the summer of 1853. Photography as we know it was virtually non-existent. There was no radio, television, or telephone. So the facts of his life are based largely upon subjective and perhaps overly-elaborate accounts. And over time, do fact and fiction begin to blend? Thus becomes the myth. The myth of Joaquin Murrieta extends even to this day in our popular culture. As recently as 2011 yet another song inspired by his commitment to justice for the oppressed became popular.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baP9HGrSIOA>

### "Murrieta's Head" written and recorded by Dave Alvin on the album "Eleven Eleven"

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baP9HGrSIOA>

*Come on saddle up boys cause the Governor said  
He'll pay three thousand dollars for Murrieta's  
head*

*I hear Joaquin Murrieta steals horses and gold  
He killed the sheriff in Mariposa or so I'm told  
He's the devil's bloody bastard, wicked and no  
good  
But all the Mexican's swear that he's Robin Hood*

*Well with my wife and my sons, I work as hard as  
I can  
On thirteen acres of California land  
But the rains never came, I got debts I can't pay  
Now the bank's gonna steal my farm away*

*Come on, saddle up boys cause the Governor said  
He'll pay three thousand dollars for Murrieta's  
head  
He don't want him alive. he wants him dead  
He'll pay you three thousand dollars for Murrieta  
's head*

*I hear Joaquin Murrieta rides to avenge  
The murder of his wife by a mob of drunk men  
But I don't give a damn if it's a lie or if it's true  
Cause for his family, ain't much a man won't do*

*Now you see the fever came around and my  
youngest boy took ill  
And I didn't have the money to pay no doctor's  
bills  
So I buried his body neath that oak on the hill  
But if I had the money, I swear he'd be alive still*

*Come on, saddle up boys cause the Governor said  
He'll pay three thousand dollars for Murrieta 's  
head  
He don't want him alive., he wants him dead  
He'll pay three thousand dollars for Murrieta's  
head*

*Well the Bible says you reap what you sow  
Well that could be true but I really don't know  
Well if it is, Murrieta will be damned to Hell  
And when I kill him, 1'1/ be damned as well*

*Come on, saddle up boys cause the Governor said  
He'll pay three thousand dollars for Murrieta's  
head  
He don't want him alive, he wants him dead  
He'll pay three thousand dollars for Murrieta's  
head*

Joaquin Murrieta, often referred to as "Mexico's Robin Hood" became the historical figure which provided the inspiration and model for the fictional character Zorro. Originally a 1919 series of short stories by Johnston McCulley, Zorro (which means



"fox" in Spanish) by day is Don Diego de la Vega, a well-dressed California nobleman who writes poetry and eschews violence. But by night he becomes the black-clad and masked avenger accompanied by his sidekick Bernardo, who is Zorro's helper and spy by appearing to be a deaf-mute.



***"My sword is a flame – to right every wrong – so well heed my name!"***

Zorro

*(from the 1958 Disney television series)*

Watch the intro to the TV Series: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CP3\\_5HPWA0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CP3_5HPWA0)

A short and excellent History Channel documentary *Behind the Mask of Zorro* nicely demonstrates the evolution of the Zorro character from the Murrieta figure.

Watch the documentary trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyLasg-zfd0>

Unlike other heroes such as Superman, Batman, and Spiderman Joaquin Murrieta had no superpowers. He had to rely on instinct, intelligence, being a masterful horse rider, as well as being a superb fencer. And so in this sense, *anyone* can become a *Zorro*.

## Three courageous WOMEN in dramatic literature

*(Watch out, guys)*

### Antigone:

I do know what I am talking about!  
It is you who have lost your way and don't know  
what to say. I am too far away from you now, talking to you from a kingdom you can't get into,  
With your quick tongue and your hollow heart.

I laugh, Creon, because I see suddenly  
what a transparent hypocrite you are. Creon, the family man! Creon, the contented sitter on  
benches, in the evening, in his garden!

Creon, desecrating the dead while he tries to fob me off with platitudes about happiness! I spit  
on your happiness! I spit on your idea of life that life that must go on, come what may.

You are all like dogs that lick everything they smell. You with your  
promise of a humdrum happiness provided a person doesn't ask too much of life. I want  
everything of life, I do; and I want it now!

I want it total, complete: otherwise I reject it! If life must be a thing of fear and lying and  
compromise; if life cannot be free, gallant, incorruptible then, Creon, I choose death!

*(from ANTIGONE by Jean Anouilh, 1944 based upon ANTIGONE by Sophocles, fifth century B.C.)*

### WOMAN:

Something like this happens once in what - a hundred years? A thousand? Do you really expect me to stay here and change diapers? Yes! I want to come with you! *[Pause.]* Don't be angry. Please. But tonight ... when the sounds began ... when the hammers and the axes began to fall ... you were still asleep ... and I suddenly understood that my husband, my children-all these things are temporary ... I love you very much ... *[She clasps his hand.]* ... but can't you hear how they are hammering out there?! They are pounding away, and something seems to be falling, breaking apart, some kind of wall seems to be coming down-the earth is changing - and it is so spacious and wide and free! It's night now, but it seems to me the sun is shining! I'm thirty years old and already I'm like an old woman, I know it, you can see it in my face. And yet ... tonight I feel like I'm only seventeen, and that I've fallen in love for the first time-a great, boundless love that lights up the sky! They're pounding, and it sounds to me like music, like singing of which I've always dreamt-all my life-and I didn't know who it was that I loved with such a boundless love, which made me feel like crying and laughing and singing! This is freedom! Don't deny me my place-let me die with those who are working out there, who are calling in the future so bravely and rousing the dead past from its grave!

*(from CALL OF THE REVOLUTION by Leonid Andreyev, 1901, adapted by Walter Wykes)*

**JOAN:**

*Yes, they told me you were fools and that I was not to listen to your fine words nor trust to your charity. You promised me my life but you lied. You think life is nothing but not being stone dead! It is not the bread and water I fear; bread has no sorrow for me, and water no affliction.*

*But to shut me from the light of the sky, and the sight of the fields and flowers, to chain my feet so that I can never again ride with the soldiers nor climb the hills; to make me breathe foul damp darkness, and keep me from everything that brings me back to the love of God, when your wickedness and foolishness tempt me to hate Him. All this is worse than the furnace in the Bible that was heated seven times!*

*I could do without my warhorse. I could drag about in a skirt. I could let the banners and the trumpets and the knights and soldiers pass me and leave me behind as they leave the other women, if only I could still hear the wind in the trees, the larks in the sunshine, the young lambs crying through the healthy frost, and the blessed, blessed church bells that send my angel voices floating to me on the wind.*

*But without these things I cannot live; and by your wanting to take them away from me, or from any human creature, I know that your counsel is of the devil, and that mine is of God.*

*(from SAINT JOAN, by George Bernard Shaw, 1923, based upon the life and trial of Joan of Arc)*

**NEVER**

**NEVER**

**NEVER**

**GIVE UP**

**WINSTON CHURCHILL**

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