

# JÍBAROS BY REBECCA HINSON

(HISTORY/NONFICTION)

## Questions for *Jíbaros* by Rebecca Hinson

### LEVEL 1: What does it say?

#### General Understanding

- How did the Jíbaro culture immerge from the Taínos, Spanish, and African cultures?

#### Key Details

- What details does the author give to define the separate Taínos, Spanish, and African cultures?
- How did Haiti's slave rebellion impact Jíbaro culture?

### LEVEL 2: How does it work?

#### Vocabulary

- Determine the meaning of livestock, pioneer, cultivate, maracas, gourd, conquistador, enslave, garbanzos, accomplished, slave codes, tostones, smuggling, export, disrupt, illiterate, maestro, populace, authority, abolish, ancestry, trades, Creoles, vigil, baquiné, música brava, danzas, exhaustion, and domination.

#### Structure

- *Liberty* tells the story of immigrants who formed the thirteen colonies. Overcoming great odds, they separated themselves from Great Britain, creating a distinct nation and culture. Compare and contrast the structure of *Jíbaros* with *Liberty*.

#### Author's Craft

- In *Insularismo*, Antonio S. Pedreira says, "The realms of music and poetry are to be commended for gathering the most hidden heartbeats within a nation's breast." He says that "the three racial elements at our core come into play. The indigenous people offered the cacharro or güiro and the maracas. Africans transformed the indigenous tambourine and offered the bomba and the bongó. Spaniards gave us their guitar, which we have not altered but transformed into our guitars: tiple, bordonúa and cuatro, each born on our soil." With these instruments the high-spirited música brava and the sad, soft,

tranquil danza are created. In *Jíbaros* what contributions from each race is the major focus? Judging from the text (above), how does the point of view differ between *Insularismo* and *Jíbaros*?

## LEVEL 3: What does it mean?

### Author's Purpose

- The author states that Jíbaros are a symbol of Puerto Rican pride. Despite all odds, they raise livestock and cultivate the crops of their ancestors, providing food for the people. What evidence does she give to support her claims?

### Intertextual Connections

- In *Insularismo*, Antonio Pedreira states, "To know the soul of a cultured nation one has to refer to the poetry, painting and music of her people." Rebecca Hinson states, "Art reveals the soul of a nation. What a culture loves most is always reflected in their art." Do you agree or disagree with these assertions? How does the art of *Jíbaros* and *Francisco Oller* reveal or fail to reveal the soul of Puerto Rico?

## LEVEL 4: What does it inspire you to do?

### Opinion with Evidence or Argument

- Integrate information from *Jíbaros* and *Insularismo* (below) in order to write or speak about Jíbaros knowledgeably.

#### *Insularismo:*

It is awesome to consider our humble farmer, this *criollo*, this *jibaro*, bent over a hoe from sun to sun, his life exposed to the elements, battered by deprivation and hookworm, yet always enduring despite a deficient diet. He is a fellow who also lives for the present, who works out of necessity, who resorts to gambling in order to gather in a moment the resources he thinks are impossible to obtain with persistent work. Generous and courteous, hospitable and fun-loving, he has had to find refuge in shrewdness to protect himself from being tyrannized by city slickers and competitors from the black provinces on the coast. Our *jibaro* is by nature mistrusting and shy and although benevolent to his own, suspicious and astute. Fed up with unkept promises and proposals laid aside, he has had to fall back on his keen mind to put a stop to the fraud and excesses of the city.

The indigenous blood still running through our veins rears its head for an instant, only to be suffocated by the impulse of the conquistador or the slave. The result is a tropical

laissez faire, a people in wait of a better opportunity, and while we wait we quietly submit, always coming up with excuses.

Puerto Rico is a depressed nation, but she loves life and never gives up. The native Puerto Rican is individualistic, tenacious, brave. Hunger does not faze him; faced with natural disasters, he is never undone.

### **Sources**

Rebecca Hinson, *Liberty*

Rebecca Hinson, *Francisco Oller*

Antonio S. Pedreira, *Insularismo*