

Inter State: Essays from California by Jose' Vadi

To be discussed Friday, Sept. 2, 2022, 10:30 am on Zoom

Inter State

1. Jose describes the California landscape, relating it to his *Abuelo*'s life. (Note: "Abuelo" is Spanish for grandfather.) Are any of the places he describes familiar to you? Tell about one or two.
2. Several pages are devoted to description of the Cesar Chavez National Historic Site. Why was Jose interested in Cesar Chavez?
3. He visits Arvin, home of the camp built for Dust Bowl laborers. What was the Dust Bowl? Was this housing adequate?
4. Inadequate housing is a major problem for migrant farm workers. How was this problem addressed in Spreckles? Why did some residents object to the solution? Were their fears founded in facts?

Getting to Suzy's

5. Jose walks to Suzy's after work on a Monday. Who is Suzy? He then closes songs to play on the jukebox. What song would you choose after a long day at work? Finally he goes home. Where's home for him?

Standing in the Shadows of Brands: San Francisco at Dawn

6. Jose discussed the changes he observed in San Francisco, known as gentrification. Name a few changes that he observed.

A California Inquiry

7. Jose fears (pg 92-3) that Californians "will become sort of modern-day Okies." Why does he say that?
8. Jose mentions wildfires, earthquakes and water shortages. What do you think is the greatest threat to California?

Daddy's Home

9. Describe Jose's family.
10. How did Jose celebrate Father's Day with his family? What spoiled their time together?

Spot Check

11. From what perspective was Jose viewing the buildings as he walked through San Francisco? How did he feel about recent changes to the architecture? What was he looking for?
12. Who was Jerry Phelps? Where did Jose encounter him? On page 152, Jose says, "The city will never sponsor monuments to street icons, just those heroes in privately sponsored arenas." Why do you think that is true?
13. Why did Jose get a ticket at the skate park in Claremont? Why did he think it was unfair? How did he handle it?

14th & Jackson

14. What are some changes to Oakland noted by Jose?
15. What is the author's film *Payday* about? Why will the film not be produced quite as Jose originally planned?

Post

16. Jose describes many problems we face in California (COVID, housing shortages, fires, poverty, shootings, racism, police violence, rising temperatures, business failures). Which California problem worries you most?
17. Jose watched the Golden Gate Park bison camera on his computer for distraction for distraction from our problems. (<https://www.goldengatepark150.com/bison>) What activity do you find comforting when the news seems overwhelming?