

## **Spanish/English Translation of Figurative Regional Language in *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea**

**This list is not all inclusive, but we hope readers will find it helpful. A special thanks goes to Spanish speakers in the School District of Waukesha for developing this resource for the Waukesha Reads ~ THE BIG READ program.**

### **Chapter 1**

Bandidos: thieves

El norte: North of the border/The USA

Me gusta: I like it

Es mejor: It's better/preferred

Dios mio: Oh, my gosh/God!

### **Chapter 2**

El codo duro: To be really cheap

Pesos: Pesos unit of Mexican money

Mi amor: My love/darling

Es macho: He is male/masculine

?Eres joto?: Are you a fag (as in gay/homosexual)

Esta caliente, la chaparra: The short girl is flirtatious/provocative

Testiculos: testicles

Si, senor: Yes, sir

### **Chapter 3**

Ay, Mateo: well...Mateo

Taqueria: A restaurant that serves tacos or Mexican fast food

Cabrón: Mother F\*cker (female)

Adios: Goodbye

La Vampira: nick-name, "The Vampire"-nicknames are very common in Latino culture

Que onda morra: What's up/going on?

Es muy caliente: She is very flirtatious/provocative

Me encanta: I really like it

Chido: Cool

M'ijita: like "dude" or "man" but for females: literacy meaning My daughter, also pal (female), colleague with whom you trust (female),

### **Chapter 4**

No se quien: I don't know who

Babosadas: stupid ideas/speech/language concepts

### **Chapter 5**

Asi se viste una senorita: That is how a proper girl dresses

Es una infamia: It is an imphamy

Es uno robo: It's a crime

Chinga'a,: meaning Chingada, noun: something totally screwed, adjective: as in a person is totally screwed

### **Chapter 6**

A cual mierda te refieres: What kind of crap are you talking about

Eso si que no: Well, not really

### **Chapter 7**

!Ese cuate si es todo un hombre!: Cuate, meaning a friend or close acquaintance, is all man, or gentelmanly

Por dios: For the love of God

Orale ruca: Let's go girl!

Caliente! La Negra está caliente!: La negra refers to a woman, That woman is flirtatious or provocative

Era mas macho, ese pinche McQueen!: McQueen is very manly/sexy

M'ijita-Mi hija: my daughter or my darling, used to refer to women with whom you trust

Que te pasa?: What's up

No, mensa!: No stupid (to a female)

### **Chapter 8**

Coyotes: People who assist others to navigate and cross the border

Benditas sean: Bless then

Futbol: Soccer

Aqui nomas: Up to here.

Mojados: Those who cross the river (Rio Grande) without documents

Y ustedes que?: And you guys, what?

Vamos a Tijuana: Let's go to Tijuana

Nada: nothing

Deveras: really?

Trabajo: work

### **Chapter 9**

Contrabando: contraband (guns/drugs/free trade items)

Orale, pues guey!: Okay then dude

Mira, no mas: Look no further

Aduana: Customs

### **Chapter 10**

Senor? Disculpe pero ¿donde estan?: Sir, excuseme, where are they?

Nuestras maletas: Our luggage/bags?

Norteno: From the North of Mexico/ style of music

Claro: sure

### **Chapter 11**

Botica: little bottle

### **Chapter 12**

Ahora tu vas a empezar con tus babosadas!: He moved down the street.

Parece que ando con una bola de pendejas. Ay, si. Todo el dia con chingaderas. Pos, lestay harto con esta mierda! Me oyeron? HARTO. Hasta la chingada. Hasta la madre.

Con esta MIERDA.: Don't start with this silliness. He moved down the street. I feel like I am hanging out with a bunch of fools. Yeah, every day is full of fooling around . I am so tired of this crap, do you hear me, TIRED of it! To hell with this crap!

Nel, socio, la frontera 'sta gacha, guey (The border is really bad), hasta las playas (even the route through the water), guey (man/dude), orale, pos la onda es que la wall esta se avienta la agua, guey! (The wall splashes all kinds of water, man ) Me entiendes, yes or no? Tienes que echarte, vato! Swim, loco! Swimeando pero la wall no se acaba! (You can swim but that wall does not end)

Ahi te wacho, homeboy!: 'll be watching you!

!Agarra la onda, guey!: Get it together man

Cholo: rural guy/dude

Vato-dude

La mera neta-The whole truth

Ahi te wacho: I will watch you from over there

Vieja: Mother, or older woman

Gordo: Fat (adjective), Honey/Sweetie(noun)

Arroyos: streams

Maquiladora: Factory-textiles

### **Chapter 14**

Maricon-: fag(gay/homosexual)

### **Chapter 15**

“Orale: Yes/ I agree/see you around

Ino chingues!: Strong language for “don’t fool around”

Guey: friend/dude

?Tiene papeles?: Do you have immigration documents

Socio: Colleague in business or social contract

Orale (Depends on context): okay

Chingaderas: Bull sh\*t

Que lastima: what a shame

Me vale madre: that means nothing to me

!Chingado!: You are f\*cked

### **Chapter 16**

!Cabrones!: Mother F\*ckers

?Ustedes me estan mirando?: Are you looking at me?

### **Chapter 18**

La mera neta: That is really true

Comprehenden?: You get it?

### **Chapter 20**

196 !Eres tremendo, Mateo!: You’re tremendous, Mateo!

### **Chapter 21**

Pendejadas: Stupid things, ideas

### **Chapter 22**

Que es eso?: What is that?

Los jo-keks son panquequis!: Hotcakes are pancakes

### **Chapter 25**

Ay caray!: Oh my goodness

Te voy a chingar: am going to f\*ck you up

Te amo: I love you

### **Chapter 26**

Es un viaje: It is a trip

### **Chapter 27**

Viejas feas: Ugly women

### **Chapter 28**

?Quien sabe?: Who knows

### **Chapter 29**

Viva Los Yunaites Estaites Norte Americanos: Long live US Americans

### **Chapter 34**

Quiubo: What’s up

Son beinvenidos: You are welcome here

**Chapter 36**

Vamonos: Let's go