



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# ***SOR JUANA INÉS DE LA CRUZ***

## **PART I: Overcoming Obstacles**

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions in 4-6 sentences based on the video you watched.

What obstacles did Sor Juana face on her lifelong quest for learning? How did she overcome those obstacles?

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## **PART II: In Her Own Words**

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose one of the following quotations from Sor Juana's "Respuesta a Sor Filotea." In 3-4 sentences, explain what the quotation means to you.

*"Ever since the first light of reason struck me, my inclination toward letters has been so strong and powerful that the reprimands of others—I have had many—or my own reflections—I have engaged in more than a few—have not sufficed to make me abandon this natural impulse that God placed in me."*

*"I do confess that my work has been interminable, which means I cannot say what I enviously hear others say: that they have never had a great yearning for knowledge. How fortunate for them!"*



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*"I studied all the things God created, and these were my letters, and my book was the entire mechanism of the universe. I saw nothing without reflecting on it, heard nothing without considering it, even the smallest material things, for there is no creature, no matter how low...that does not astonish the understanding, if one considers it as one should. And so, I repeat, I looked at and admired everything; as a consequence, even the people to whom I spoke, and the things they said to me, gave rise to a thousand considerations: What is the origin of the varieties of intelligence and wit, since we are all one species?"*

*"Oh, how much harm could be averted in our republic if older women were as learned as Leta and knew how to teach...! Since they do not, and given the extreme idleness in which our unfortunate women are left, if some parents wish to give their daughters more instruction than usual, necessity and the lack of learned older women obliges them to have male tutors teach their daughters how to read, write, count, play an instrument, and other skills, which results in a good amount of harm....For this reason many parents choose to leave their daughters unlettered and uneducated rather than expose them to so notable a danger as familiarity with men, which could be avoided if there were learned older women, as Saint Paul desires, and instruction would be handed down from one female to another as occurs in the teaching of needlework and other customary skills."*

de la Cruz, Sor Juana Inés. *Respuesta a Sor Filotea*. Translated by Edith Grossman, W.W. Norton, 2015.