

DOCS 4 : GROUPWORK – Doc A

Prepare an oral presentation of the document you have been assigned

Caught between two cultures, I stand,
 One foot in Borinquen¹'s golden sand,
 The other on the mainland's cold concrete land.
 My heart beats to the rhythm of the plaza,
 5 Where old men play dominoes and smoke their cigars,
 While my mind drifts in English, seeking a home,
 Translating dreams, searching for a place to belong.
 I am the taste of arroz con gandules²,
 The warmth of the sun on my brown skin,
 10 But I am also the chill of the snow,
 The rush, the bitter coffee, and the daily grind³.
 My grandmother sang lullabies in Spanish,
 Taught me to cook arroz con pollo,
 To dance under the moon, to laugh from the soul,
 15 But the world called, and here I am, torn.
 Between two flags, I struggle,
 Between the lone star and the stars and stripes,
 Searching for a home in this back-and-forth,
 In this tug-of-war of identities.
 20 Sometimes I feel torn apart,
 Like I don't belong anywhere,
 But then I remember,
 I am the bridge, the connection,
 The fusion of two worlds into one.
 25 I am Puerto Rico and I am the United States,
 I am the culture, the history, the fight,
 I am the future, the hope, the resistance,
 I am the American dream, the Puerto Rican dream.
 Between two worlds, I stand,
 30 And in that in-between, I have found my strength,
 My identity, my purpose,
 I am Boricua, I am American,
 I am the bridge, the connection,
 I am me, and that is enough.

Ismael S. Rodriguez Jr., *Between Two Worlds*, 2025

1. original name of Puerto Rico
2. traditional Puerto Rican dish with rice and beans
3. routine

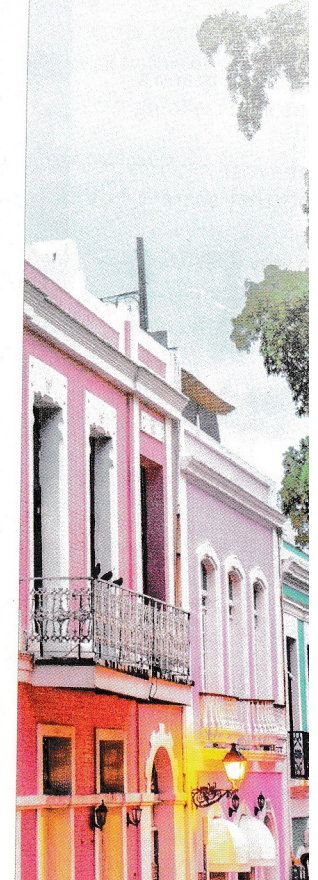


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