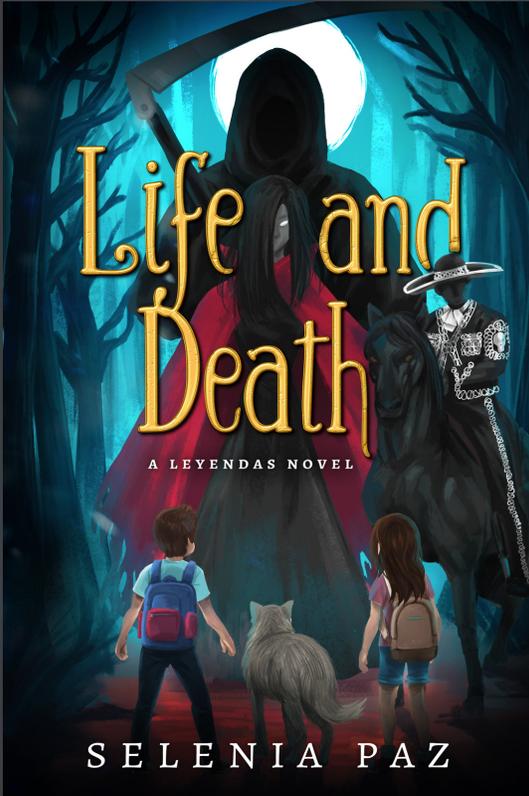
An illustration of a dark, hooded figure holding a scythe, standing in a forest. A woman in a red cape is in the foreground, and a man on a horse is to the right. Two children with backpacks and a dog are at the bottom, looking towards the figures. The background is a dark forest with a full moon.

*Leyendas Series  
Teacher's Guide*



*Snowy Wings*  
PUBLISHING

SELENIAPAZ.COM

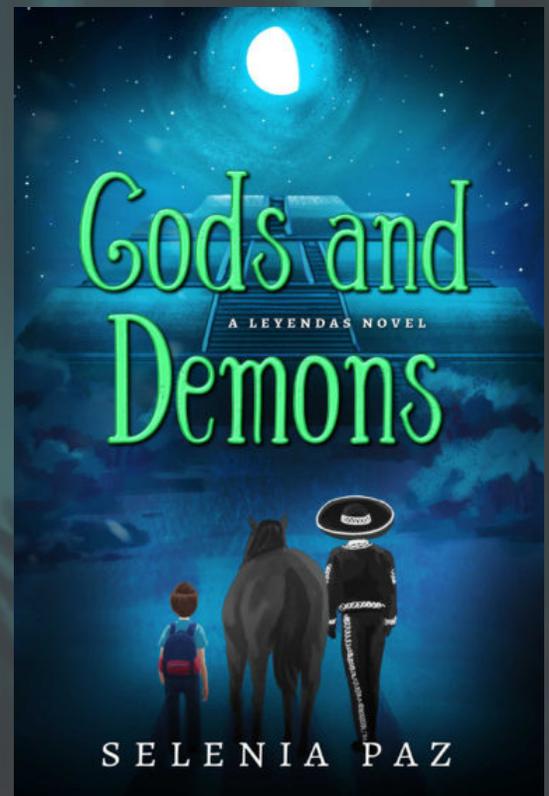


## LIFE AND DEATH

When Natalia's younger brother disappears while on a visit to Mexico, Natalia is certain that La Llorona, the mythical Weeping Woman, has taken him. Her friend Miguel agrees to accompany her back to Mexico in the hopes that it will help him deal with the recent death of his grandfather. But as they embark on a journey to search for the creature that has taken Natalia's brother, it becomes apparent that the spirits Miguel had brushed aside as mere legend are very real... and they have a dark connection to his family.

## GODS AND DEMONS

Miguel did not think he would be returning to Mexico so soon, but when El Charro appears and asks for his help in finding out who is behind the darkness that appears to be spreading, Miguel agrees. La Llorona, searching for the same truth, enlists the help of Natalia, who wants to guarantee the safety of her brother and all children like him. As they travel their separate but similar paths, the legends they come across help them to understand that there may be other forces at play—some more powerful and ancient than they could have imagined.



**BOOK 3 IN THE SERIES WILL BE  
AVAILABLE OCTOBER 2019**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Miguel grew up hearing stories from his Abuelo. Discuss the importance of these types of stories. Are there any you have heard growing up? What impact have they had on your life?
- Compare Miguel and Natalia. How do they each deal with loss?
- In *Life and Death*, there are three main supernatural characters: La Llorona, El Charro, and Death. What were your first impressions when they were introduced?
- Of all the characters included in books 1 and 2, who is your favorite and why?
- Have you ever visited any of the locations mentioned in the books? Which location would you like to visit the most?
- In many versions of the story of La Llorona, she is often described as wearing white, while in this series, she wears black with a red cloak. What do you think is the significance of this clothing?
- In the first book, Miguel and Natalia travel together, while in the second book, they make a large part of the journey separated from one another. How did this impact the story?
- What is the importance of memories in the series?
- In *Gods and Demons*, Mictlantecuhtli asks Miguel why humans are worth saving. What do you think?
- In *Life and Death*, Xolotl comments that the truth is like a shadow. Do you agree with what he says about truth?
- Compare the legends of some of the characters to their portrayals in the books. How are they different, and how are they similar?
- Sacrifice is something that happens more than once in the series. What do you think about sacrifice?
- In *Life and Death*, Death tells Miguel he sees things in black and white. Discuss what this means, and whether you agree.

# LIFE MAP



The map in *Life and Death* changes in *Gods and Demons*, with more locations added as Miguel and Natalia travel throughout Mexico. Create your own map, indicating important places that have played a significant role in your life. Add locations you would like to visit.

# PROJECT IDEAS

*Try out some of these crafts related to the series. Are there any other projects that the series has inspired you to create?*

- Create a timeline to gain a larger picture of how characters and events are related
- In *Gods and Demons*, Miguel and Natalia travel through the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon in Teotihuacan. Build a miniature model of one or both pyramids using materials such as cardboard, clay, and construction paper.
- What are some stories you heard growing up? Did your grandfather or grandmother pass down any stories to you? Write down these stories in your own *Leyendas* notebook, or create your own stories.
- In *Gods and Demons*, Natalia witnesses an almost holographic image of a plaza appear above a map. Create a small diorama of one of the locations in the series, or of a location you have visited or would like to visit.
- Create a papier-mâché sculpture of your choosing using newspaper.
- In *Gods and Demons*, Miguel and Natalia see several different delicious foods. Pick a traditional Mexican dish and try your hand at making it.
- In *Life and Death*, Miguel and Natalia travel through a forest full of luciérnagas, or fireflies, in Tlaxcala. Create a firefly jar using a clear jar and a string of lights.
- In *Life and Death*, Xolotl takes the form of an axolotl. The habitat of the axolotls is being threatened. Consider ways in which you can raise awareness and help these unique and special creatures.
- Chocolate was very special to the Aztecs., who also used cacao beans as currency. In the *Leyendas* series, chocolate is enjoyed by several of the characters. Using several different types of chocolate, have a blindfolded taste test to see if you can identify them.

# MATCHING

*Draw a line from the character to their corresponding description.*

La Llorona

dark horse who loves chocolate

El Charro

loyal dog

Mazapan

legendary vampire

Death

Aztec god; able to take many forms, including an axolotl and a dog

Conde

a canine rumored to prey on cattle and goats

Adumbral

Aztec god; plumed serpent

Tlahuelpuchi

weeping woman

Xolotl

mysterious hooded figure

Quetzalcoatl

friendly Chanéque

Chupacabra

demon horseman



# CREATE YOUR OWN CHARACTER

1. Your character is called \_\_\_\_\_
2. Their special ability is \_\_\_\_\_
3. They enjoy \_\_\_\_\_
4. Describe your character's physical characteristics:

5: Create a leyenda for your character:

