Name: _____ Date: _____

OCTAVIO PAZ



Read the biography of Octavio Paz and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

Octavio Paz (March 31, 1914 – April 19, 1998) was a Mexican poet, essayist, and diplomat who became one of the most influential literary voices of the 20th century. Born in Mexico City, Paz grew up in an intellectual and political family environment that nurtured his love of literature. He published his first collection of poems, Luna Silvestre, in 1933, at the age of 19, establishing himself as a promising young writer.

Paz's work is known for its exploration of themes such as love, identity, solitude, and the complexity of Mexican culture. His 1950 essay El laberinto de la soledad (The Labyrinth of Solitude) is considered one of the most important studies of Mexican identity, examining history, psychology, and cultural traditions. His poetry often combined modernist techniques with reflections on spirituality, politics, and the human condition.

In addition to his literary career, Paz served as a diplomat for Mexico in several countries, including France, India, and Japan. His time abroad exposed him to diverse cultures and philosophies, which deepened his writing and expanded his global influence. However, in 1968, he resigned from his diplomatic post in protest after the Mexican government's violent repression of student demonstrations at Tlatelolco.

Over his lifetime, Paz received numerous awards, the most prestigious being the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1990, making him the first Mexican writer to earn this honor. He is remembered not only as a poet but also as a thinker who bridged cultures, languages, and ideas. Octavio Paz's legacy endures as a symbol of intellectual independence and literary brilliance.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

1 What was the title of Octavio Paz's first book of poems, and how old was he when it was published?

2 How did Paz's experiences as a diplomat in countries like France, India, and Japan influence his writing?

3 Why did Octavio Paz resign from his diplomatic post in 1968, and what historical event was connected to his decision?

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