

What you liked the most about the reading group?



- **Low-Pressure Language Practice:** The library setting provides a relaxed, supportive environment to practice expressing complex thoughts in English outside of the stress of formal, graded classes.

What you liked the most about the reading group?



- **Diverse Perspectives:** Hearing how students from different majors and backgrounds interpret the same text brings fresh, unexpected insights that you might not reach when reading alone.

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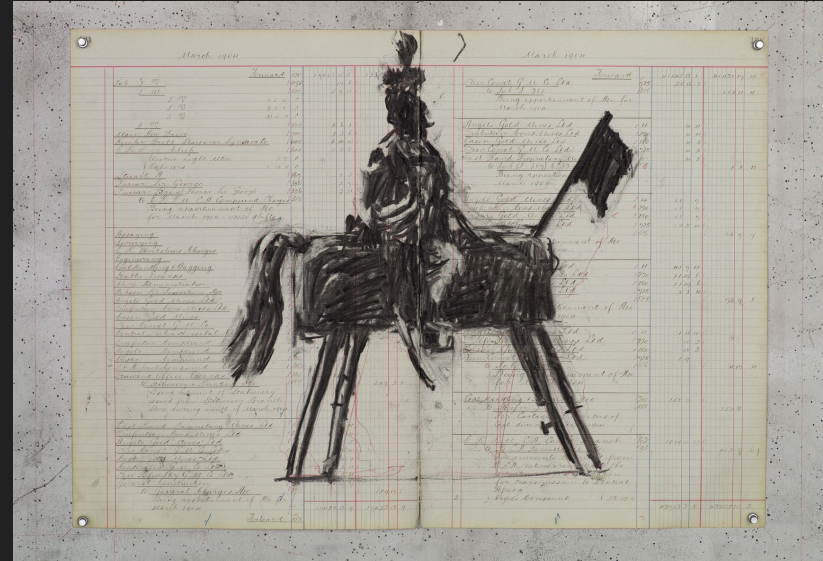


- **Exposure to New Materials:** Being introduced to authors, genres, or cultural topics that you might not have picked out for yourself, expanding both your vocabulary and worldview.

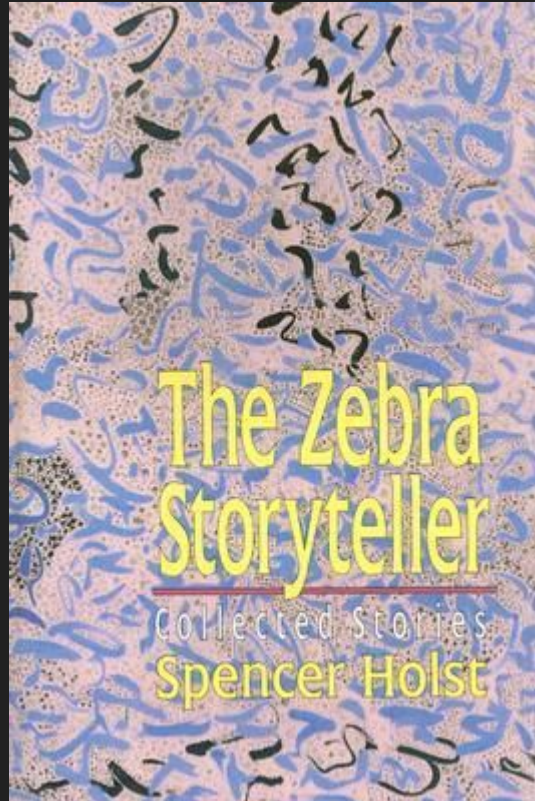
What was the short story that you liked the most?

Mexico: The voice of the enemy, by Juan Villoro

- **The creepy vibe:** I loved how the story made a totally normal, sterile apartment feel like a modern-day haunted house.
- **The psychological twist:** It was wild seeing the main character go from casually spying on the city to getting completely obsessed and trapped by one single voice.
- **The feeling of isolation:** It really nailed the irony of city life—watching millions of people through technology, yet still being completely alone.



What is the main takeaway of the experience?



What you liked the most about the reading group?

- open and thoughtful discussion atmosphere
- explore different cultures through literature



What was the short story that you liked the most?

The Voice of the Enemy

magical realism

- easy to get into the magical imagination through the description of scene and sounds.
- How a person, in a state of isolation, is gradually consumed by voices, fantasies, and emotions.

The Voice of the Enemy

“WHEN MEXICO CITY still existed I wore a beautiful yellow helmet. I listened to telephone conversations on top of a pole. The sky was a morning of cables; the electricity vibrated, wrapped in soft plastics. From time to time a thick blue spark fell to the street. That moment justified my being on the pole. “



The Voice of the Enemy

“In front, there was a movie theater with a cardboard castle rising above the marquee.

In back, a building was switching on red lights to protect it from **planes**. Their engines were **making a noise**, but it was impossible to see them in the **thick** sky. “



The Voice of the Enemy

How a person, in a state of isolation, is gradually consumed by voices, fantasies, and emotions.

"between trumpets and bugles, loyal troops would **talk on the cables**; then a **bomb, the grating voice** of another militia. "

"The woman was talking as if she were trying to hide; **in a soft tone, frightened**, she said "birdseed," "brightness," "magnolia," "broken balcony." "

"I couldn't report her. Slowly, terrified, and with precise cruelty, I understood how **wonderful** the enemy's voice was. "

What is the main takeaway of the experience?

- exchange of different perspectives
- Different cultures focus on different topics, and the importance of each topic also varies across cultures.

