

## Un viaje a la literatura. Confesiones de un lector (A Journey to Literature. Confessions of a Reader)

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### LECTORES

Un escritor en el siglo XIX escribe que una ballena blanca surca un océano y un lector en el siglo XXI oye el malévolos ruidos que su cuerpo despiden sobre las aguas. Un poeta de la Antigüedad describe a un padre arrodillado frente al asesino de su hijo y un lector contemporáneo siente el calor de sus labios besando las manos homicidas. El territorio de la

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<sup>1</sup> **Alonso Cueto** (born 1954, in Lima, Peru) is an acclaimed Peruvian novelist, short-story writer, playwright and essayist. At present he is a full Professor of The Literature and Linguistics Department of the Catholic University of Peru (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú). Ph.D. from the University of Texas (1984, doctoral thesis on Juan Carlos Onetti). Since 2009 he is a member of Academia Peruana de Lengua; his writings have been awarded various literary prizes and distinctions. His novel *El tigre blanco* (*The White Tiger*), published in 1985 was awarded the Premio Wiracocha (Peru). His novel *Grandes miradas* (2003) was adapted into a movie, entitled *Mariposa negra*, by the director Francisco Lombardi, in 2006. Cueto's novel *La hora azul* (*The Blue Hour*) won the Herralde Prize (Spain) in 2006, and his following book, *El susurro de la mujer ballena* was a runner-up for the prestigious Premio Iberoamericano Planeta, Casa de América. In 200 he was awarded the Anna Seghers Prize (Germany) for his body of work; in 2002 he received a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation grant. Volumes of short fiction: *La batalla del pasado* (1983), *Los vestidos de una dama* (1987), *Amores de invierno* (1994), *Cinco para las nueve y otros cuentos* (1996), *Pálido cielo* (1998). Volumes of essays and interviews: *Mario Vargas Llosa. La vida en movimiento* (2003), *Valses, rajes y cortejos* (2005), *Sueños reales* (2008), *La piel de un escritor. Contar, escribir y leer historias* (2014). His work has been translated into more than 15 languages. Cueto's novel *La viajera del viento* (*Voyager of the Wind*, 2016), along with *The Blue Hour* and *La pasajera* (2015) form a trilogy around violence in recent Peruvian history. His most recent novels are *La segunda amante del rey* (2017), *La Perricholi* (2019), *Otras caricias* (2020). In 2019 he was awarded Juan Goytisolo Prize for his novel *Palabras de otro lado*. Address correspondence to: Alonso Cueto; e-mail: [alcue6@gmail.com](mailto:alcue6@gmail.com).