

The God Stealer by F. Sionil Jose

Subject: **Philippine Literature in English**
Sats (3:00-6:00 PM)

I. Background:

Author:

Francisco Sionil Jose has been called a Philippine national treasure. Born on December 4, 1924 in Rosales, Philippines, he was introduced to literature in public school and later at the University of Santo Tomas. While working as a journalist in Manila, he moonlighted writing short stories and eventually novels. In the late fifties Jose founded the Philippine branch of PEN, an international organization of poets, playwrights, and novelists. In 1965 he started his own publishing house SOLIDARIDAD, and a year later he began publishing the remarkable *Solidarity*, a journal of current affairs, ideas, and arts, still going strong today. Jose wrote in English rather than in his national language Tagalog, or his native language Ilocano. In 1962 he published his first novel *The Pretenders*. Today his **publications** include ten novels, five books of short stories, and a book of verse. His works are available in 24 languages and Random House has recently published some in North America. He has been awarded numerous fellowships and awards, most notable being the 1980 *Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts*, the most prestigious award of its kind in Asia.

Jose lives and works in Manila where with his wife Teresita and a faithful staff he still runs the Solidaridad Publishing House and the Solidarity Bookstore, still considered the best little bookstore in Asia. On occasion he leaves Manila for Japan, US, or Europe, where he finds the peace to write or teach.

In July of 1999, Frankie Jose and Teresita celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!

Random House has recently published *Three Filipino Women*, *Sins*, *Dusk* (Po-on), and *Don Vicente* (*My Brother My Executioner*, and *Tree*) in North America. The last two are in the Modern Library Editions, with the remaining of the five volume Rosales saga to follow.

In June of 2001, Jose was awarded the prestigious title of Philippine's **National Artist for Literature** in an official ceremony at Malacañang.

In March 2002's issue of the *Discovery* magazine, Jose's book *Ermita* was rated as one of the top ten English-language novels set in Southeast Asia, along side Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," Graham Greene's "The Quiet American," James Clavell's "King Rat," and others.

Works of Francisco Sionil Jose

Updated on November 17, 2002

Short Stories

- **The God Stealer and Other Stories**. Quezon City: R.P. Garcia Publishing Co., 1968; Bratislava, 1983.
- **Waywaya, Eleven Filipino Short Stories**. Hong Kong: Heinemann Asia, 1980; London, 1980; Manila, 1985.
- **Platinum, Ten Filipino Stories**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1983.
- **Olvidon and Other Short Stories**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1988.
- **Puppy Love**, Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1999.

Novels and Novellas (The five Rosales Saga novels in green)

- **Po-on**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1984; Jakarta, 1988; Lisbon, 1990.
- **Tree**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1973; Moscow, 1983.
- **My Brother, My Executioner** (Quezon City) New Day Publishers, 1979; Moscow, 1983; Hanoi, 1989.
- **The Pretenders**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1962; Moscow (Russian, Latvian, Ukrainian), 1971; Jakarta, 1979; Amsterdam, 1980; Prague, 1981; Tokyo, 1983.
- **Mass**. Amsterdam, 1982; Manila, 1983; Sydney / London, 1984; Stockholm, 1986; Jakarta (Kompas), 1987; Taipei, 1988; Kuala Lumpur, 1988; Copenhagen, 1989; Bonn, 1990; Tokyo, 1991; Seoul, 1993.
- **Two Filipino Women**. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1981; Bangkok, 1984.
- **Ermita**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1988; Kuala Lumpur, 1993.
- **Gagamba**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1991.
- **Viajero**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1993.
- **Three Filipino Women**. New York: Random House, 1992.
- **Sin**. Manila: Solidaridad Publishing House, 1994.
- **Sins**. Random House, New York, May 1996.
- **Dusk**. (Po-on retitled) Random House, New York, 1998

Don Vincenete. (Tree and My Brother, My Executioner) Random House, New York, 1999

Times & Milieu: Post War Period

Trends & Mov't: Realism

II. Summary