In Johnston McCulley’s *The Mark of Zorro*, Zorro describes himself as a “defender of the oppressed” (6). He believes that the politicians and officers of the law in Spanish California are corrupt, mistreating those of lower rank than their own for their own benefit. Their mistreatment usually takes the form of swindling frailles and natives out of goods and money and sometimes punishing men who have committed no crime. Zorro believes that justice is the ideal of treating all people equally, regardless of their rank in society. Therefore, he finds the dishonesty of high-ranking officials to be unjust because these men are using their political power to exploit defenseless citizens; the citizens are being denied equal treatment. In order to return a sense of justice to the people, Zorro takes it upon himself to punish those guilty of wrongdoing in a manner equal to the severity of their crimes.