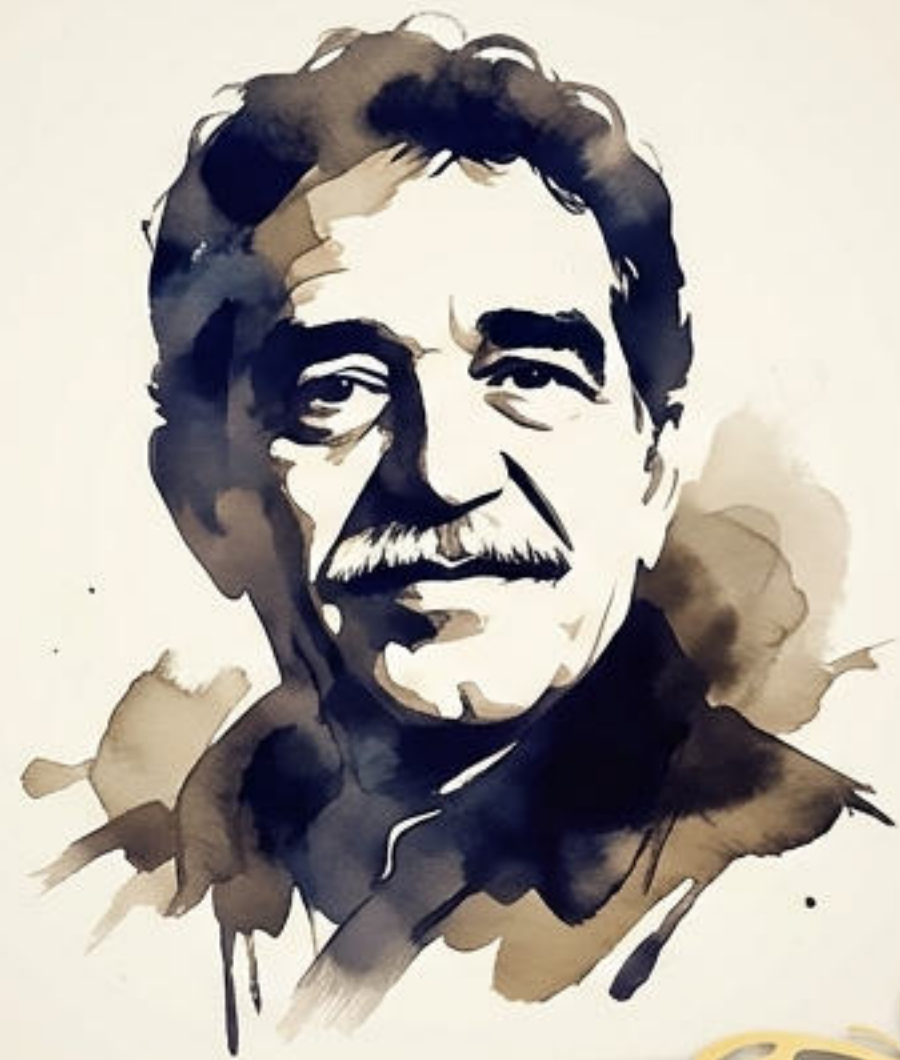




# 100 Years of Solitude

A Journey into  
Magical Realism

Exploring the history, magic, and themes  
of Colombia's greatest novel.



## Quick Facts

- **Author:** Gabriel Garcia Marquez (A famous Colombian writer).
- **The Book:** One Hundred Years of Solitude (Published in 1967).
- **The Setting:** Macondo, a fictional town built deep in the jungle.
- **The Story:** Follows 7 generations of the Buendia family through love, war, and magic.



# Part 1: What is Magical Realism?



Everyday Reality



Impossible Magic



# Magical Realism

A style of storytelling where magical and strange things happen in a normal, everyday setting—and nobody acts surprised! It teaches us to look at reality in a new, alternative way.



## The Event

A girl floats up into the sky and disappears.

A rainstorm of yellow flowers falls from the sky.

## How Characters React

Viewed as completely normal weather.  
Nobody cares!



Going to the local cinema to watch a movie.

Viewed as terrifying and strange! (Why do dead actors reappear in other films?)

*Rule of Macondo: The magic is boring, and the normal is terrifying.*

## A Mini-Story: A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings



1. After a storm, a family finds an angel in the mud.



2. Do they worship him? No! They put him in a chicken coop and charge people money to see him.



3. When he finally flies away, the family is just annoyed by the mess he left behind.

**The magical is treated like a boring, everyday annoyance!**



1920S

COLOMBIAN

# Part 2: The Real History Behind the Magic

1920S

Poste  
1920

Poste  
1920



A. Garcia

Tirame & p  
de la V. D

L'art de  
par j... de la...  
C'est pour...

Le...  
ci... de...  
que las...

## Real Life (Colombia, 1928)



Workers for a foreign fruit company went on strike in the town of Cienaga to demand fair pay. The government sent soldiers. Many workers were killed, and the event was hidden from history.

The town in the book completely forgets the massacre. The author uses magic to show how countries sometimes try to erase their painful history.

## In the Novel (Macondo)



Banana company workers go on strike. Soldiers block the streets and thousands are killed. Their bodies are taken away on secret trains, and the sole survivor is completely ignored.

# The Cycle of Time



- **Time is a Circle:** In the book, time does not move in a straight line.
- **Repeating Mistakes:** The 7 generations of the Buendia family have the same names, make the same mistakes, and meet the same tragic ends.
- **The Metaphor:** The author uses this circular time to show how Latin American history often repeats itself with endless cycles of war and peace.



## Solitude

**Being Alone.**  
Even though they live together in a big house, the characters feel deeply isolated, lonely, and trapped in their own minds.



## Love & Passion

**Joy & Destruction.**  
Love is a powerful force in Macondo, but it often brings both intense joy and tragic destruction.



## Political Corruption

**Endless War.**  
The story shows the damage caused by bad leaders. (Example: Colonel Aureliano Buendia fights 32 civil wars and loses all of them).



**Time to Review! Comprehension  
Check: What did you learn?**

[ ]

**Magical Realism is a style where impossible things happen but are treated as completely normal. (True / False)**

[ ]

**100 Years of Solitude takes place in the real capital city of Bogota. (True / False)**

[ ]

**The Banana Massacre in the book was based on a real event in Colombia in 1928. (True / False)**

[ ]

**In the story, time moves in a perfectly straight line from start to finish. (True / False)**

# Talk About It!



**Why do you think the characters in Macondo are terrified of the cinema, but not afraid of a magical rainstorm of yellow flowers?**

**How does the story of the Old Man with Enormous Wings perfectly show the formula of Magical Realism?**

**Why might an author use magic to write about serious, painful historical events?**

Secret Decoder

## Answer Key

1. **True.** (Everyday Reality + Impossible Magic).
2. **False.** (It takes place in the fictional town of Macondo).
3. **True.** (Based on the tragic United Fruit Company strike).
4. **False.** (Time loops in a repeating circle!).

Keep exploring the  
magic of reading.