One Hundred Years of Solitude is the most epic novel we will read this year. So, it is not surprising there are a number of different tangents with which to take with our study of this novel. Below is a list of things to consider from our reading today. Can you elaborate on any of the items of this list or what can you add to this list?

1. **Macondo** = the “city of mirrors” founded on a prophetic vision (in summary, a utopia as described on page 19.

2. Is there any significance of the song of the birds in the midst of the “drowsiness of the swamp” (9)? Consider the mythological references of the narrative ranging from the Biblical feel of the narrative descriptions to direct allusions to the Greek sirens on page 10. Do these references allude to themes of seduction to deviate from the right path?

3. **Jose Arcadio Buendia** = the inverse of an archetypical hero. Consider: “The spirit of social initiative disappeared in a short time…” after willfully disregarding Melquadies warning. A reference to Rip Van Winkle is made in connection to Jose Arcadio on pgs. 9-10. Moreover, the narrator warns on page 11, “The main thing is not to lose our bearings.”

4. Does Marquez invite a **post-colonial critique** on this novel by having his narrator reference Sir Francis Drake and the shipwrecked Spanish galleon on pg. 12?

5. Consider the repetition of the subordinate clause. “Many years later…” as a prefacing qualifier distinguishing the elder Aureliano Buendia from the child Aureliano in Chapter 1.

6. Consider a **Feminist reading** of the novel: To what extent does the peninsular description of the location for Macando a signifier of the village’s patriarchal nature. What does it say that the matriarch of the town and the Buendia clan, Ursula Iguaran, the one holding things together?