Reflect on Ursula’s observation that “[i]t’s as if the world were repeating itself” in the context of the novel’s references to whitewashing (for example, Rebeca, who would eat the whitewashed walls in her childhood earlier in the novel) and the washing away of memory (for example, the torrential rains that clears away the evidence of the banana massacre).

In this context, is the Buendia family’s, and by extension Macado’s, spiral into disrepair, dysfunction, and ultimately destruction an inevitable outcome of fate or is the plunge into oblivion willful?