

The Interactive Oral for *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel Garcia Márquez

According to an adaptation of the Wikipedia entry in regards to this novel, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is the story of seven generations of the Buendía Family in the town of Macondo. The founding patriarch of Macondo, José Arcadio Buendía and his wife (and first cousin) Úrsula Iguarán, leave Riohacha, Colombia, to find a better life and a new home. One night of their emigration journey, while camping on a riverbank, José Arcadio Buendía dreams of "Macondo", a city of mirrors that reflected the world in and about it. Upon awakening, he decides to found Macondo at the river side.

José Arcadio Buendía believes Macondo to be surrounded by water, and from that island, he invents the world according to *his* perceptions. Soon after its foundation, Macondo becomes a town frequented by unusual and extraordinary events that involve the generations of the Buendía family, who are unable or unwilling to escape their periodic (mostly self-inflicted) misfortunes.

The widely acclaimed book, considered by many to be the author's masterpiece, was first published in Spanish in 1967, and subsequently has been translated into thirty-seven languages and has sold more than 30 million copies. Since its publication *One Hundred Years of Solitude* has been recognized as a central representative novel of Latin America.

Students need to understand the significance of the following research and presentation topics:

1. Research and discuss the biography of the author, Gabriel Garcia Márquez.
2. While **magical realist** stories from around the world can vary greatly in tone, context and content, they share some common elements. Research and discuss **Magical Realism** and how magical realist narratives differ from other kinds of imaginative writing.
3. Research and discuss the *Cuban Vanguardia* literary movement and its influence upon the development of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.
4. Research and discuss the literary **Latin American Boom** of the 1960s and 1970s.
5. In several of García Márquez's works, including *No One Writes to the Colonel*, *Evil Hour*, and *Leaf Storm*, he references *la violencia* (the violence). Report on this idea of *la violencia*.
6. In *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Márquez writes with irony and ridicule that in the city of Riohacha, Sir Francis Drake had been "crocodile hunting with cannons and that he repaired them and stuffed them with straw to bring to Queen Elizabeth" (p 19). Research and discuss the significance of Drake's history and reputation in Latin America in order to explain the significance of the narrative quote.
7. Research and discuss the *Matanza de las bananeras* (aka, *Masacre de las bananera*).
8. An important theme in many of García Márquez's work is the setting of the village Macondo. He uses his home town of Aracataca, Colombia, as a geographical reference to create this imaginary town. Research and discuss all pertinent historical and geographical information of the physical town of Aracataca, Columbia.
9. However, the representation of the village Macondo is not limited to the specific area around the real-world town of Aracataca. García Márquez has stated, "Macondo is not so much a place as a state of mind." Discuss what this may imply in general and the implications of this idea in understanding Macondo as it is depicted in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.
10. Language and its use play a vital role in the development of the plot and the theme of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, specifically the Guajiro dialect. Research and discuss the Guajiro dialect and its significance to the novel.

The group of students assigned to conduct the Interactive Oral for *One Hundred Years of Solitude* must assign responsibilities and report to me by ASAP.

Each student is responsible for conducting a brief presentation in response to his or her assigned prompt, followed by facilitating a class discussion in response to the information or analysis he or she presented. Each student should conduct a total of 10 minutes for interactive oral presentation.

ALL students in class will write a reflection for each Interactive Oral Presentation, so not only do you need to fully participate, you need to keep notes on all information and analysis covered in these presentations/seminars on your Major Works Data Sheet.