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Sleight of Hand

Samuel Aguilera-Robledo

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Sleight of Hand

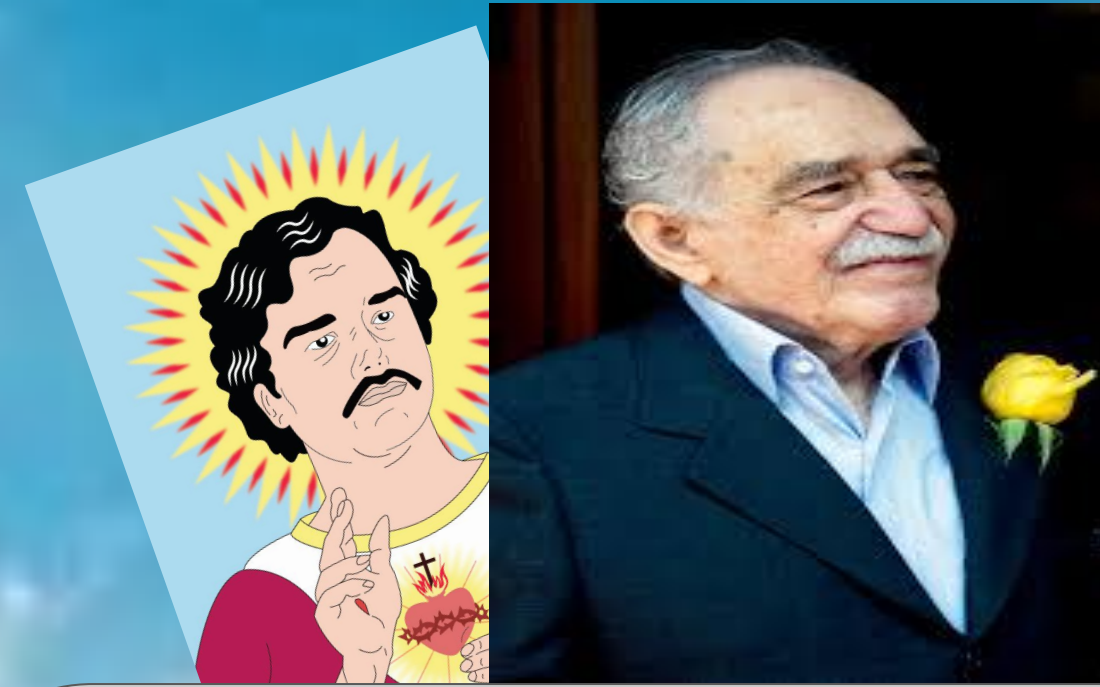
Samuel Aguilera-Robledo

Nebraska College Preparatory Academy

Grand Island Senior High 2020

University of Nebraska Lincoln

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100 Years of Solitude By Gabriel Garcia Marquez:

Marquez's story follows the Buendia family as they found a town called Macondo. Macondo ends up being extremely isolated from the rest of Colombia, and because of this the Buendia family falls prey to the many issues that come with isolation. In the end isolation is to blame for the destruction of the entire Buendia bloodline along with Macondo.

The Similarities:

- Both books tell the stories they need to tell by using the Magical Realism Genre.
- One of the main themes/antagonists in both books is isolation, and both authors warn of the dangers it brings.
- Both books feature a matriarch figure who works diligently to keep the families and the homes together.

Social Context:

- Marquez's book is deeply rooted in the long and bloody history of Colombia, and thus much of the story follows this history.
- Allende's book is similarly rooted in the violent history of Chile, but Allende's book follows the country's history much closer.
- The magical realism genre, though not created in Latin America, is a very fitting genre for the books that follows the story telling techniques of the Latin American people.

Thesis:

Both authors manage to tell the troubled stories of their countries with Garcia Marquez's book serving as more of a reflection and a warning against the dangers of isolation; while Allende's book focuses more on the issues that women face in a seemingly isolated world.

Magical Realism?

Latin America is filled with stories to be told, and the culture of storytelling that comes from this place lends itself well to the magical realism genre. But what is Magical realism? Magical realism exists in a weird middle ground where the fantastic exists alongside the real and neither makes the other any less believable. In Garcia Marquez's book the magical takes form of many elements such as yellow flower rain, floating priests. In Allende's book the magical takes the form of the spirits that Clara is in constant communication with.

Conclusion:

Both authors put forth their message through magical realism, and through this they presented their history and their reality. With oppressive governments that often tried to hide the truth; Allende and Garcia Marquez utilized magical realism to mask their messages and keep their fights alive.

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The House of the Spirits By Isabel Allende:

Allende's Story follows the Treuba family, more specifically the Treuba women, as they live through the autocratic history of Chile. The Treuba women face many issues that are partly caused by isolation. Then when a truly autocratic government takes hold of Chile the remnants of the Treuba family find a way to battle isolation through literature.

The Differences:

- The main differences in the books comes from the stories treatment of the female characters.
- In Allende's book the main matriarchal figure manages to break the chain of isolation that the women struggle with; in Garcia Marquez's book the main matriarchal figure fails is mostly helpless to break the chain.
- Garcia Marquez's book features more of the magical elements, but the story has a moregrim ending. Allende's book has less of the magical elements but it features a more hopeful ending.

Comparison of the Matriarchs, Clara Treuba, and Ursula Iguaran:

- Ursula and Clara are the ones who manage and keep the families together.
- Ursula and Clara both raise the future generations of their families and they are the wisest in the families.
- Ursula is a very strong character but her abilities are mostly relegated to the home, and her power is not enough to save the family.
- Clara's influence often times extends beyond the home, and it is her writings and teachings that end up saving the family.