

Name: _____ Date: _____ Magical Realism in Latin American Literature

Zoom in, Zoom Out Exemplar and Practice

Exemplar Analysis

In "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World" by Gabriel García Márquez, the drowned man symbolizes hope and imagination, which Márquez reveals through his descriptions of the village before and after the villagers encounter him. Before the drowned man arrives, the village is depicted as bleak and lacking imagination. Márquez describes it as consisting of "twenty-odd wooden houses that had stone courtyards with no flowers and which were spread about on the end of a desertlike cape" (248). The phrase "stone courtyards with no flowers" suggests a stark, lifeless environment, while the houses being "spread about" on a "desertlike cape" reinforces the sense that the village is barren and isolated. [Together, these details suggest that the villagers have accepted a dull, unchanging way of life with little beauty or possibility.]

1. What is the writer's claim?
2. Reread the underlined portion of the analysis: What words or phrases does the writer focus on, and what do they say about these words?
3. Reread the bracketed portion of the analysis: How does the writer connect the evidence back to the claim?

Practice

The villagers decide to "paint their house fronts gay colors to make Esteban's memory eternal" and plant "flowers on the cliffs so that in future years at dawn the passengers on great liners would awaken, suffocated by the smell of gardens on the high seas" (253).

- Zoom in:

- Zoom out: