

Gabriel García Márquez and Magical Realism

by ReadWorks



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There are many kinds of writing, or genres. One genre of writing is fiction. This kind of writing tells stories that did not really happen. There are different kinds of fiction, too. One kind of fiction is called magical realism. Stories in this genre are partly realistic. That means they seem like real life. But they also have parts that seem unrealistic. Those parts can even be magical.

Gabriel García Márquez was an author from Colombia. He wrote stories in this genre. He was one of the first authors to get many people to read magical realism. His stories were mostly based on people and places in Latin America. And he wrote in Spanish. But his writing has been translated into many languages. People around the world read his stories!

García Márquez used the real things around him in his stories. For example, his grandfather was once a leader in the army. And so was a main character in one of his books! Also, that same book is set in a small, made-up town. But the town is like the place where García

Márquez grew up.

García Márquez also used Latin American history in his stories. He lived through a very violent time in his country's history. Many people died during this time. And many of García Márquez's stories are set during this time.

García Márquez added magical and fantastic parts to the realistic parts of his stories. In one book, the sky rains tiny yellow flowers. People catch a plague of sleeplessness. And a storm lasts for five years!

In 1982, García Márquez won an important prize for his writing. The prize honored him for his stories that mixed real and fantastic things. Today, people think of him as a great writer of magical realism.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What was the genre of the stories that Gabriel García Márquez wrote?

- A. biography
- B. historical fiction
- C. science fiction
- D. magical realism

2. How does this text describe García Márquez's writing?

- A. It describes his writing as mostly realistic.
- B. It describes his writing as combining the real with the fantastic.
- C. It describes his writing as difficult to read.
- D. It describes his writing as completely magical.

3. García Márquez brought the genre of magical realism to a huge audience. What evidence from the text supports this statement?

- A. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982 for his stories.
- B. His writing has been translated into many languages and read around the world.
- C. His fiction was mostly based on people and places in Latin America.
- D. He was an author from Colombia who wrote in Spanish.

4. What is an example of something fantastic or magical that García Márquez included in his stories?

- A. The main character in one book was a colonel in the army.
- B. In one of his books, tiny yellow flowers rain down from the sky.
- C. The setting of a book is in a fictional town like where García Márquez grew up.
- D. Many of García Márquez's stories are set during a violent time.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. The author Gabriel García Márquez combined pieces of real life with fantasy to create stories in the genre of magical realism.
- B. One of the first authors to bring magical realism to a huge audience was an author from Colombia named Gabriel García Márquez.
- C. Magical realism is a genre of fiction writing in which realistic stories are combined with fantasy.
- D. Some of Gabriel García Márquez's books are inspired by the history of Latin America and a violent time that happened in Colombia.