



Chronicle of a Death Foretold

THEME/MOTIF JIGSAW ACTIVITY

Background Info

- ▶ Published in 1981
 - ▶ First book written after Marquez's 5 year hiatus, in which he vowed not to publish anything as long as Chilean dictator Pinochet was in power
- ▶ Based on an actual murder that took place in 1951
 - ▶ Victim was Cayetano Gentile Chimento, Marquez's childhood friend
 - ▶ While the story is fictional, Marquez insists that the circumstances are true

Society and Gender

- ▶ Analysis of gender and the social norms surrounding it.
- ▶ Includes:
 - ▶ Gender roles
 - ▶ Masculinity
 - ▶ Virginity

Religion and Law

- ▶ Analysis of religion and its affect on moral values.
- ▶ Includes:
 - ▶ The role of the bishop
 - ▶ The definition of innocence
 - ▶ Christ parallels to characters within the narrative

Social Class

- ▶ Analysis of how social class affects character interactions, and the overall expectation of certain attitudes and behaviors.
- ▶ Includes:
 - ▶ Examination of social disparity between characters
 - ▶ Angela vs. Bayardo's social classes—what role do they play?
 - ▶ The influence of wealth on both...
 - ▶ Happiness
 - ▶ Morality

Questions to answer/analyze

Gender

What are the gender roles characters are supposed to fill?

How much power does each gender have over their realm?
(Ex: power in the household vs power in society)

How does virginity play into their lives?

What role does masculinity play in the novel?

Religion & Law

What is the bishop's role in the book?

Can religion justify morality?

Is anyone in the town truly moral according to Christianity?
Ex: Everyone being okay with Santiago being killed goes against the religion

Does any one character besides the bishop truly live by Christian ideas?

Is the entire town's religiousness superficial?

Morality

Does morality exist separately from religion?

Are the Vicario brothers innocent or guilty?

Is murder ever okay?

How can the Vicario brothers think they are innocent, even though their religion claims that one must not kill?

Is innocence only a social construct?

Are there any truly innocent characters in the book?

Social Class

- ▶ Discuss Angela's class versus Bayardo's and how it influences them
- ▶ How does wealth influence morality?
- ▶ Is there a correlation between wealth and happiness?

Love

- ▶ Examine the role of love in the plot
- ▶ Does Bayardo and Angela's love grow by the end of the novel?
- ▶ Is love a choice?
- ▶ Are arranged marriages ethical?

Assignment

- ▶ Find 5 quotes within your theme to answer some of the questions in the previous slides.
- ▶ Per quote, explain how it is relevant to your theme.
- ▶ Be prepared to share the quotes you find and explanations of their relevance with your group next class. Your group will then share the information with the rest of the class.