

one of these days by gabriel garcia marquez answer key

one of these days by gabriel garcia marquez answer key is an essential resource for students, educators, and literature enthusiasts seeking a thorough understanding of this notable short story. This answer key provides detailed explanations of the story's themes, characters, and literary devices, enhancing comprehension and critical analysis. Gabriel Garcia Marquez's work is renowned for its rich narrative style and symbolic depth, and "One of These Days" is no exception. The story delves into themes of power, justice, and human dignity, set against a backdrop of political tension. This article will explore the plot summary, character analysis, thematic elements, and discussion questions, facilitating a complete grasp of the story. Additionally, it will offer insights into the story's historical context and its relevance in literary studies. The following table of contents outlines the main sections covered in this comprehensive answer key.

- Plot Summary of One of These Days
- Main Characters and Their Roles
- Themes and Symbolism
- Literary Devices in One of These Days
- Historical and Political Context
- Discussion Questions and Answers

Plot Summary of One of These Days

The story "One of These Days" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez centers on a tense encounter between a dentist and the town's mayor, who is both corrupt and abusive. The narrative unfolds in a small, unnamed town where the dentist, Aurelio Escovar, is confronted by the mayor, who demands urgent dental treatment for a severe toothache. The story highlights the strained relationship between the two men, reflecting broader social and political conflicts. The dentist, initially reluctant, eventually agrees to treat the mayor's infected tooth, emphasizing themes of justice and retribution through his actions. The plot is succinct but powerful, culminating in a brief yet significant exchange that reveals the underlying power dynamics and moral stance of the protagonist.

Main Characters and Their Roles

Understanding the characters in "One of These Days" is crucial for interpreting the story's message and the social commentary embedded within. Gabriel Garcia Marquez crafts characters that symbolize larger societal forces.

Aurelio Escovar (The Dentist)

Aurelio Escovar is the protagonist, a humble, determined dentist who operates a modest clinic. He is depicted as principled and unyielding, refusing to bow to the mayor's intimidation. His role symbolizes resistance against corruption and abuse of power. Despite his profession, he is not merely a healer but also a figure of moral strength.

The Mayor

The mayor represents authority and corruption. He is portrayed as ruthless and vindictive, reflecting the oppressive political environment. His toothache serves as a metaphor for the town's larger ailments caused by his leadership. The mayor's interaction with the dentist reveals his vulnerability, yet his arrogance remains evident.

Supporting Elements

While the story focuses mainly on these two characters, the setting and implied townspeople contribute to the tense atmosphere, symbolizing the broader community affected by political oppression and social injustice.

Themes and Symbolism

Gabriel Garcia Marquez infuses "One of These Days" with multiple themes and symbols that enhance the story's depth and provoke critical thought.

Power and Corruption

The story explores the corrupting influence of power and the resistance against it. The mayor's authority is challenged by the dentist's quiet defiance, highlighting the conflict between tyranny and integrity.

Justice and Retribution

Justice is a central theme, portrayed through the dentist's refusal to

capitulate to the mayor's demands. The act of pulling the infected tooth without anesthesia symbolizes a form of retribution, a subtle yet potent assertion of moral justice.

Human Dignity

The story underscores the importance of human dignity, even under oppressive circumstances. The dentist's unwavering stance emphasizes respect for oneself and one's principles, contrasting with the mayor's degrading behavior.

Symbolism in the Tooth and the Dentist's Actions

- **The infected tooth:** Represents the corruption and decay within the political system.
- **The dentist's tools:** Symbolize the power of truth and healing, used here as instruments of justice.
- **Absence of anesthesia:** Highlights the pain caused by oppression and the cost of standing up against it.

Literary Devices in One of These Days

Marquez's narrative style in "One of These Days" employs several literary devices that enrich the story's meaning and impact.

Irony

The story is steeped in irony, particularly situational irony, where the powerful mayor is subjected to the pain and authority of the humble dentist. This reversal underscores the theme of power dynamics.

Symbolism

Symbolism is used extensively, with the tooth and dental procedure representing broader societal issues. Each element carries metaphorical weight that deepens the reader's understanding.

Minimalism and Economy of Language

Marquez uses concise language and a minimalist approach, which enhances the

tension and focuses attention on the characters' actions and dialogue. This style allows the story's themes to emerge powerfully without superfluous detail.

Dialogue

The dialogue between the dentist and the mayor is charged with subtext, revealing underlying conflicts and emotions through what is said and left unsaid.

Historical and Political Context

Contextualizing "One of These Days" within its historical and political background enriches the interpretation of its themes and characters.

Latin American Political Climate

The story reflects the atmosphere of authoritarian regimes and political unrest prevalent in many Latin American countries during the mid-20th century. Marquez critiques corruption, abuse of power, and social inequality through his narrative.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez's Political Views

As a writer known for his political awareness and activism, Marquez uses this story to highlight the struggles against dictatorial governments and the importance of individual courage in the face of oppression.

Universal Relevance

Though rooted in Latin American context, the story's themes resonate universally, addressing issues of power, justice, and human rights that transcend time and geography.

Discussion Questions and Answers

To facilitate deeper engagement with "One of These Days," the following discussion questions and answers provide critical insights and encourage analytical thinking.

1.

What does the dentist's refusal to use anesthesia signify in the story?

The refusal to use anesthesia symbolizes the dentist's assertion of power and justice. It is a deliberate act to make the mayor experience pain, reflecting the consequences of his own abuses and the moral reckoning he must face.

2.

How does the story portray the relationship between the individual and authority?

The story portrays a tense and adversarial relationship, where the individual, represented by the dentist, resists the oppressive authority of the mayor. This dynamic highlights themes of defiance and personal integrity against corrupt power.

3.

In what ways does the story use symbolism to convey its message?

Symbolism is used in various elements such as the infected tooth, which represents the corruption within society, and the dental procedure, which symbolizes the painful process of confronting and addressing injustice.

4.

What role does the setting play in the story?

The setting of a small town under a corrupt regime creates a backdrop that intensifies the story's themes. It reflects a microcosm of broader social and political issues, emphasizing the pervasiveness of oppression.

5.

Why is the story's ending significant?

The ending, with the mayor's acknowledgment of pain and the dentist's calm authority, signifies a moment of moral victory and the potential for change, even if subtle and symbolic.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'One of These Days' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez?

The main theme is the abuse of power and social injustice, highlighting the conflict between the corrupt mayor and the humble dentist.

Who are the two main characters in 'One of These Days'?

The two main characters are the dentist, Aurelio Escovar, and the mayor, who is portrayed as a corrupt official.

Why does the mayor visit the dentist in 'One of These Days'?

The mayor visits the dentist to have a painful tooth extraction, despite their hostile relationship.

How does the dentist react to the mayor's request for dental treatment?

The dentist is reluctant and uses the opportunity to assert his dignity by saying he doesn't have a drill, implying the mayor must endure some pain.

What does the dentist's statement 'One of these days, I'm going to pull your teeth, too' signify?

It signifies a quiet threat and a call for justice, indicating the dentist's resentment toward the mayor's corruption.

What is the significance of the setting in 'One of These Days'?

The setting in a small town enhances the story's focus on social class disparity and the power dynamics between the ruler and the common people.

How does Gabriel Garcia Marquez use symbolism in 'One of These Days'?

The tooth extraction symbolizes the painful but necessary removal of corruption and tyranny represented by the mayor.

What literary style is 'One of These Days' written in?

'One of These Days' is written in a straightforward, journalistic style with elements of magical realism typical of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's work.

How does 'One of These Days' reflect political

commentary?

The story critiques authoritarianism and corruption, showing how those in power exploit others while the oppressed seek subtle forms of resistance.

What is the tone of 'One of These Days'?

The tone is tense and ironic, highlighting the underlying conflict and the subtle power struggle between the dentist and the mayor.

Additional Resources

1. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

This landmark novel by Gabriel Garcia Marquez tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family in the fictional town of Macondo. It blends magical realism with historical and political commentary, exploring themes of solitude, fate, and the cyclical nature of history. The book is considered one of the greatest works of Latin American literature.

2. *Love in the Time of Cholera*

A romantic novel that explores the enduring love between Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza, spanning over fifty years. The story delves into themes of passion, aging, and the different forms love can take. Marquez's lyrical prose captures the complexities of human emotions amidst the backdrop of a Caribbean seaport.

3. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

This novella reconstructs the events leading to the murder of Santiago Nasar, a crime that everyone in the town seems to have anticipated but failed to prevent. Through a journalist's investigation, the story explores themes of honor, fate, and collective responsibility. Its non-linear narrative and suspenseful tone highlight Marquez's mastery of storytelling.

4. *The Autumn of the Patriarch*

A dense and poetic novel depicting the life of a tyrannical Caribbean dictator. The book examines the nature of power, loneliness, and corruption through a surreal and fragmented narrative style. Marquez uses this work to critique authoritarian regimes and the cyclical decay of political power.

5. *Leaf Storm*

This novella centers around the arrival of a doctor's corpse in the town of Macondo, revealing the tensions and secrets within the community. It introduces themes of death, exile, and the clash between tradition and change. *Leaf Storm* serves as a precursor to the larger world explored in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

6. *No One Writes to the Colonel*

Set in a small Colombian town, this novella follows an aging, impoverished colonel who waits in vain for a government pension. It explores themes of

hope, dignity, and despair in the face of political neglect and personal hardship. The story is a poignant meditation on patience and resilience.

7. *Of Love and Other Demons*

This novel tells the story of a young girl believed to be possessed by demons and the priest who tries to save her. It weaves elements of historical fiction with magical realism, exploring themes of forbidden love, superstition, and colonialism. Marquez's vivid imagery and emotional depth create a haunting narrative.

8. *The General in His Labyrinth*

A fictionalized account of the last days of Simón Bolívar, the liberator of much of South America. The novel portrays Bolívar's physical and emotional decline while reflecting on the complexities of revolution and leadership. It provides a humanizing look at a legendary figure through Marquez's evocative prose.

9. *Strange Pilgrims*

A collection of twelve short stories that explore the experiences of Latin Americans living abroad, often dealing with themes of displacement, identity, and the surreal aspects of daily life. The stories blend magical realism with sharp social observations. This collection showcases Marquez's versatility and insight into the human condition.

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