

Joseph Luzzi • *The García Márquez Seminar: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE* • Session 3
Virtual Book Club • Study Guide* • © Joseph Luzzi

Please note: the below are only intended to help you “get inside” García Márquez’s complex, intricate work—please do not feel compelled to answer them in full, unless you wish to, and if there are questions or elements that you don’t understand, no worries, we will explain all when we meet for our upcoming seminar!

1. What has surprised you the most in your reading of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* thus far? Can you think of a single moment in particular that was especially surprising to you?
2. Would you describe García Márquez as an optimist or pessimistic about human nature? Why?
3. How does the issue of nostalgia appear in the final chapters of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*? Please give a specific example.
4. Now that you have completed your reading, what do you believe to be the significance of the title *One Hundred Years of Solitude*? How does it “explain” the book, or at least suggest its horizon of concerns?
5. What do you believe are the key themes associated with the slaughter of the banana plantation workers? Why do you think that the episode is so important for the book as a whole?
6. What is the symbolism of the overwhelming rain that is featured in the last third of the novel?
7. The character of Melquíades becomes important, once again, as we near the conclusion of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Why do you think that García Márquez returns to him, and what is his central role in the book?
8. How does García Márquez develop the love affair between Aureliano II and Amaranta Úrsula? Where does their relationship fit into the larger narrative arc of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*?
9. Toward the end of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* we read:

Macondo was already a fearful whirlwind of dust and rubble being spun about by the wrath of the biblical hurricane when Aureliano skipped eleven pages so as not to lose time with facts he knew only too well, and he began to decipher the instant that he was living, deciphering it as he lived it, prophesying himself in the act of deciphering the last page of the parchments, as if he were looking into a speaking mirror. (trans. Rabassa)

What is the significance of the passage? How does it relate to the overall story of the book?

10. Now that you have finished your reading of García Márquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, what aspect of it will remain with you the most, and why?

* This document is for the exclusive use of the García Márquez Seminar and may not be shared, cited, or otherwise disseminated.