

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 and educators analyzing the short story by the renowned Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez. This article provides a comprehensive guide to understanding the themes, characters, and literary devices used in "One of These Days," as well as detailed answers to common questions that arise when studying the text. The story, known for its critical tone on political corruption and social injustice, offers rich material for literary discussion, making the answer key a valuable tool for academic success. This article delves into the plot summary, character analysis, thematic exploration, and key quotations, ensuring a well-rounded grasp of the story's message. Through this exploration, readers will gain insight into Marquez's narrative style and the socio-political context reflected in the work. The following sections outline the key elements necessary to master "One of These Days" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez answer key.

- Plot Summary and Context
- Main Characters and Their Roles
- Themes and Literary Devices
- Important Quotations and Their Meanings
- Common Questions and Answer Key

Plot Summary and Context

"One of These Days" is a short story set in a small town in Colombia, highlighting the tension between the common people and corrupt authorities. The story revolves around a dentist, Aurelio Escovar, and the town's mayor, who arrives to have a tooth extracted. The narrative unfolds in Escovar's modest dental office, where a subtle yet powerful conflict emerges.

The story takes place during a politically unstable period in Colombia, reflecting themes of authoritarianism and resistance. Gabriel Garcia Marquez uses this setting to critique the abuse of power by local officials. The plot is concise yet impactful, focusing on the interaction between the dentist and the mayor, culminating in a symbolic act of defiance.

Summary of Key Events

The mayor arrives at the dentist's office demanding treatment for a painful toothache. Despite their political differences and the mayor's abusive behavior towards the townspeople, Escovar performs the extraction without anesthesia. The story ends with a chilling remark from the dentist, implying that the mayor will face consequences for his actions, both physically and metaphorically.

Historical and Social Context

This story mirrors the political climate of Colombia during the mid-20th century, a period marked by violence and corruption. Marquez uses the dentist's office as a microcosm for the larger social struggle, presenting a subtle but firm resistance against tyranny. Understanding this context is crucial for interpreting the underlying messages of the narrative.

Main Characters and Their Roles

The characters in "One of These Days" are few but deeply symbolic. Each character represents broader social and political archetypes, contributing to the story's critique of power dynamics.

Aurelio Escovar

Escovar, the dentist, embodies integrity and quiet resistance. Despite his humble profession and social status, he stands up to the mayor's tyranny through his actions and words. His refusal to use anesthesia symbolizes the pain inflicted by corrupt rulers on their people.

The Mayor

The mayor represents authoritarian power and corruption. His arrival at the dentist's office is marked by arrogance and entitlement, reflecting the oppressive nature of his leadership. His interaction with Escovar exposes the tension between the ruling class and common citizens.

Supporting Figures

Though not extensively described, the townspeople and the absent patients symbolize the broader community affected by political corruption and social injustice. Their presence is implied through the setting and the mayor's reputation.

Themes and Literary Devices

Gabriel Garcia Marquez employs various themes and literary techniques in "One of These Days" to convey a powerful message about social justice and resistance.

Major Themes

- **Power and Corruption:** The story highlights the abuse of political authority and its impact on ordinary people.
- **Resistance and Justice:** Escovar's actions symbolize the possibility of standing up against oppression.

- **Pain and Suffering:** Physical pain is used as a metaphor for social and political suffering.
- **Social Inequality:** The stark contrast between the dentist's modest office and the mayor's status emphasizes class disparities.

Literary Devices

Marquez's use of symbolism, irony, and minimalistic dialogue enhances the story's impact. The absence of anesthesia during the tooth extraction serves as a metaphor for the harsh realities faced by oppressed populations. The terse conversation between the characters heightens the tension and conveys unspoken conflict.

Important Quotations and Their Meanings

Key quotations in "One of These Days" encapsulate the story's themes and character dynamics, providing insight into Marquez's critique of power.

Notable Quotes

- *"One of these days, I'm going to call you in. When I do, you'll open your mouth and I won't say a word."* - This statement by Escovar underscores his quiet defiance and the promise of accountability.
- *"Pull the tooth, Doctor."* - The mayor's demand reflects his authoritative attitude and sense of entitlement.
- *"It won't hurt much."* - Escovar's ironic remark highlights the mayor's impending suffering, both physical and political.

Interpretation of Quotes

Analyzing these quotations reveals the layers of meaning embedded in the story. They illustrate the power struggle and the subtle ways in which Marquez critiques authoritarianism. The dentist's calm yet firm tone contrasts with the mayor's aggression, emphasizing themes of moral strength versus corrupt power.

Common Questions and Answer Key

Below is a list of frequently asked questions related to "One of These Days" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, accompanied by clear, concise answers to facilitate comprehension and academic

discussion.

1. What is the significance of the tooth extraction without anesthesia?

The lack of anesthesia symbolizes the pain and suffering inflicted by corrupt authorities. It also represents Escovar's subtle act of rebellion against the mayor, forcing him to endure discomfort as a form of justice.

2. How does the story reflect political corruption?

The mayor's character embodies political corruption, using his power to intimidate and control. The story critiques this abuse by showing the tension between him and the dentist, who represents the oppressed citizenry.

3. Why is the dentist's office an important setting?

The office serves as a microcosm of society, where power dynamics play out on a small scale. It also contrasts the modesty of the dentist with the mayor's authority, highlighting social inequality.

4. What message does Marquez convey through this story?

Marquez communicates that resistance to oppression is possible, even by ordinary individuals. The story advocates for justice and critiques the misuse of power in society.

5. How does the story's tone contribute to its meaning?

The tone is tense and ironic, underscoring the conflict between characters and the broader social commentary. This tone enhances the story's critique of corruption and injustice.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

The main theme is the conflict between authority and the common people, highlighting issues of power, corruption, and justice.

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

The two main characters are the mayor and the dentist, Aurelio Escovar.

What is the significance of the title 'One of These Days'?

The title suggests an impending change or consequence that will happen in the future, implying a sense of delayed justice or retribution.

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

The mayor visits the dentist to have a tooth extracted despite their hostile relationship.

How does the story 'One of These Days' reflect political commentary?

It criticizes authoritarianism and corruption, illustrating the tension between oppressive rulers and ordinary citizens.

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

The tone is tense and confrontational, with underlying themes of irony and suspense.

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

The tooth extraction symbolizes the pain caused by corrupt authority and the inevitable consequences of abuse of power.

What does the interaction between the mayor and the dentist reveal about their relationship?

It reveals mutual resentment and distrust, highlighting social and political divides in the community.

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

The story is written in a straightforward, realistic style with elements of magical realism characteristic of Garcia Marquez's work.

What is the significance of the dentist refusing to charge the mayor for the tooth extraction?

It can be seen as a subtle act of defiance, showing the dentist's moral stance against the corrupt mayor despite his professional duty.

Additional Resources

1. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

This landmark novel tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family in the fictional town of Macondo. It blends magical realism with historical and political themes, exploring the cyclical nature

of time and human experience. The novel is a cornerstone of Latin American literature and showcases Marquez's unique narrative style.

2. *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Set against the backdrop of the Caribbean coast, this novel explores the enduring power of love over decades. It follows the story of Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza, whose romantic journey spans more than fifty years. The book delves into themes of passion, aging, and the complexities of human relationships.

3. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

This novella reconstructs the events surrounding a murder foretold by the entire town yet never prevented. Told through a non-linear narrative, it investigates themes of honor, fate, and collective responsibility. The story provides a critical look at societal norms and the consequences of inaction.

4. *Leaf Storm* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Marquez's first major work, this novella centers on a family confronting death and change in a small Colombian village. It explores themes of isolation, memory, and the impact of personal and political history. The narrative style introduces many motifs that appear in his later works.

5. *No One Writes to the Colonel* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

This poignant novella follows an aging retired colonel awaiting a pension that never arrives. It reflects on themes of hope, dignity, and the passage of time amidst political stagnation. The story captures the quiet desperation and resilience of its protagonist.

6. *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A reflective novella about an old man who decides to celebrate his 90th birthday by courting a young virgin. The narrative explores themes of love, loneliness, and the search for meaning in old age. Marquez's lyrical prose brings a bittersweet tone to this meditation on desire and mortality.

7. *In Evil Hour* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Set in a small Colombian town, this novel depicts a community unraveling under the weight of rumors and political violence. It examines the effects of fear, betrayal, and societal decay. The story provides insight into the tensions that prelude civil unrest.

8. *Strange Pilgrims* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

This collection of short stories portrays Latin American expatriates living in Europe, each grappling with displacement and cultural identity. The tales blend magical realism with poignant human experiences. The book offers a diverse look at themes of exile, memory, and belonging.

9. *One of These Days* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A short story that captures a tense encounter between a dentist and a corrupt mayor in a small town. The narrative highlights themes of power, justice, and revenge. Despite its brevity, the story is a powerful commentary on social and political dynamics.

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