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by

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A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings

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¹ A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings

Most ¹of the fictional stories define human beings' lifestyles and reactions to the uncertainties of life. For instance, people's reactions to the occurrence of floods, droughts, among others, tend to cause discomfort in them. The characterization, areas of settings, and plot summary used in these stories bring clear images of the happenings. This is evidenced in the story of ¹*a very old man with enormous wings, which* clearly define weakness, dependent, and differences in human beings when faced with calamities. Furthermore, the moments of cruelty and callousness throughout the story are a true representation of problems faced by some people in the universe. To this end, the application of literary techniques such as plot and structure, symbolism, and setting brings clarity to the readers.

The plot structure in this story clearly defines the origin of the story to the end. The casual arrangement of the events in the story enables readers to depict the story's origin and its possible ending. It is the event, action, and turning point of the story that results in questions and a series of events that are yet to take place. The systematic arrangement of the events keeps the readers engaged throughout the story. For instance, when the reader begins by narrating a rainstorm that lasted for several days leading to the uncertainty of Pelayo and his wife Elisenda, who happened to be severely affected (Marquez, 1972). The couple perceives that the filthiness of the homeless man who spoke vague language is the reason for the endless stench and possible ailment of their child. After consulting their neighbor, the couple concludes that the old man was a bad omen whose intention was to kill their child. To this end, readers can have a clue of the rest of the story before even engaging in other parts. Here, there is an event which is rain, the action made by a couple of either killing the homeless old man which eventually creates a turning point and some of the dramatic questions of the story. Generally, plot structure serves the purpose of

creating a causal relationship between the beginning, middle, and ending of the story. There is also a clearly defined climax that finally ends in the conclusion of the story. Therefore, plot and structure is an effective literary technique that alerts readers about the story.

The use of symbolism in stories implies issuing characters with meanings that are quite different from the original one. Most of the interesting fictional stories incorporate symbols to get a deeper meaning. Through the application of symbolism, readers get grander ideas and worth of the story. Examples of symbolism in this story include; wings and the character. In this case, a wing symbolizes power, speed, and freedom. The old man's wings should not just be assumed because of the stench since the couple can feel their impacts. Perhaps, the sickness of the child relies upon the power of wings. Consequently, the examination of the old man's wings by the doctor tells how they are natural and supernatural at the same time. People even wish they could be gifted with such power to explore the universe. Another evidence of symbolism used in this case is the characters. Pelayo and Elisenda are a true representation of people who believe in the existence of superstition (Marquez, 1972). Perceiving that the old man is the cause of their ailing son is an act of superstition. Contrarily, these characters believe that the old man is a bad omen, yet they want to exploit him for profits. The old man himself symbolizes refugees displaced as a result of war. In most cases, refugees lose their homes and sources of livelihood, just like the old man captured in the story. Therefore, symbols such as wings, the couples, and the old man give a deeper meaning to the story.

Setting depicts the time and place of a given story. However, time and place can change as the story continues. From this technique, readers can get a clear picture from the characters, the corresponding environment, and the characters' reactions in the occurrence of an event. When reading the old man's story with enormous wings, readers can draw special memory of certain

encounters in a given environment. For example, the sea costs with plentiful crabs illustrate the environment where the story was derived. In most instances, crabs become plenty in rainy seasons, as illustrated in the story. The old man is said to have been displaced by the rainstorm that occurred by then. Further, the names given to the characters are in Latin America, implying that the story might have occurred in that place. This is the exact location where the story took place. The immediate surrounding here is the rainstorm and unpleasant weather that result in the death of the crabs and the misplacement of the old man. From this perspective, readers can tell the 'where' and 'when' of the story (Marquez, 1972). Besides, knowing the time and place of the story enable readers to relate events that often occur or that might have occurred. This implies that the readers can get a clear picture from the characters, the corresponding environment, and the reactions. Consequently, settings show much about the characters, their lifestyles, and reactions towards particular occurrences. Therefore, the setting in a story influences time and the story's setting for memory.

In conclusion, having critically analyzed the application of literary techniques such as plot and structure, symbolism, and setting brings clarity to the readers, it is clear that the plot is all about the casual arrangement of the events in the story enables readers to depict the origin of the story and its ending. Symbolism in the story implies issuing characters with meanings that are quite different from the original one. The application of symbolism, in this case, assists readers in getting grander ideas and worth of the story. Finally, the setting depicts the time and place of a given story. From this technique, readers can get a clear picture from the characters, the corresponding environment, and the reactions. Therefore, readers get the deeper meaning of the story through these literary devices.

Reference

Marquez, G. G. (1972). A very old man with enormous wings: A tale for children. *Leaf storm and other stories*.

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