

# one of these days by gabriel garcia marquez

## answer key

**One of These Days by Gabriel Garcia Marquez Answer Key** is a critical tool for understanding the themes, characters, and plot intricacies of this short story. Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a Nobel laureate renowned for his magical realism, presents a compelling narrative that reflects on power dynamics, human relationships, and societal norms. This article delves into the story's key elements, including a summary, character analysis, themes, and an exploration of its significance in Marquez's body of work.

## Summary of "One of These Days"

"One of These Days" is set in a small, unnamed town and revolves around a tense encounter between a dentist and the town's corrupt mayor. The story unfolds over a single day, showcasing the dentist's internal conflict as he balances personal ethics with professional responsibilities.

- The story begins with the dentist, who is preparing his office for the day.
- He is visited by the mayor, who is in severe pain from an abscessed tooth.
- The mayor's character is menacing, as he wields power and is accustomed to getting what he wants.
- Despite the mayor's aggressive demeanor, the dentist displays a calm resolve, indicating his own strength and moral compass.
- The climax occurs when the dentist decides to treat the mayor without anesthesia, a symbolic act of defiance.

The story concludes ambiguously, leaving readers pondering the implications of the dentist's actions and the broader social commentary it provides.

## Character Analysis

Understanding the characters in "One of These Days" is crucial to grasping Marquez's message.

### The Dentist

The dentist serves as the protagonist, embodying both professionalism and a quiet resistance to authority. His demeanor reflects a mix of apprehension and confidence. Key traits include:

1. **Professionalism:** He is dedicated to his craft and takes pride in his work.
2. **Moral Integrity:** The dentist grapples with the decision of how to treat the mayor, reflecting his internal conflict between ethics and fear.
3. **Defiance:** His choice to perform the procedure without anesthesia symbolizes a stand against the oppressive regime represented by the mayor.

## The Mayor

The mayor represents the corrupt and tyrannical aspects of authority. His character is pivotal in showcasing the power dynamics at play. Key traits include:

1. **Corruption:** The mayor's character embodies the abuse of power and the fear it instills in others.
2. **Arrogance:** He believes his position grants him the right to demand immediate service and respect.
3. **Vulnerability:** Despite his harsh exterior, the mayor's pain makes him a sympathetic character, revealing the fragility of power.

## Themes

Several themes emerge from "One of These Days," contributing to its depth and complexity.

### Power and Authority

The relationship between the dentist and the mayor encapsulates the struggle between individual autonomy and institutional power. The mayor's reliance on the dentist for relief highlights the vulnerability inherent in positions of authority.

### Moral Responsibility

The dentist's internal conflict raises questions about moral responsibility in the face of oppression. He is faced with the choice of adhering to professional ethics or yielding to the demands of a corrupt system.

## Fear and Courage

Fear permeates the narrative, influencing the actions and decisions of both characters. However, the dentist's eventual act of defiance serves as a testament to the courage that can arise in the face of intimidation.

## Significance in Marquez's Work

"One of These Days" is a microcosm of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's literary style and thematic concerns. The story reflects several of his recurring motifs, including:

- **Magical Realism:** While this story is grounded in reality, Marquez often infuses ordinary situations with extraordinary significance, prompting readers to look beyond the surface.
- **Social Commentary:** The narrative addresses broader societal issues of power, corruption, and resistance, which are prevalent throughout Marquez's oeuvre.
- **Complex Characters:** Marquez creates multidimensional characters that evoke empathy and provoke thought, challenging readers to consider differing perspectives.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, "One of These Days" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez is a powerful short story that explores the complexities of human relationships within the context of power and authority. Through the interactions between the dentist and the mayor, Marquez illustrates the delicate balance between fear and courage, highlighting the moral dilemmas faced by individuals in oppressive environments.

This analysis serves as an answer key to understanding the themes, characters, and significance of the story in Marquez's literary canon. Readers are encouraged to reflect on their interpretations of the narrative and consider the broader implications of Marquez's work in the realm of social justice and the human experience.

By examining "One of These Days," we gain insight not only into Marquez's narrative techniques but also into the universal struggles that shape human existence, making this short story a timeless piece of literature worthy of study and reflection.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the main theme of 'One of These Days' by Gabriel

## **Garcia Marquez?**

The main theme revolves around the struggle for power and the dynamics of authority, illustrating how personal and political conflicts intersect.

## **How does Gabriel Garcia Marquez use magical realism in 'One of These Days'?**

Marquez incorporates elements of magical realism by blending mundane reality with extraordinary occurrences, emphasizing the surreal aspects of life in a politically charged environment.

## **Who are the central characters in 'One of These Days'?**

The central characters include the dentist, who represents the common man, and the mayor, who symbolizes corrupt authority and oppression.

## **What role does the setting play in 'One of These Days'?**

The setting, a small town in Colombia, serves as a backdrop for the power struggle between the individual and the state, highlighting the impact of local politics on personal lives.

## **What is the significance of the dentist's profession in the story?**

The dentist's profession symbolizes both healing and vengeance, as he has the ability to inflict pain on the mayor, reflecting the power dynamics between the oppressor and the oppressed.

## **How does the story reflect Gabriel Garcia Marquez's views on authority?**

The story critiques authoritarianism and explores themes of resistance, showcasing the complexities of human relationships in the face of oppressive power.

## **What narrative techniques does Marquez employ in 'One of These Days'?**

Marquez uses a concise, impactful narrative style with vivid imagery and dialogue to convey tension and character motivations effectively.

## **How does the ending of 'One of These Days' contribute to its overall message?**

The ambiguous ending, where the dentist decides against killing the mayor, reinforces the idea that personal morality can triumph over the desire for revenge, suggesting the potential for change through non-violence.

## What is the role of the dentist's dialogue in the story?

The dentist's dialogue serves to reveal his inner conflict and assert his power over the mayor, symbolizing the voice of the oppressed challenging authority.

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