

# Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

## One Hundred Years of Solitude

by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

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- What do you make of the title *One Hundred Years of Solitude*? How do ideas of time and solitude figure in the novel?
- How do Garcia Marquez's male and female characters embody differing ideas of masculinity and femininity? Is he sexist?
- How would you characterize the relations between the various male and female characters in the novel? Are there any positive examples of love?
- Garcia Marquez is known for his technique of "magical realism." Where do we see marvelous or magical occurrences in the novel? What does the novel gain from Garcia Marquez's mixture of the magical with the realistic? Does he make the realistic seem magical as well as the magical seem realistic?
- Although *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a very unusual book, does it remind you of any other books, literary works, or literary types?
- *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is one of the most acclaimed novels of the twentieth century. What makes the novel so good? Do you think it deserves its fame?
- Garcia Marquez has Leftist, socialist, even communist political leanings. Do his own political views inform his novel?
- What causes the downfall of the town of Macondo? Of the Buendia family?
- While *One Hundred Years of Solitude* focuses on the Buendia family, outsiders play a large role in their lives and in the book. What is function in the book of Melquiades, Fernanda, and Pilar Ternera? How do outside groups like the gypsies, officials of the government, and gringos change Macondo?



**Skokie Public Library**

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