

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Published in 1988)

Approved for use in 12th grade, Advanced Placement

Summary of the Work:

Love in the Time of Cholera is the story of a 50-year love triangle between Fermina Daza and the two men who love her, the successful and handsome Dr. Juvenal Urbino and the sad but "full of love" Florentino Ariza.

Spanning fifty years, the novel explores the idea of physical and romantic love, faithfulness and its many manifestations.

Rationale:

Marquez uses his trademark magical realism and powerful imagery in a novel that will encourage readers to develop an appreciation of a complex text loaded with imagery and symbolic meaning. Readers will be required to analyze the text beyond surface summary of plot, to explore connections and representations.

The novel is an appropriate choice for 12th grade AP students for its complexity of ideas, writing, and rich use of literary devices.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- Rubén Pelayo, *Gabriel Garcia Marquez: A Critical Companion* / (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001)
- Algis Valiunas, "The "Magic" of Gabriel Garcia Marquez," *Commentary* Apr. 2004, *Questia*, 1 Nov. 2005
- Buehrer, David. "'A Second Chance on Earth': the Postmodern and the Post-Apocalyptic in García Márquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*." *Critique* 32.1 (1990): 15-26.
- Pynchon, Thomas. "*Love in the Time of Cholera*: Review," *New York Times Review of Books*, 18 April 2004
- Richard Eder, "The Love-Dream of a Prodigious Sleeper," in *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*, April 17, 1988, p.3.

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- Nobel Prize for Literature, 1981
- Awarded Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction, 1988

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 1440 L
- Readability Level: 11

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 2004

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

The novel does contain some adult themes and depictions of sexuality between characters. There are a few instances of explicit language and a few that depict sexuality. The scenes and language are contextually appropriate and serve to enhance the broader themes of the novel, about the various manifestations of love, loyalty, and cultural attitudes about relationships.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Love in the Time of Cholera is a challenging text that demands a full background in literary devices to understand its complexity. It is an appropriate novel for seniors as a capstone to the literature they read, demanding understanding of romanticism, modernity, and magical realism.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

Marquez is often cited as a recommended author on the AP exam.