4/29 Reflection for Discussion

**Kohl Belanger:**

Solitude is the isolation of a person of the state of seclusion. The role of solitude in One Hundred Years of Solitude is very powerful. I truly enjoyed this literature read because of how the role of solitude was represented in every character. It was represented slightly unique from each other. The fictional town of Macondo, in Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s novel, impacted many different character’s solitude. The family patriarch, Jose Arcadio Buendia, and his wife Ursula Iguaran, found the town. Jose is always wanting to explore and bury himself in a new study or interest. The experience that strongly comes to mind when discussing solitude is when the men of the town are forced to tie him to a tree. Jose is a very influential individual, but he does have a few weaknesses that are exhibited onto the Buendia men. A weaknesses that is exhibited onto someone is his two sons. I thought it was very neat to analyze the impact the Jose has on Colonel Aureliano Buendia. Aureliano was remote and distance from society. We see his character develop as Colonel Aureliano Buendia becomes a major overthrower of the country. Jose Arcadio Buendia and Colonel Aureliano Buendia's solitude is a popular theme in the novel as it shapes the storyline of the literature piece.

**Response:**

I agree with you on the role of solitude in One Hundred years of solitude as being in a state of isolation and seclusion. Indeed solitude in One hundred years was powerful as it was represented by at least all characters uniquely. The imaginary Macondo town in the book portrayed many solitudes, for example through Jose a character who was so influence to the town. Despite Jose being so influential and impacting colonel Aureliano, he was still put in seclusion by tying him on a tree.

**Julia Vue:**

The role of solitude in this novel is described to be within each character's journey to life as supernatural beings in a different and isolated world.  Specifically, because Macondo is a completely isolated town away from the rest of society ,thus each character had their own journey to complete independently while trying to keep up with the social changes in the Latin American society. As we have also seen, most of the characters end in solitary, struggling with psychological isolation. Because the relationships of the Buendia's were never affectionate towards one another, the characters lacked that emotional support and growth. The rivalries between the siblings as well as the political fights demonstrated how these individuals barely held any connection or truth to themselves until they started exploring the mysteries behind their magical existence. For example, Aureliano Buendia was a character who’s journey began and ended in solitude. Known to be silent since birth, he was incapable of expression ; his prophetic powers also affected his incapability for human love. Involved in politics and war, Aureliano further drenched into solitude. The psychological and social struggles that each character had contributes to the solitude felt in their lives as non-humans.

**Response:**

Your argument of Macondo being isolated and every character having to go their journey independently is correct, the book shows the role of solitude to being within every character’s journey of being supernatural. The social changes that happened in the Latin America kept supernatural characters into solitude and seclusion. People who lived in Buendia struggled with psychological isolation making them to lack mental and emotional support, this caused sibling rivalries due to lack of affection towards each other.

**Benjamin Alexander Estrada**

Solitude in One Hundred Years of Solitude reflects solitude in a strange way. I feel like in the beginning it is seen as something that should be common. When the son leaves with the gypsy he is looked down upon. When the new "governor" comes there is change and more of influence from the outside world. Again, when Rebeca comes scared eating dirt, the city is almost doomed to be immortal and not remember how to read or write. Solitude is the way to keep one sane and perfect, in my opinion.

**Response:**

It is true that solitude in One Hundred years of solitude is portrayed in a strategic way, but I do not fully agree with your argument. Solitude in the book is inevitable as it is a repetition of Macondo’s history as it is doomed, at least all characters was sent into solitude despite of their impact in the society.

**Lacey Yang**

The role of solitude in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, to me, means that each one of the characters in the novel has their own unique way of living and pursuing life. All the male characters have their own way of showing/representing who they are. They are all descendants of Jose Arcadio Buendia, that being said, they all have the urge to set out and explore or fight for something they believe in. Also, in the end, these male characters will be left alone to mope or celebrate their failure/success. In a way, they are independent and self-driven that they get carried away with the things they do. For example, Jose Arcadio Segundo in the beginning was alone and very focused and knowledgeable just like Jose Arcadio Buendia. He leads a strike against the Banana Company but he was the only one who had survived the battle. As a result of being the only one who had survived, people did not believe him and treated him like he was crazy. Jose Arcadio Segundo had to leave town and was forgotten about just like how Jose Arcadio Buendía was left tied up to a tree and looked down on for being crazy. He was misunderstood by many individuals when all he wanted to do was help make Macondo a better place to live.

**Response:**

I agree with your argument because in the One hundred years of solitude every character has their own way of perceiving the world and they live unequally despite all of them being Buendia’s descendants. The role of solitude is shown trough the way the characters conduct themselves by being self-driven and independent.