\*\*1.- What happens in the story?\*\*

An aging professor, James Grey, struggles with deteriorating conditions in a historic university tower where he works. As repairs continually fail and administrative neglect persists, Grey joins forces with other faculty, including a chemistry researcher, to organize a protest. Through conversations and reflections, he confronts the tension between enduring academic ideals and the university’s apathy toward tradition. Ultimately, despite chaos, he rededicates himself to teaching, recognizing the power of intellectual legacy and perseverance in an institution that has forgotten its roots.

\*\*2.- What is the theme?\*\*

The central theme is legacy versus progress—how universities, in their pursuit of modernization, often neglect the buildings, disciplines, and people foundational to their identity. The story speaks to the quiet resilience of educators, the underappreciated value of the humanities, and the tension between physical decay and intellectual commitment. It also explores professional identity, intergenerational mentorship, and the dignity of choosing principles over institutional complacency.

\*\*3.- Does it propose other interpretations, in addition to the literal one?\*\*

\*\*4 – Agree\*\*

\*\*4.- If the above question was affirmative, which interpretation is it?\*\*

Metaphorically, the crumbling tower represents the erosion of traditional academic values in the face of corporate-style university management, diminishing public support for the humanities, and systemic disregard for faculty labor. The tower’s state is both literal and symbolic—mirroring the professor’s aging body and field of study, both undervalued yet deeply essential. The protest can be seen as a call to reclaim purpose in an institution increasingly driven by metrics over meaning, and the narrative invites readers to reflect on what is lost when educational spaces prioritize surface-level progress over cultural and intellectual integrity.