Summary of Noli Me Tangere  
The young and idealistic Juan Crisostomo Ibarra returns home after seven years in Europe.The wealthy meztizo, like his father Don Rafael endeavors for reform primarily in the area of education in order to eliminate poverty and improve the lives of his countrymen. Uponlearning about his father’s demise and the denial of a Catholic burial for his father Ibarrawas provoked to hit Padre Damaso which eventually lead to his excommunication. Theexcommunication was later rescinded upon the intervention of the Governor General.

Padre Salvi, Ibarra’s mortal enemy accused Ibarra of insurrection. Ibarra’s letter to hisbeloved Maria Clara was used against him. Later in the story, Maria Clara will tell Ibarra thatshe did not conspire to indict him. She was compelled to give Ibarra’s letter in exchange forthe letters of her mother before she was born. Maria Clara found out that the letters of hermother were addressed to Padre Damaso about their unborn child which means that she isthe biological daughter of the priest and not of her father, Capitan Tiago.

Meanwhile, Ibarra was able to escape the prison with Elias, who also experienced injusticewith the authorities. Ibarra was able to speak with Maria Clara about the letters and there after forgave her. Ibarra and Elias flee to the lake and were chased by the GuardiaCivil. One was shot and the other survives. Upon hearing the news, Maria Clara believed that Ibarra was dead; she entered the nunnery instead of marrying Alfonso Linares.

The fatally wounded Elias found the child Basilio and his dead mother Sisa. The latter wasdriven to insanity when she learned that her children were implicated for theft by thesacristan mayor. Elias instructed Basilio to dig for his and Sisa’s graves and there is a buriedtreasure which he can use for his education.

Noli Me Tangere brilliantly described Philippine society with its memorable characters. Themelancholic fate of Maria Clara and the insanity of Sisa characterized the country’s pitifulstate, which was once beautiful, turned miserable. Reading Noli Me Tangere will open one’smind about oppression and tyranny