

Magic Realism

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- Magic Realism is literary movement associated with a style of writing or technique that incorporates magical or supernatural events into realistic narrative without questioning the improbability of these events.
- By making lived experience appear extraordinary, magical realist writers contribute to a re-envisioning of Latin American culture as vibrant and complex.
- Often, at the same time that settings, cultural beliefs, geography, history and politics are correct, the events that occur may appear improbable and unimaginable.
- Thus, magic realist writers present the reader with a perception of the world where nothing is taken for granted and where anything can happen.

Realism and Improbability combined

Fusion of Fact and Fantasy

- Exploration of Latin American Identity: Authors try to forge a point of view specific to the events, history and culture of their region.
- Importance of Magic and Myth: Myth and magic create a version of reality that differentiates itself from what is normally perceived as “real life.” This approach often relies on legends and myths from oral, pre-Colombian cultures and family histories.
- Critique of Rationality and Progress: Magic Realist writers attempt to subvert the values that dominate a culture’s privilege used to justify domination over other cultures.
- Questioning of Reality: Many magic realists use language in innovative ways that raise doubts about reality and about art’s ability to imitate it.

THEMES

- In magic realist fiction, genres such as the epic, autobiography, historical documents, essays and oral storytelling are used as a way of blurring the lines between fact and fiction.
- Hyperbole, or overstatement, is a figure of speech or trope that makes events or situations highly unlikely or improbable due to gross exaggeration. Hyperbole is often associated with the folk tale to make an event appear larger than life. Magic realists often use hyperbole for both comic and serious effect.
- Imagery is an essential stylistic device used in magic realist works in order to make aspects of reality that are unfathomable appear believable and convincing.
- A main feature of magic realist writing is its attempt to incorporate numerous points of view into their narrative, many which are drawn from popular or folk tales, and originate from popular understanding rather than from a specific character.

STYLE