Question Two: Geography and Magical Realism

There is a lot of debate in the academic community about exactly how and when magical realism began to develop into its own genre, but one thing that is not debated is where this development began. Latin America is incredibly important in the formation, development, and continuation of magical realism as a genre. As a result of this, many prominent magical realist texts are written by Latinx authors. However, as the world has globalized, so has literature, and this globalization has caused magical realism to spread far beyond Latin America’s borders, into India, North America, Great Britain, and beyond. Despite this spread of the genre, magical realism’s Latin American origin still has a significant influence in the content and style of magical realism, even as non-Latinx authors include the past and present of their own geographical locations in their works.

In this essay, I will establish how Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude* pushed and cemented magical realism into the Latin America literary canon, and how he used the genre to raise up marginalized voices in his novel. Then, I will demonstrate how two authors of different national origins, Salman Rushdie and Toni Morrison, followed in his footsteps to do the same for their own countries. Finally, I will compare the texts between these three authors to draw out the similarities and differences between them and demonstrate why their work as magical realists is so important.