

# **Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition**

## **Magical Realism Project for**

### **“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings”**

#### **Task:**

Discuss magical realism as it functions in the story “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,” concentrating on the type of literary analysis suggested by the 1989 AP exam prompt.

#### **1989 AP exam open prompt to consider:**

In questioning the value of literary realism, Flannery O'Connor has written, "I am interested in making a good case for distortion because I am coming to believe that it is the only way to make people see." Write an essay in which you "make a good case for distortion," as distinct from literary realism. Base your essay on a work from the following list or choose another work of comparable literary merit that you know well. Analyze how important elements of the work you choose are "distorted" and explain how these distortions contribute to the effectiveness of the work.

#### **Required elements:**

- a thesis statement: What major idea does the use of magical realism develop in the story?
- three supporting quotations (representing different characteristics of magical realism)
- paragraph-length explanations for each of the quotations you have chosen
- a creative visual or visuals appropriate to your thesis and quotations

#### **Grading standards:**

- thesis statement (5 points)
- three supporting quotations (5 points)
- explanations of quotations (15 points)
- appropriate visual(s) (5 points)

# Magical Realism

"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

Characteristics	Examples from Story
border crossing	
inharmonious opposites merged	
rational as well as supernatural view of reality	
straight-forward, unemotional style	
central role of myth and fairytale	