

"A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" Task

A. Read [Marquez's story](#) carefully: imagine its imagery, consider what ideas it presents to you, reflect on how it makes you feel, ask yourself questions as you engage with it. (Annotate it for PLOT, MOTIFS, & DEVICES!)

B. Access the [MLA template](#) ^{on bentonenglish.com} and use it to type your work (C., E., and F.) below. (You'll need to make your own copy of the template in order to edit it with File ➔ Make a Copy.)

C. Compose an original, objective summary of the short story:

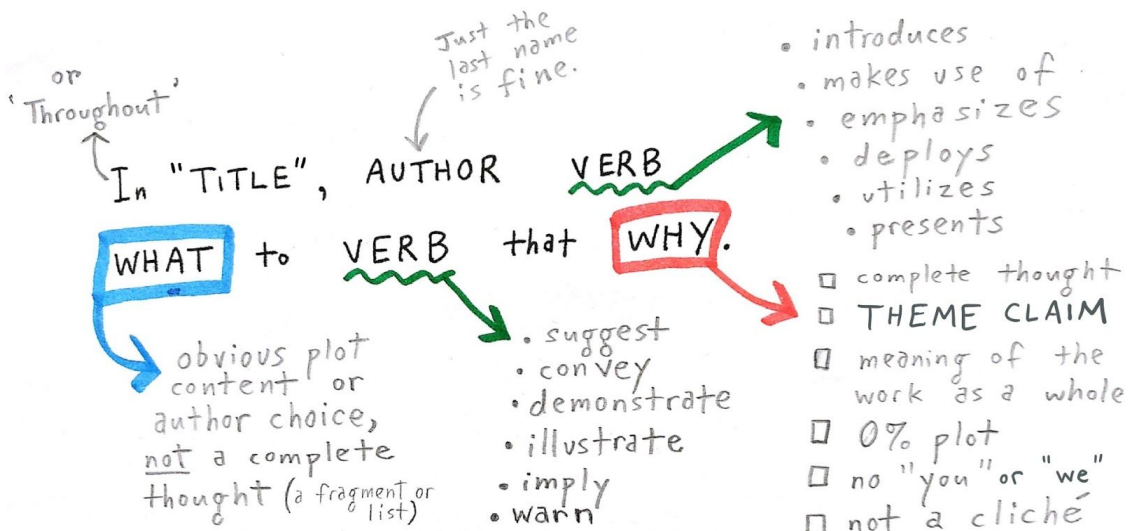
- Identify the most significant story event(s) in each of the thirteen paragraphs.
- Write a one-clause (a single complete thought) summary for each of the story's thirteen paragraphs.
- Remove anything that is merely your opinion/interpretation as well as minor or supporting details.
- Ensure you've used your own words, not Marquez's.
- Count your clauses to be sure there are thirteen. ^{← consider numbering them!}
- Then, combine them into a variety of simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.
- Format them as a single paragraph.

PAUSE here for in-class feed-back



D. After summarizing the story, thoughtfully consider the following:

- the plot, conflict, and characters of the story;
- Marquez's authorial choices (e.g. specific words, details, images);
- various thematic motifs present in story.



E. Use the sentence frame above to craft a single-sentence thesis statement about the story's meaning; place your theme claim (the "WHY") in bold type. (If you're comfortable doing so, attempt composing your theme claim as a complex sentence.)

F. Create a second thesis statement that features a distinctly different theme claim. This sentence does not need to follow the prescribed frame, but it must contain all of the same elements (i.e. title, author, a **bolded** theme claim, and support).

G. Save your finished work with File ➔ Download ➔ PDF Document (.pdf), and upload it to the assignment on ManageBac.

Here's a sample (using a classic fairy tale) of what you might produce for "C." on the "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" assignment.

Here's a paragraph-by-paragraph objective summary of "Little Red Riding Hood" made up entirely of simple sentences (independent clauses). Subjects are bolded, and their verbs are underlined for your benefit.

1. Little Red Riding Hood sets off through the woods to visit her grandmother.
2. Along the way, **Red** meets a wolf.
3. The **wolf** distracts her with the idea of picking flowers.
4. The **wolf** rushes ahead of her to her grandmother's home.
5. The **wolf** impersonates Red to gain access.
6. The **wolf** eats the grandmother.
7. **Red** arrives at her grandmother's house.
8. The **wolf** impersonates the grandmother and eats Red too.
9. A **hunter** kills the wolf and frees Red and her grandmother.
10. Later, **Red** takes another trip through the woods.
11. **Red** encounters another wolf but doesn't speak to it.
12. **Red** and her **grandmother** kill the wolf.
13. **No one** ever messes with Red again.

And here it is combined with conjunctions and punctuation to wield a variety of sentence types. (Note that, now, it's seven sentences instead of thirteen.)

Little Red Riding Hood sets off through the woods to visit her grandmother. Along the way, Red meets a wolf, **and** the wolf distracts her with the idea of picking flowers. The wolf rushes ahead of her to her grandmother's home where the wolf impersonates Red to gain access. The wolf eats the grandmother before Red arrives at her grandmother's house, **and** the wolf impersonates the grandmother and eats Red too. A hunter kills the wolf and frees Red and her grandmother. Later, Red takes another trip through the woods; Red encounters another wolf but doesn't speak to it. Red and her grandmother kill the wolf, **so** no one ever messes with Red again.