

THEME 4 WHAT A LIFE READING SKILL (SPICE UP)

A. Read the biography of Marquez and number the following events in chronological order.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who was born in 1927 in Columbia, was a novelist, screenwriter and journalist. Known as Gabo by the writers and readers of South America, he was mainly raised by his maternal grandparents in Aracataca, a banana-growing town near the Caribbean coast. His grandfather, who was a retired army colonel, was a big inspiration for Marquez throughout his life. He learned everything from his grandfather in his childhood. He also enjoyed his grandmother's unique way of telling stories. She was the woman who coloured his imagination with folk tales and ghost stories. When he was 13, they moved to Barranquilla, a port city, where he started high school. He acquired a reputation as being a very shy boy Gabriel Garcia Marquez who wrote humorous poems and drew cartoons.

In 1946, he enrolled in the National University of Bogotá to study law. Meanwhile, an editor of a magazine wrote an opinion stating that Colombia had no talented young writers, Marquez sent him some of his short stories, which the editor published as *Eyes of a Blue Dog*. When he decided to have a career in journalism, he ended his law studies and fought tooth and nail to become a successful journalist. In 1954, he was sent to Rome on an assignment for his newspaper. In 1955, his first novel, *Leaf Storm*, was published. He had written it seven years earlier, but he could not find a publisher until then. In 1958, he married Mercedes Barcha Pardo, and they had two children. His most popular novel, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, was published in 1967. It was considered the author's masterpiece and the best example of his style, magic realism. The novel, which tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family through love and war, has been translated into a large number of languages and has sold millions of copies. and became a global classic. His masterpiece helped him win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982. Three years later, Marquez's novel, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, based on the love affair of his own parents, was published. Marquez, the master of magical realism, announced his retirement from writing in 2008 and died on April 17, 2014. In Colombia, he became a symbol of national pride. As the best known Latin American writer of all time, he achieved being accessible to the common readers as well as the sophisticated scholars.

- ___ a) getting married
- ___ b) starting law school
- 1 c) leaving his hometown for high school
- ___ d) receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature
- ___ e) writing the novel *Leaf Storm*
- ___ f) releasing his masterpiece
- ___ g) going to Europe as a journalist
- ___ h) moving to Mexico

B. Read the biography again and answer the questions.

1. Where did Gabriel Garcia Marquez grow up?
2. Who was he inspired by?
3. How many years did it take Marquez to find a publisher for his first novel?
4. What book did Marquez win the Nobel Prize for?
5. How old was he when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature?
6. When was his novel *Love in the Time of Cholera* published?