

Record

Session	#5
Date/Day	05/25/26
Leader/ Recorder	
Reading Topic Material	Dreams

Content or Summary (1,000 words)	In our fifth and final session, we discussed dreams and the act of waking. We read two fragments, one by the Colombian Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez and the other by none other than William Shakespeare. Each fragment, corresponding to some of their most famous work, deals with what dreams give us and what we lose when we wake up. Since this was our final session we also took the time to reflect on our previous sessions and the expectations of the final presentation. The first fragment that we discussed was taken from Marquez's iconic novel <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>. In this text, we encounter an eerie dream with a common outcome. A man dreams about an empty house and the burden of being the first one to enter it. In the dream he remembers that he has had the same dream before, many times, but he knows that he won't remember it. The characteristic of the dream is that it can be remembered only inside the dream, but once he wakes all recollection of it is gone. The second fragment comes from Shakespeare's play titled <i>The Tempest</i>. Voiced by Caliban, the text we read talks about the majesticness of the island he was taken from, he remembers the dream, the ideal of the island, only to wake up in a world where all is lost and that makes him cry to such an extent that he prefers to go back to sleep and hence to the dream. Both fragments represented a challenge. The first because of its mysteriousness and the lack of context regarding the themes of the novel. The second because of the language and the lack of knowledge about the play. However, despite the challenges, both fragments offered good material to reflect about. We discussed how Marquez's fragment was connected to some of the definitions that we saw in the first session, making it full circle in that sense. How whenever we wake up and we don't remember the dream that we had or we say that we didn't dream at all it's actually not necessarily true, since
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our brain is still active, we just can't remember. And this also gave us some interesting talking points regarding the nature of dreaming. Do we dream of parallel lives or are they just some a blend of recollections and emotions that we need to express in some way unconsciously? How can we say that what we experience is true when we are just remembering and memory is a double-edge sword? On the other hand, Shakespeare's fragment made us think about longing and the quality of dreaming. When we lose something and we can't get it back, how do we express that loss? What is that horror that waking up can bring and that makes us want to go back to dream again, in hopes of finding something that speaks to us and makes us feel good again?

If we look at dreams in a more literal way, if we don't explore their nuances, if we don't try to see it with all its complexities and we just give it a dogmatic interpretation, we are losing that mysteriousness that's called being a human being. These dreams gave us a bit of that and made the discussion lively and interesting in the sense that each one interprets what we want and the outcome we expect about that. It was very telling regarding their life expectations, the personal goals that they shared, and the difference in point of views that they have. The fact that they manage to surpass the complexities of the language and that they let themselves talk freely about what they think about in English I think it's great and it's what the reading group is all about. They also mentioned how the group was a sort of spark that spiked their interest in dreams and how they were grateful for having the space to talk about it in a relaxed way. Each one of them told me their plan regarding the final presentation, after the original guidelines that I had given to them and we ended up our session on a high note, leaving with more questions than answers, but eager to keep looking for them.