



Lesson objectives

1. Describe the use of fiction, and of fictional techniques, in appreciating regional literature.
2. Relate how plot and plot devices help create the reading experience in works of fiction.
3. Respond critically to the story and articulate this response through a skit based on the story.

The Author

PAZ MARQUEZ BENITEZ

The Author

BIOGRAPHY OF PAZ MARQUEZ BENITEZ

- o Born in 1894 in Lucena City, Quezon. Marquez - Benitez authored the first Filipino modern English language short story, Dead Stars, published in the Philippine Herald in 1925. Born into the prominent Marquez family of Quezon province, she was among the first generation of Filipino people trained in the American education system which used English as the medium of instruction. She graduated high school in Tayabas High School now, Quezon National High School and college from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1912. "Marquez" Benitez. She was a member of the first freshman class of the University of the Philippines, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1912.
- o Two years after graduation, she married UP College of Education Dean Francisco Benitez with whom she had four children.
- o Márquez-Benitez later became a teacher at the University of the Philippines, who taught short-story writing and had become an influential figure to many Filipino writers in the English language, such as Loreto Paras-Sulit, Paz M. Latorena Arturo Belleza Rotor, Bienvenido N. Santos and Francisco Arcellana. The annually held Paz Marquez-Benitez Lectures in the Philippines honors her memory by focusing on the contribution of Filipino women writers to Philippine Literature in the English language.

Prior knowledge:

- As a literary form
- Its elements

Short Story

- Graphic organizer
- Parts

Plot Diagram

- How to write one

Character Sketch

Quote:

“So all these years—since when?—he had been seeing the light of dead stars, long extinguished, yet seemingly still in their appointed places in the heavens.”

-- Alfredo Salazar

The Story

Setting

Characters

Conflicts

Symbolism

Theme

The Story

Setting:
 Don Julian’s house
 Judge Del Valle’s house
 Don Julian’s house in Tanda
 Calle Real
 Sta. Cruz

Major Characters:
 Alfredo
 Esperanza
 Julia

Conflicts:
 Man vs. Himself
 Man vs. Circumstances
 Man vs. Society

The Story

Man vs. Himself

In the story, Alfredo was uncertain and confused by his decisions. He was torn between doing what is right and what is in his heart.

Man vs. Circumstances

In the story, Alfredo struggles against his fate and the circumstances of life and love facing him. He needs to face problems in choosing between difficult choices of his life. The story is basically a compilation of the complicated circumstances that every man has to go through in life.

Man vs. Society

In the story, Alfredo struggles against the society because he was afraid to the reaction of the people around him especially during the time of the story. People oftentimes give high regard to the society in which they belong. They try to adhere to the norms, traditions and culture of their society, though sometimes the conformity would require them to sacrifice a part of themselves – an opinion, an emotion or a decision.

The Story

Symbolism:

Dead stars symbolize things that are present but are left unspoken of. The love between Alfredo and Julia seemed to be real but, as time goes by the love they had lost and fades like a dead star so disillusionment, reminiscent of the past that doesn't exist anymore. No, not because of lost youth, he finds her to be different from that person he perceived her to be all these years. And he is disenchanted. The illusion he harbored all these years are nothing but dead stars, long dead but emits light that seems real for the distance it has to travel, light being seen even if the source has lost its own brightness or died.

Esperanza's devotion to Alfredo also resembles love, but since she believes in the "regenerative virtue of institution" more than true love, it is safe to say that she is in the relationship, because of moral obligation.

The Story

Theme:

Forbidden love.

It says that forbidden love is only apparent, and its banes haunt the person until such time that he realizes his faults. The underlying theme is responsibility, as shown by the story that Alfredo is engaged to be married to Esperanza and the people expect him to get married with her.

Thank You!

For handouts, go to <http://jacs.weebly.com>

