

**Teacher's Rationale**

School: Arrowhead

Teacher: Balistreri/Budzein/Freeberg/Judd

Title: Chronicle of a Death Foretold

Grade or Course: Modern Lit

Approximate date(s) a book will be used:

\_\_\_\_\_ Semester 1

\_\_\_X\_\_\_ Semester 2

This book will be (check one or more):

\_\_\_X\_\_\_ studied by the whole class. (But students are allowed to read an alternative.)

\_\_\_\_\_ studied by small groups.

\_\_\_\_\_ placed on a reading list.

\_\_\_\_\_ placed in a classroom library.

\_\_\_\_\_ recommended to individual students.

\_\_\_\_\_ part of a larger study of (explain):

\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain):

**Ways in which the book is especially appropriate for students in this class:**

The book explores gender roles, love, marriage, and family.

The main character is a young man who is wrongly accused; many high school students can relate to his problem.

The setting is a small town in which gossip and reputation are issues of great importance, much like in a high school.

**Ways in which the book is especially pertinent to the objectives of this course or unit:**

Gabriel Garcia Marquez is the father of "Magic Realism," probably the most important movement in literature in the last 50 years.

As the story of life in a small Columbian town, the book offers multi-cultural insight.

The book's complexity and irony require higher level comprehension skills, perfect for the college bound student.

**Special problems that might arise in relation to the book and some planned activities that handle this problem:**

In its condemnation of machismo, the book does have occasional vulgarities and makes brief mention of brothels. In the book, in class discussion, and in essay, these incidents are used to illustrate how males can "go to far."

**Some other appropriate books an individual student might read in place of this book:**

The Book of Imaginary Beings – Jorge Luis Borges.

Metamorphosis – Franz Kafka

**Summary of the book:**

See below

**Reviews and/or awards of the book or author:**

A Chronicle of a Death Foretold – Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A mysterious and haunting tale of romance and murder, that begins with the marriage of a man and a woman in love. But when he inexplicably mistreats his beloved on the night of the wedding, he is in turn murdered by her brothers, and we are left with a strange sense of inevitability and passions gone terribly awry.

He (Marquez) won prizes from the beginning, from that first scholarship, which took him from home. In 1955 he won a prize from the Bogotá Association of Writers and Artists for "Un día después del sábado" ("One Day After Saturday"), one of the stories that would be published in the collection, *Los funerales de la Mamá Grande* (Big Mama's Funeral, 1961; translated in *No One Writes to the Colonel and Other Stories*, 1968). In 1961 he won the Premio Literario Esso award in Colombia for *La mala hora* (1961; translated as *In Evil Hour*, 1979), when the novel was still only in manuscript form.

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* was showered with prizes, most notably the Chianciano Award in Italy