

Std 10
Chapter: 1

A VERY OLDMAN WITH ENORMOUS WINGS

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Write up

In Gabriel García Márquez's short story, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings," a mysterious old man with enormous wings appears in the courtyard of Pelayo and Elisenda's home during a storm. They were frightened, and locked him in a chicken coop after a neighbor identifies him as an angel. News spreads quickly, and curious villagers pflock to see the "angel," treating him more as a spectacle than a divine being. Despite their interest, the angel suffers neglect, ridicule, and cruelty with unyielding patience.

Pelayo and Elisenda capitalize on the situation, charging visitors to see the angel. They use the money to transform their lives, building a luxurious home and changing their humble lifestyle. Meanwhile, the angel remains marginalised and mistreated, limited to a mere attraction. Over time, his wings begin to recover, and he becomes ignored as people's fascination shifts elsewhere.

Eventually, the angel regains his strength and takes flight, awkwardly but successfully escaping the human world that exploited and misunderstood him. Elisenda watches him disappear into the horizon with a sense of relief, as he is no longer a burden in their lives. The story captures themes of human cruelty, exploitation, and the inability to appreciate the extraordinary, blending magical realism with sharp social commentary.

DIARY ENTRY

Pelayo writes the diary on the day he met the frail old man with wings in his courtyard . Write the likely diary for him.

Tuesday 10 pm
12th March 2022

What an unbelievable day in my life. I can't really pendown my emotions. As I returned home, a strange sound caught my attention, and there, lying helplessly in the mud, was a man—no, not just a man, but an old, frail figure with enormous wings tangled in dirt. I was shocked. My heart froze with fear and curiosity, for I had never seen such a sight in my life. He looked pitiful, like a drowned old grandfather, and yet his wings gave him an air of something beyond human understanding. Uncertainty gripped me as I struggled to make sense of it all. Who is he? What brought him here? The storm, the mud, and now this—it all feels so extraordinary and unsettling. I cannot shake the feeling that this encounter might change everything.

Diary Questions for practice

Elisenda was highly relieved when the angel finally flew away. In her mixed emotions of annoyance and wonder. She wrote a diary. Complete the diary for her

NEWS REPORT

Winged stranger found after storm: A Miraculous Encounter staff reporter

Columbia, 25 November 1980: In an astonishing turn of events, Pelayo, a resident of a coastal village, found what appeared to be a "flesh-and-blood angel" in his courtyard following a storm. The elderly figure, with enormous wings entangled in mud, was described as frail and looked like a drenched grandfather. A neighbor identified him as an angel, believing he had come for Pelayo's sick child, who miraculously recovered shortly after the discovery. News of the angel spread quickly, drawing a crowd of people to Pelayo's home. The angel, now locked in a chicken coop for safekeeping, has become the center of local curiosity and speculation, leaving the village in awe.

CHARACTER SKETCH

Pelayo

Pelayo is a practical and self-serving man who gave importance to his family's well-being over moral considerations. When he discovers the old man with enormous wings in his courtyard, he is frightened but curious. He locks the old man in a chicken coop and later exploits him by charging villagers to see him. Pelayo uses the profits to improve his family's lifestyle, building a luxurious house and quitting his job as a bailiff. Physically, Pelayo is described as an ordinary man, but his actions reflect his opportunistic nature and lack of empathy for the angel's suffering.

The Old Man

The old man with enormous wings is a mysterious figure whose appearance blends the divine and the human. He is frail, with muddy, tattered wings, a bald head, and few teeth, resembling a weathered and vulnerable elderly man.

Despite his shabby condition, he is incredibly patient, enduring the villagers' cruelty and neglect without resistance. The old man's quiet resilience and eventual recovery and flight symbolise his strength and transcendence, even in the face of exploitation and misunderstanding.

Elisenda

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Elisenda is a pragmatic and materialistic woman who supports her husband's decision to profit from the old man. She values the wealth they gain from charging admission to see the angel and enjoys buying luxurious items, like expensive dresses and high-heeled satin pumps. Elisenda is portrayed as a self-centered character who sees the angel as an annoyance. Her actions and attitude showcase her practical, yet indifferent, personality. She feels relieved when the angel finally flies away, as it frees her from the burden of his presence.

Prepare a Notice on Live Exhibition of the Old Man from A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings.

Experience the Extraordinary: The Live Exhibition of a Flesh-and-Blood Angel

📍 Location: Pelayo's Courtyard
📅 Date: [25/11/1980]
🕒 Time:[10 to 5 pm]
💰 Entry Fee:5 cents per person

✨ Come and see for yourself!
Limited Time Only! Don't Miss This Unique Chance!

NOTICE
Live Exhibition of the Winged Old Man

Dear Residents and visitors,

It has been decided to conduct a live exhibition of A mysterious old man with enormous wings who has been found in our Village. we are giving you the

chance to witness him live. Use this opportunity to watch the angel for mere 5 pesos. We cordially invite you to the exhibition.










Pelayo

Columbia
10/11/1980

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Programme

 Programme Schedule – Live Exhibition of the Old Man

-  10:00 AM – Gates Open
-  Visitors welcomed into the courtyard.
-  10:10 AM – Introduction by Pelayo
-  10:20 PM – Exhibition
-  3:00 PM – Special Interaction
-  Visitors may offer food and engage gently with the angel.
-  4:00 PM – Storytelling Session
-  A discussion on miracles, myths, and what this being represents.
-  5:00 PM – Closing Time

 Come, witness miracle unfold before your eyes!

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HST ENGLISH

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