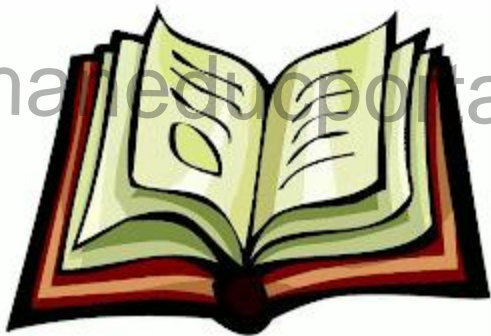


A handful of dates

A short story by El Tayeb Salih



• A short story published originally
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in Arabic in 1964, in a collection of
stories by El Tayeb Salih called
“The Wedding of Zein. ”

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• This short story is told through the eyes of a young boy as he experiences an epiphany.

• The boy's love and admiration for his grandfather is diminished as the boy listens to his grandfather describe Masood.



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The story is written in the first-person narrative with a restricted view.

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characters

- Grandfather – a judgmental man with a narrow mind and a greedy man.
- Masood – a carefree, happy, forgiving and sensitive man



climax

- The boy comes to realize that his grandfather is not the man he thought he was.
- He sees him in a new, harsh light when he realizes that he is a materialistic man who seems to have no mercy in him for his fellow man.

Questions

- How does the young boy feel about his grandfather at the beginning of the story?
- How did he feel about his grandfather at the end?
- Five words to best describe the grandfather.

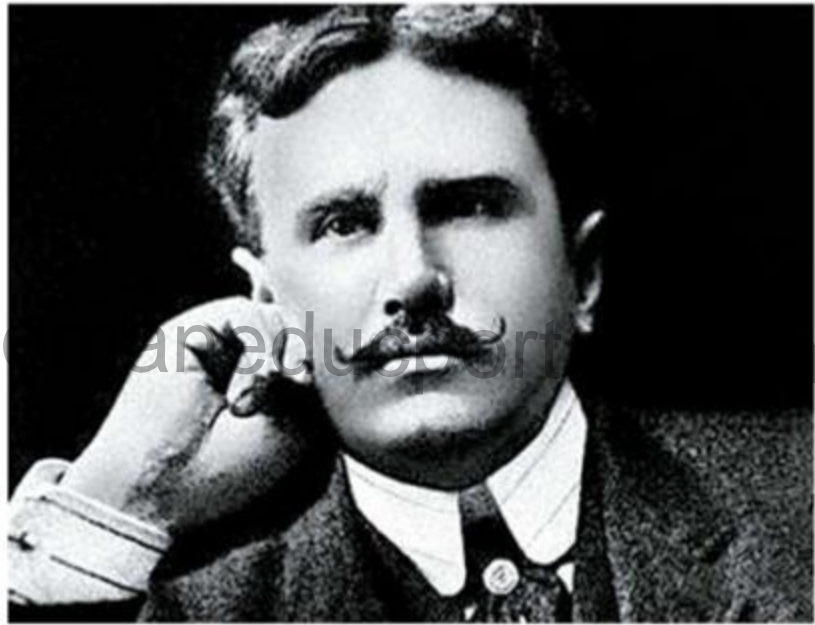
PLOT ANALYSIS OF LAST LEAF



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O. HENRY

(1862 – 1910)



ABOUT O. HENRY

- Pseudonym of William Sydney.
- an American writer of short stories.
- known for his ironic plot, twists, and surprise.
- published ten collections of stories.
- *His famous stories are as follows.*
 - "The Gift of the Magi,"
 - "The Furnished Room," and
 - "The Ransom of Red Chief,"

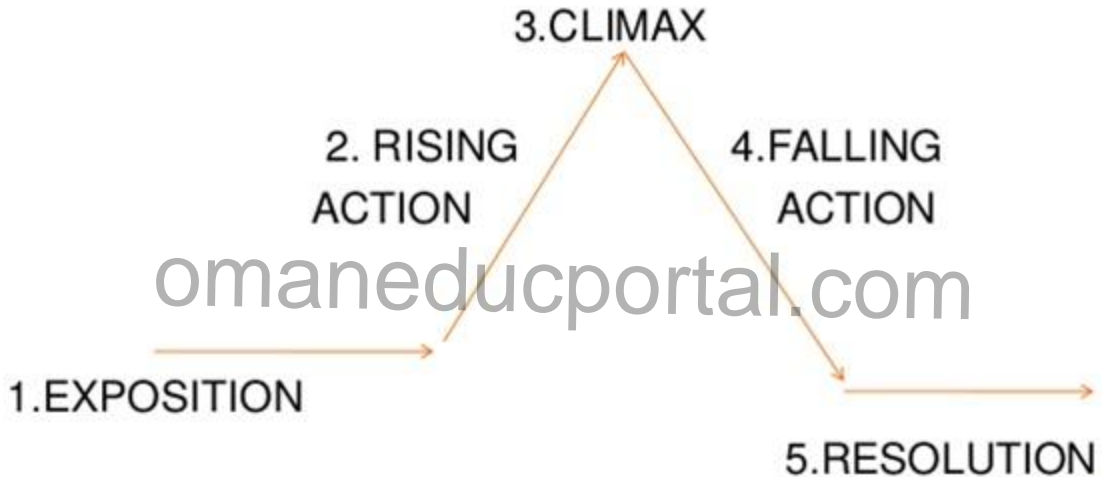


CHARACTERS INVOLVED IN THE STORY

- SUE
- JOHNSY
- MR. BEHRMAN



PLOT ANALYSIS



EXPOSITION

Sue and Johnsy shared a flat on the third storey of an old house.



- But in the month of November, Sue's friend Johnsy got pneumonia.



In 1926, the film 'The Artist' was released.



RISING ACTION

- Johnsy thought that she would die when the last ivy leaf fell.



- Then Sue told Behrman about Johnsy's problem.



CLIMAX

- Johnsy learnt a lesson from the last leaf that it is sin to want to die.



FALLING ACTION

- The doctor told Sue that Johnsy would recover but Behrman got Pneumonia, and there was no hope for him.



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"The Yellow Wall-paper"
Charlotte Perkins Gilman
(1860-1935)



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Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Best known for her short story "The Yellow Wall-Paper," Gilman was a woman who wrote thousands of works, from short journalism to book length discussions of the social realities of women's lives to poetry. Her book, *Women and Economics* was hailed as a major accomplishment and re-published in several languages; Vassar college even used it as a textbook for a short time.

Image of The-Yellow-Wallpaper

Often, images of sanitariums in the late 19th century are secluded, and extremely disconnected from the outside world. In addition, these places are decorated with 'home' furnishings, things to create a feeling of security and familiarity within the halls of extreme seclusion.



A Victorian vacation "cottage"

Major Themes of the Story

Feminism and the yellow wallpaper:

- a feminine, floral decoration on the interior of walls
- a symbol of female imprisonment
- a text of sorts through which the narrator exercises her literary imagination and identifies with a feminist double figure.

Female imprisonment in the domestic sphere:

- John's domineering ways have imprisoned the narrator into a domestic prison
- Women are usually expected only to clean the house and take care of the children; thus, the narrator is trapped within her prison-like room and mansion
- The exterior of the mansion is described as a series of closed-off sections, and the narrator's sense of being watched by the wallpaper suggests the idea of the room as a surveillance-friendly prison cell.

Major Themes of the Story

- **Sunlight as oppressive, moonlight as liberating:** Although the yellow color of the wallpaper has associations with illness and minorities, its most developed motif is with sunlight and moonlight. Sunlight is associated with John's ordered, dominating schedule; he prescribes something for the narrator for every waking hour while he goes about his daily rounds.
- **Aesthetic changes through insanity:** Often overlooked for the deep symbolic content of the story, Gilman's prose is a model for a convincingly gradual and subtle decline into insanity. The narrator's tone changes from naïve and depressed to paranoid and excited, and as she grows insane, her sentences reflect the state of her mind.

Characters in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

- **Narrator:** The narrator is married to John and dominated by him. As she recuperates with neurasthenia in a room in a rented mansion, he does not allow her to do anything but rest, and especially forbids her from the creative work of writing.
- She finds solace in her journal and, as her stay wears on, the yellow wallpaper in her room.
- She soon identifies completely with the woman, who tries to break free from the domesticated prison of the wallpaper by moonlight, the time when women are free from the oppressive regularity of masculine sunshine.

Characters in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

- John:** A practical physician; the narrator's husband. But he treats her more like an infant. He patronizes her, frequently refers to her with the diminutive tag of "little," and acts as if she cannot make any decisions on her own.
- Jennie:** John's sister; a perfect and enthusiastic housekeeper who wants nothing else out of life. She symbolizes the happily domesticated woman who does not find anything wrong with her domesticated prison.

Characters in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

- **Mary:** The nanny Mary takes care of the narrator and John's baby.
- With her name a possible allusion to the Virgin Mary, Mary is the perfect mother-surrogate for the narrator, an idealized maternal figure whose only concern is her child.
- Like Jennie, she also symbolizes the happily domesticated woman.

Why she wrote it ?

"For many years I suffered from a severe and continuous nervous breakdown tending to melancholia-and beyond. During about the third year of this trouble I went, in devout faith and some faint stir of hope, to a noted specialist in nervous diseases, the best known in the country. This wise man put me to bed and applied the rest cure, to which a still good physique responded so promptly that he concluded that there was nothing much the matter with me, and sent me home with solemn advice to 'live as domestic a life as possible,' to 'have but two hours' intelligent life a day,' and 'never to touch pen, brush or pencil again as long as I lived.' This was in 1887..."

—Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "Why I Wrote the Yellow Wall-paper," 1913

Study Questions 1

1. Why doesn't the main character/narrator have a name?
- Describe the narrator of "The Yellow Wall-paper" as precisely as you can.
- Why does she spend all of her time in the nursery?
- What is "wrong" with her?
- To what extent does she change over the course of the story?
- When does she first start giving evidence of losing her mind? What evidence? Why is she losing it?

- 2. Describe the Wall-paper.
- Why is the narrator both fascinated and repulsed by it?
- Why is the story named for the wall-paper?
- Why does it matter that it's yellow?
- What room is the main character given?
- Why is that significant?

- 3. By the end of the story, the narrator seems to believe she has achieved a victory: " 'I've got out at last,' said I, 'in spite of you and Jane! And I've pulled off most of the paper, so you can't put me back!'"

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- Do you agree that she has emerged victorious? If so, in what sense?

A celebration of grandfathers

Rudolfo Anaya

A CELEBRATION OF GRANDFATHERS
RUDOLFO A. ANAYA



Illustration: 134-3
Luis Valdez

Page 1- match the words with the meaning

epidemics	a red, swollen mark left on flesh
descended	a small flow of liquid.
welts	Weakened
trickle	a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time.
withered	a person, plant, or animal that is descended from a particular ancestor.
bystander	Passerby or spectator

Page 2 - match the words with the meaning

wagon	Smells / fragrances
huddled	cause (someone) to become unable to move or walk properly.
aromas	Collapsing
orchard	Cart or carriage
crippling	a piece of land planted with fruit trees.
crumbling	curl one's body into a small space.

Page 3 - match the words with the meaning

acequia	Decreases
romanticize	a kind of clay used as a building material, typically in the form of sun-dried bricks.
wanes	Daydream
adobe	an irrigation ditch or canal.
ranches	Idealize
retain	a large farm, especially in the western US and Canada, where cattle or other animals are bred and raised.
reverie	Keep in mind

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- Anaya has several purposes in this essay; however, in this case, he wants to remember his grandfather and show examples of how his grandfather was an example to him.

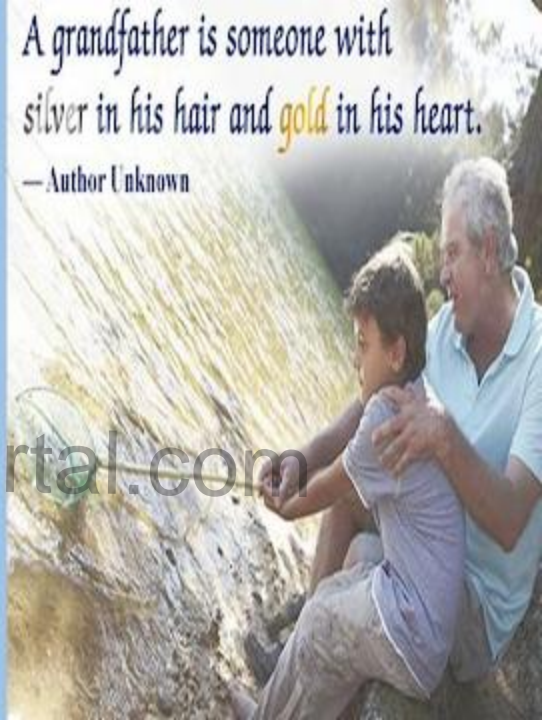
- "a cultural value to be passed on from generation to generation, this respect for the old ones."

- "strong in their beliefs, and as we lived daily with them we learned a wise path if life to follow. "

- "they recognized the great design of creation."

A grandfather is someone with silver in his hair and gold in his heart.

— Author Unknown





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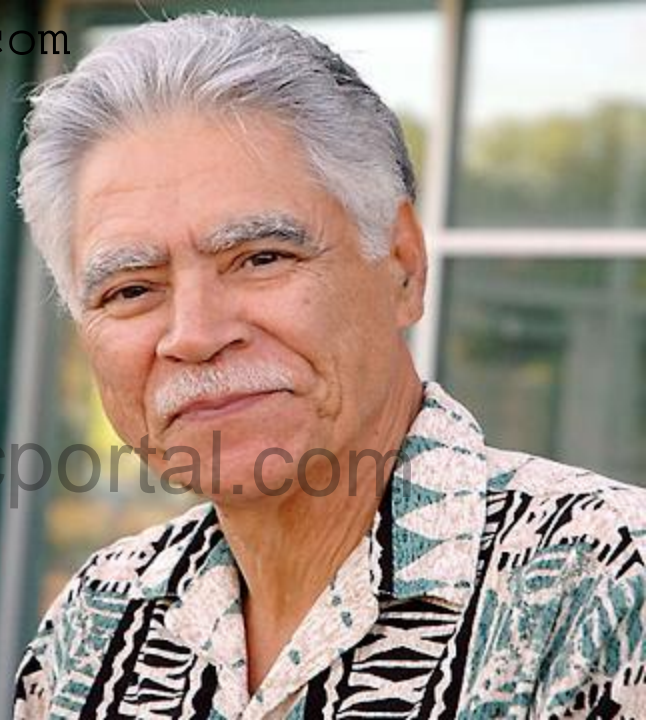
- How much should the traditions of your family and culture influence your family?
- Are the old ways always the best ways? Why or why not?

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Rudolfo A. Anaya

- Born and raised in New Mexico
- Widely acclaimed as the founder of modern Chicano literature.
- According to the New York Times he is the most widely read author in Hispanic communities.

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- In the Celebration of Grandfathers, the narrator basically talks about the values that he appreciated and learned from both his grandmother and grandfather.
- As the narrator flashes back to the time when he was a young boy, as he encounters different conflicts and difficulties, his grandfather would also be the one solving them with his wisdom



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- One time, the narrator unexpectedly stepped on an ant hill which he didn't even notice, before he knows it, he was badly bitten. His grandfather then quickly covered the narrator's hand with some cool mud and calmly said to the narrator, "Know where you stand". The way his grandfather talks was always short, simple, and straight to the point.

- When a friend of the narrator dies, his grandfather pulled the narrator to the side and told him, "Think of the dead of trees and the fields in the fall. The leaves fall, and everything rests, as if dead. But they bloom again in the spring. Death is only this small transformation in life."



• " As the flashback ends, the narrator was grown up and his grandfather has grown to a point where he was too old to do the labor he used to do. It was the narrator's turn to take care of his grandfather. When his grandfather doesn't get what he wants, he would turn sour and shout. The narrator would use the same Spanish phrase his grandfather used to say to him all the time, which was, "Ten paciencia", which means to be patient.



• In the end, the narrator stated the natural cycle of growth and change that everyone will experience, it is the "transformation" that his grandfather has told him about in that tree analogy. As his grandfather died at an age of ninety-four, the narrator has learned a tremendous amount of wisdom from him. The narrator came to a conclusion of that, "They don't make men like that anymore" to honor his beloved grandfather.



The setting of A celebration of Grandfathers takes place in Puerto de Luna in Northeast New Mexico.

Everything from chopping wood to getting food or other resources was done in this valley in New Mexico. He lived and he died here and had spiritual connection with nature.



characters

- two main character- grandfather and the narrator himself.
- Grandfather is ninety years old, he was still highly mobile and at the end the grandfather is the kid, and the narrator is the adult here.
- Grandfather was the greatest figure towards him, as he said "They don't make men like that anymore" referring to his grandfather.



Theme

- To respect the wise words of the elder as the grandfather always used his wise words to solve the narrator's problem.
- Due to the amount of experience the elders have experienced, specifically the grandfather in the story, the words or suggestions that they give out should be respected and trusted.

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• What is the most important subject in "A Celebration of Grandfathers"?

- In "A Celebration of Grandfathers", the writer describes his grandfather as "connected to the cycles that brought the rain or kept it from us." What does this description suggest about the author's personal belief?
- In "A Celebration of Grandfathers", the frequent use of Spanish words and phrases is an important feature of the writer's style. Why do you think Anaya uses Spanish so often?
- How did Anaya's grandfather make his living?
- In "A Celebration of Grandfathers", Rudolfo Anaya says, "We need to know where we stand." Which of the following best expresses the writer's meaning?
- Which of the following best states the lesson the writer learned from the tragic death of the young man dragged by his horse?

- The importance of respecting our elders.
- He believes that people should respect and participate in the natural order.
- He wants to emphasize his respect for his heritage.
- By farming
- We need to uphold positive, enduring values.
- Death is part of the natural cycle of life.

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- What attitude toward the subject does the writer suggest by his choice of the title "A Celebration of Grandfathers"?

- In "A Celebration of Grandfathers," what is the writer's attitude toward the values of young people in the modern world?
- Which of the these terms means "the way a writer arranges words in a sentences"?
- According to the author, which group dominates the image created by American media?
- In "A Celebration of Grandfathers," why does the writer return to Puerto de Luna the summer before he write his essay?
- According to "A Celebration of Grandfathers," how does the author believe we must live in today's society? Which word below best defines perplexes, as it used in this sentence: All worked with a deep faith which perplexes the modern mind.

- Praise
- They have made a harmful break with past values and traditions.
- Syntax
- The beautiful and the young
- To celebrate the founding of the church
- By following simple lessons from the past.
- Confuses

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- Anaya writes that some elderly people go "withdrawing into an internal a anguish few of us can know." Which of the following is most nearly opposite in meaning to anguish?
- Which word in the following sentence is the indirect object? Grandfather gave Anaya a sense of his great strength.
- Which word in the following sentence is the indirect object? The elders can give young people the wisdom of their experiences.

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- Happiness
- Anaya
- people

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• Anaya has several purposes; however, in this case, he wants to remember his grandfather and show examples of how his grandfather was an example to him.

• "a cultural value to be passed on from generation to generation, this respect for the old ones."

• "strong in their beliefs, and as we lived daily with them we learned a wise path if life to follow. "

• "they recognized the great design of creation."

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- Author, style of narration and tone
- Elements of story
 1. Settings
 2. Character
 3. Plot
 4. Conflict
 5. Theme

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