
1. How do you feel about Tata Selo?

Pity is the word that first came to mind upon answering the question given. Yes, we pity tata Selo, we pity a murderer. Although it is crystal to us that murder is a dreadful and immoral crime, we can't help but pity the old man. We feel sad and angered that the reality of injustice can push even old frail men to do the most heinous of things such as murder. The reality of life sometimes is appalling and we pity him for experiencing cruelties such as having his land taken due to poverty, being physically assaulted and yet going to prison for defending himself and having known that his daughter was sexually exploited and yet there was no justice attained. It made us wonder if a victim must first die in order to be considered a victim.

2. Read the lines that make you feel that way.

“Habang nakakapit sa rehas at nakatingin sa labas, sinasabi niyang lahat ay kinuha na sa kanila, lahat, ay! Ang lahat ay kinuha na sa kanila...” the final line uttered draws the conclusion that the whole tragedy was not merely about the land nor the physical assault, but it was about Saling, tata Selo's daughter who was sent home “sick” after being a temporary helper to the kabesa's home. Since Tata Selo was absolved of his crimes after Saling talked to their mayor, we assumed that the crime committed by the kabesa was even more dire than what tata Selo did. We pity them because they all had to go through such a vicious cycle of injustices.

3. What is used by the author in those lines making you feel that way?

The author used an indirect yet effectively dramatic revelation in that line in order to trigger the pity and sympathy of the readers.

4. If it were not written that way, do you think you will still feel the same?

If the story was not written in such a cryptic way, we may still sympathize with the characters because the tragedies that occurred in it is based on reality. Cruel acts, injustices, rape, murder and battered old men can solicit sympathy no matter how their story was told. However, we still do prefer the way the story was told because it was cryptic and dramatic, it is perfect the way it.

1. What reality does the fiction present?

This fiction is based on reality and the reality that it presents is the dire cycle of injustices. It has the typical, murder, rape, poor vs. rich, and physical assaults of old men piled to create a dramatic and cryptic piece of fiction story that everyone can sympathize to because it is a representation of possible and realistic tragedies that even you and I can experience at present.

2. What makes you think about it? What clues does the author use to show the theme?

There were many lines to support my claims which made me draw the conclusion that it is about injustices. Examples of which are: "*Nakiusap pa po ako sa kanya, ngunit ako po'y... Ay! Tinungkod po niya ako ng tinungkod nang tinungkod.*", "*Nando'n amang si Saling sa Presidente,*" wika ni Tata Selo. "*Yayain mo nang umuwi, umuwi na kayo.*" And lastly, "*Habang nakakapit sa rehas at nakatingin sa labas, sinasabi niyang lahat ay kinuha na sa kanila, lahat, ay! Ang lahat ay kinuha na sa kanila...*". The aforementioned lines made me think about injustices, first, the act of physical assaults, second, the act of taking away everything from them which pertains to Saling's unfortunate circumstances and lastly, the act of being freed after committing murder. All these are acts of injustice put into cryptic statements.

3. As a young person, what can you do about it?

As young people, I must make myself aware that reality and life is indeed cruel. Not everyone is good and sane nowadays and perhaps even the kindest people when pushed to the edge can commit unwarranted crimes. So, I must take care of myself, avoid people who do not do me good, try to not abuse nor harm others and of course, pray to God that He safeguards my well-being. As for the legalities, perhaps, I can report crimes I know or see and try to help people in need whenever I could.

1. What narration is used in this fiction?

In this fiction, a narrative convention which is descriptive in nature was used. It involves backstories and foreshadowing of events which added to the dramatic visualization of vivid scenes. It is narrated under the third person point of view.

2. Is there any other narration that will make this fiction more appealing?

The story is perfect as it is and I would not change the way it was narrated however; I may add a part wherein a point of view of Saling's backstory is emphasized and she will narrate it herself just to clarify what truly occurred on her three-month stay with the kabesa.

3. Do you like the ending? How do you say that?

Due to the breadcrumbing and foreshadowing done before the great reveal, I truly fell for the ending. I said so because it became a final word of confirmation that the heinous crime indeed took place. Some politicians can indeed have the audacity to abuse their power. I don't like the ending in a sense that the Kabesa wasn't shamed for what he's done to Saling and to Tata Selo and that Tata Selo was not imprisoned due to murder but at the same time, I am also relieved for the same reasons, because Saling's unfortunate circumstances were not revealed, she was spared judgement from the townsfolk and because Tata Selo was freed, the old and soon to be frail man will not have to suffer life imprisonment. Unfortunately, no justice was served for both parties but nonetheless, it is still a satisfactory story with a great and tragic end.

4. If you were to end this fiction, how will it be?

To be honest, if I were to end this fiction, I'd end it similarly but add some scenes wherein the present government officials add and implement new laws which can prevent the recurrence of a similar tragedy.

(Feminism)

1. What do you think is the illness of Saling?

It is just a hunch but I think, Saling may have been pregnant due to rape.

2. How is Saling depicted in the fiction?

Saling is depicted as a hardworking and loving daughter who rushed to aid her father even though it costed her virtue and integrity.

3. What do you think the mayor did to her? Why didn't she want to go home?

Saling wanted to help ease her father's burden and is dedicated to earning a sum but she may have been raped and was forced to keep her mouth on a tight leash in order to protect herself and of course, the reputation of the kabesa.

4. If you were the author how will you make Saling react to the situations?

If I was the author, I'd keep the story the way it is because there wouldn't be a story to tell if I'd follow the courageous way to act. However, what happened to Saling happens to me, if I was raped at present wherein somehow justice can be attained from time to time and I have the power of social media, I won't wait for my father to commit murder just because I was afraid of the kabesa or of having myself shamed due to the lose of my purity, instead, I will fight for my rights. "Hell hath no fury of a woman scorned", but then again, I cannot blame Saling for her decisions because during then justice for the poor was even more scarce than now.

5. What does the author want to tell of the role of the mayor towards Saling?

The role of the kabesa to Saling was to show the gap between the rich and the poor and to depict the cruel abuse of power hence why the rape occurred during her three-month stay with the kabesa as a helper. In addition, I am not sure but perhaps Saling also gave herself to the authorities to set her father free. In total, the role of power abuse and injustice committed by corrupt officials was portrayed.

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1. What in the fiction can you base your assumption of the year it was written?

Based on the story, I can deduce that it may have been written at a time wherein the Spanish influence has not yet diminished and wherein land reforms as well as abuse of political power is still hugely present, perhaps the setting is around the 60-80's.

2. Compare the culture of the people

The culture of the people during the given setting of the story is dictated by the rule of hacienderos in terms of land reforms wherein the land owners call their farmers "kasama". The local terms for mayors and chiefs were still alcalde and kabesa. Virtues being preserved and abuse of authority was depicted to be rampant in the said period as well. The people observe proper courtesy and held great respect or fear to the politicians and authorities. In comparison today, we use the terms mayor, governor, or barangay captains, and in terms of women, at present, there is a more liberal view but still has a sense of respect which triggers a tantamount right and a sense of feminism which allows women of today to fight for their rights. As for the political aspect, today's politicians are still regarded with respect and is shown appropriate courtesies however, the people has attained rights to speak up and comment on the leader's rule through freedom of speech.

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1. What pictures of scenes or places or things become vivid in your mind as they are described in the fiction?

The scenes that were most vivid in my imagination are the physical abuse done to tata Selo done by the kabesa and the time where tata Selo was put behind bars. I imagined an old, frail, battered man inside the cell and it is heart breaking for me because I grew up with my grandparents. Lastly, the way tata Selo fought back by using a tagak against the kabesa which was both uplifting in a sense that the oppressed fought back fearlessly and yet immoral because it was cold-blooded murder.

2. Do they have meanings or are they symbols of what?

The "istaked" or prison bars is the symbol of being oppressed while the "tagak" is the symbol of fighting back. This revolves around the meaning of courage to protect one's family or self. I cannot praise tata Selo for committing murder but I can praise him for his desire to save his daughter's virtue.

3. How do the incidents help you create conclusions about the characters and events?

The foreshadowing of events was indeed cryptic but at the end there was a final confirmation of the ideas formed and the readers were able to draw a conclusion of the totality of the events that transpired. The story's narration was designed to build up ideas which gives off slow paced revelations.