

## 1 Compare *Noli* and *Fili* in terms of:

### a Theme

The main theme of the novel, *Noli Me Tangere* was to expose the abuses by the Spanish friars and government officials. The various friars in the book were arrogant which represented the infamous behaviour of the Spanish friars in the Philippines. The brutality of other officials and authorities are also shown in the novel. It is a lot more hopeful and a little romantic than in comparison to *El Fili*. On the other hand, the main theme of *El Filibusterismo* is the pretentious and often arrogant attitude of local Spanish leaders. It is also about colonialism. Whether or not colonialism is right if it is to civilize a race, should said race rebel or assimilate. If independence is wished for, should it be peaceful or bloody?

### b Approach for Reform

*Noli* becomes the bridge between Propaganda movement and the Revolution of 1896. *El Filibusterismo* becomes the book about revolution, an alternative to reform. But in the end of the *El Fili*, Simoun failed that I think it's Rizal's way of saying the revolution is not the answer.

### c Objectives

Like *Noli Me Tangere*, *El Fili* aims to enlighten the society, and to bring the Filipinos closer to the truth. But in the first novel, we are encouraged to ask and aspire for change and liberation, in this novel, the society is urged to open its eyes to reality and rebel against the Spanish government for its oppression and abuse.

In *Noli*, there is aspiration, beauty, romance, and mercy. In *El Fili*, all the reader will feel is bitterness, hatred, and antipathy. The romance and aspirations are gone. Even the characters' personalities seem to have undergone radical change.

1 Compare and contrast Ibarra and Simoun as main characters of the two novels.

Crisostomo Ibarra is depicted as one of the Filipinos who managed to finish their studies abroad. He had been living abroad for seven years. Unlike his countrymen, he has a liberal mind, outspoken and idealistic.

Crisostomo Ibarra was the son of Don Rafael, one the wealthiest businessmen in San Diego. As such, he was also a childhood friend of [Maria Clara](#). He is a very patient and serious man but when provoked, becomes very violent and impulsive. His grandfather was Don Saturnino, a Spanish mestizo who settled in San Diego and devoted himself in planting and harvesting indigo. Despite his quiet but cruel disposition, he managed to secure his father's tomb in the old balete tree but rarely visited it. His son, Don Rafael, pursued agriculture and encouraged their neighbors to do so. This made the town of San Diego prosperous.

Simoun is described in the novel as a tall, dark man with white hair and a thin black beard. He wears European clothing and huge blue sunglasses which covered his eyes and part of his cheeks. He spoke with a peculiar accent – a strange mix of English and South American.

Simoun poses himself as a supporter of the Spaniards when, in fact, his mission in returning the country is to get revenge from the injustice he received from the Spanish government. He is still in love with [Maria Clara](#) and initially wanted to start a revolution to get her out of the convent but, later on, learns about her death.

Simoun incited violence and the persecution of his people to move them to revolt. He failed—not because Rizal was against the revolution, but because he reflected on the anger and bitterness in his heart following the agrarian dispute in Calamba, and realized that one must start with a good intention to succeed. A poisoned tree cannot produce good fruit. Rizal demanded a pure heart

1 Are the morals learned from the novel *El Filibusterismo* still applicable today?

The morals learned from El Filibusterismo are still applicable nowadays. People are fighting for their own rights; they are fighting for what they believe is right just like Rizal. But there are also some who are scared to fight. They are scared they might lose when in fact they haven't even tried. El Fili still serves as an inspiration to us. We learn from it. We learn to fight for what is right even if others won't believe you or even if you are all by yourself. We also get to realize that violence is not the answer. It also showed the anger and vengeance can take over us which is I think not applicable in the present because almost all of the Filipinos are short tempered and just because of a small issue they would plan revenge and in turn it will make us become the person we are not. These are just some of the things that El Fili taught us, I just hope that the ones who will read this book will be inspired and be the hope Rizal always wants us to be.