One Hundred Years of Solitude: Magical Elements in Magical Realism

Worksheet 1: Specific Details and Matter-of-Fact Tone Teacher's Version

[Note: Suggested answers to Worksheet 1, but student may have others, equally appropriate.]

Choose three tone words that would describe your reaction to the following events:

A priest who can levitate

- surprised
- skeptical
- curious

A stream of liquid that can turn corners and ascend stairs

- amazed
- amused
- doubtful

Seeing someone ascending into the sky

- awestruck
- reverent
- disbelieving

Five years of rain (depression, fear, worry)

- depressed
- afraid
- worried

Locate each of the following events in the book and read the passage in which García Márquez describes it. List the phrases that convey the specific details and matter-of-fact tone of the author:

A priest who regularly levitates after drinking chocolate (chapter 5)

[He] wiped his lips with a handkerchief.  
Father Nicanor rose six inches above the level of the ground. It was a convincing measure.  
Father Nicanor began to rise up from the ground along with the chair he was sitting on.

The blood from the death of José Arcadio (chapter 7)

A trickle of blood came out under the door, crossed the living room, went out into the street, continued on in a straight line across the uneven terraces, went down steps and climbed over curbs, passed along the Street of the Turks, turned a corner to the right and another to the left, made a right angle at the Buendía house, went in under the closed door, crossed through the parlor, hugging the walls so as not to stain the rugs, went on to the other living room, made a wide curve to avoid the dining-room table, went along the porch with the begonias, and passed without being seen under Amaranta’s chair as she gave an arithmetic lesson to Aureliano José, and went through the pantry and came out in the kitchen, where Úrsula was getting ready to crack thirty-six eggs to make bread.

She followed the thread of blood back along its course, and in search of its origin she went through the pantry, along the begonia porch where Aureliano José was chanting that three plus three is six and six plus three is nine....
Remedios’ ascension (chapter 12)

[S]he watched Remedios the Beauty waving good-bye in the midst of the flapping sheets that rose up with her....

Fernanda, burning with envy, finally accepted the miracle, and for a long time she kept on praying to God to send her back her sheets...

The extraordinary rain (chapter 16)

The worst part was that the rain was affecting everything and the driest of machines would have flowers popping out among their gears if they were not oiled every three days

She sent him word that the horse pastures were being flooded, that the cattle were fleeing to high ground, where there was nothing to eat and where they were at the mercy of jaguars and sickness. “There’s nothing to be done,” Aureliano Segundo answered her. “Others will be born when it clears.”