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Unidad 6, Un paso más

Cien años de soledad

El legado de Gabriel García Márquez

0:00

News anchor: One of the greatest novelists of the 20th century has died. Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez whose masterpiece “100 Years of Solitude” won the Nobel Prize for Literature, passed away Thursday in Mexico at the age of 87. Colombia’s President Juan Manuel Santos has declared three days of morning.

00:23

Juan Manuel Santos: As a government, in an homage to the memory of Gabriel García Márquez. I’ve declared a state of nation mourning for 3 days and I’ve ordered all public institutions to fly the national flag at half mass. And we also hope Colombians will do the same in their homes.

00:38

News anchor: Today we'll spend the hour discussing Gabriel García Márquez’s life and work which have sold 10s of millions of copies and we’ll feature clips of the writer himself. It’s been reported that only the Bible has sold more copies in the Spanish language than the works of García Márquez who was affectionately known as “Gabo” throughout Latin America. Among his best-known books, in addition to “One Hundred Years of Solitude”, “Our Love in the Time of Cholera,” “Chronicle of Death Foretold,” “The Autumn of Patriarchs,” “The General in His Labyrinth.”

Gabriel García Márquez was born in Colombia in 1927. In the 1950s, he began working as a journalist in the capital city of Bogota. He wrote a series of articles about a Colombian sailor that drew the ire of the conservative government, so he left to report from Europe, where he began writing fiction. He eventually returned to Colombia and in 1967, published what would become his most famous novel: “One Hundred Years of Solitude.” It weaves together the misfortunes of a family over seven generations and is based in a town called Macondo, which many take to represent the town where García Márquez was born and raised by his grandparents until he was 9 years old. The book is considered one of the masterful examples of the literary genre known as magical realism and it won him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. The Swedish Academy described it as a book “in which the fantastic and realistic are combined in a richly composed world of imagination, reflecting a continent’s life and conflicts.”

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