

Lesson 2 Task 2

**Analyzing Perspectives in  
“A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings”**

**Directions:** In small groups, discuss the following questions as assigned by your teacher and prepare responses that will be shared with the rest of the class. **Support all of your responses with pertinent and thorough textual evidence.**

1. Describe the setting of the story. What effect does the setting have on the ideas in the story?
2. How would the story be different if the setting were different? What specific elements of the story would change if it were set in an urban area or within another culture?
3. Describe the mood that is established in the beginning of the story, prior to Father Gonzaga’s arrival?
4. Who is narrating the story? What is the narrator’s attitude towards Pelayo and Elisenda, the winged man, and the villagers?
5. Why does the priest doubt that the winged man is an angel?
6. What role does religion play in this story? What is the significance of the villagers’ faith?
7. How would the story be different if it were told from the winged man’s point of view? What would we learn about the man that is not revealed in the story the way it is currently written?
8. What is the tone of the text? How is the tone a reflection of the genre of magical realism and/or the cultural beliefs of the author?
9. The elements of magical realism are best supported by the actions of which character in the story?
10. Through this story, what comment is Gabriel Garcia Marquez making about human expectations and compassion?