“An Hour with Abuelo”

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Analysis Guide

**Dialogue**

What does the opening line of dialogue help establish about the characters?

What type of conflict does it suggest?

**Setting**

What does Arturo’s description of the setting reveal about Abuelo’s home?

What does his description reveal about his own character?

**Plot and Conflict**

Why does Arturo agree to visit Abuelo?

In what sense does his decision eliminate one conflict and create another?

**Theme**

Arturo and his mother have different ideas about the value of an hour spent with Abuelo. Explain what theme this contrast suggests.

**Characters**

What do Arturo’s reactions and observations in this passage tell you about his character?

The fact that Arturo and Abuelo share a first name emphasizes their relationship. To what extent does Arturo acknowledge their connection at this point in the story?

**Dialogue**

How does the mother’s use of Spanish reflect an important part of her character?

**Irony**

Before the visit, how did Arturo feel about spending an hour with Abuelo? Now that he is with Abuelo, how does the time pass?

**Dialogue**

In what way does this dialogue move the action of the story along?

What do you learn about Abuelo’s character from this dialogue?

**Setting**

In what way does this past setting allow Abuelo to fulfill his hopes?

How does this situation ultimately lead to greater conflict for him?

**Plot and Conflict**

What conflict does the war create for Abuelo?

What theme does this conflict suggest?

**Dialogue**

The phrase “así es la vida” is repeated several times, suggesting that it is an important line of dialogue. How do different characters react to this statement?

**Characters**

Judging from this passage, what effect has Abuelo’s story had on Arturo?

How does Arturo’s reaction help develop the theme?

**Plot and Conflict**

How do these events help develop your idea of Abuelo’s character?

**Irony**

How does the irony of the way the visit ends develop themes about the value of time?

**Development of Plot and Character**

Explain how the characters and their dialogue propel the action in the selection.