

Chronicle of a Death Foretold Comprehension & Discussion Questions

Use the following questions as a guide while reading. Have the entire text completed and be prepared to discuss by **October 15 (A) and October 16 (B)**.

1. What information does the first paragraph of the novel give you about the story that is going to unfold?
2. Why doesn't Victoria Guzmán warn Santiago Nasar about the men who are going to kill him?
3. What signs does Santiago Nasar overlook that would have forewarned him of the impending crime?
4. What impression does the writer give you of the bishop and of the townspeople's relation to him?
5. How does the writer communicate the animosity of the power towards the rich in the novel?
6. Describe the character of Santiago Nasar.
7. What aspects of physical violence do you observe in the activities of the townspeople? Find examples from the book.
8. What precipitates the murder of Santiago Nasar?
9. In what ways are the wedding festivities unusual for the town?
10. What do you learn about the background of Bayardo San Román?
11. What is Bayardo San Román's father known for?
12. How have the Vicario sisters been raised? What is it about them that the narrator's mother notes is particularly unusual and virtuous?
13. What does it show about Bayard San Román that he buys the house belonging to the widower Xius?
14. What do Angela Vicario's confidantes explain to her about a woman's "honor"?
15. Why does the narrator's mother consider Angela Vicario's putting on the wedding veil to be an act of courage?
16. Which of the townspeople were forewarned of the murder? What are their reasons for not having spoken to Santiago Nasar about it?
17. How does the writer build suspense about the fate of Santiago Nasar? Why doesn't it matter that you know what has happened from the beginning?
18. Describe the autopsy that is performed on Nasar. Who does it? What is the narrator's opinion of it?
19. What is ironic about the description of Nasar's wounds as stigmata, about the description of his brain made during the autopsy?
20. After the murder and the autopsy, how does everyone recollect their impression of its affect on the town?
21. Who is considered to be "the only one who had lost everything"? In what way is this accurate or inaccurate?
22. What are the fates of the members of the Vicario family after the murder?

23. What plea do the Vicario twins make at their trial? What is your assessment of the accuracy of this plea?
24. In what ways does Angela Vicario change after the murder? What does she realize about her mother? About Bayardo San Román? How does she deal with this?
25. What is the effect of the murder on the people of the town? How do those who could have done something to prevent it console themselves?
26. What are some of the coincidences that conspired to allow the Vicario brothers to be successful in their murder of Santiago Nasar?
27. What does the magistrate conclude about Nasar's implication in the crime? On what basis does he draw his conclusion?
28. What is the narrator's assessment of Nasar's feelings at the time of his death?
29. What other opinions are expressed on this matter and by whom?
30. What instances are given to show that the Vicario brothers do not want to carry out the murder?
31. How does Santiago Nasar learn that the Vicario brothers are going to kill him? How does he react to this information?
32. Why does Placida Linero, Nasar's mother, bolt the front door of the house?
33. What are Nasar's actions after the Vicario brothers' attack is concluded?
34. What effect is achieved by Nasar's long walk into the house?