

Questions:

1. What is the summary of this literary piece?
2. What lesson does the author want to convey?
3. What is the relationship of this story to the current time?

Answers:

1. Summary

"Manananggal Terrorizes Manila and Other Stories" is a collection of short stories by Jessica Zafra, a Filipino author and columnist. The book contains eight stories that offer a mix of horror, humor, and satire.

The first story, "Manananggal Terrorizes Manila," is about a young woman who discovers that her neighbor is a manananggal, a mythical creature in Philippine folklore that is said to prey on pregnant women.

In "The Hologram President," the Philippine president is revealed to be a hologram, controlled by a group of powerful politicians.

"The Girl Who Ate Kalamansi" is a darkly humorous tale about a girl who develops a taste for calamansi, a small sour fruit commonly used in Filipino cooking.

Other stories in the collection include "Becoming a Shoe," "A Bird in a Coat," "The Last Ten Minutes of the World," "The Annihilation of the Flamingos," and "The Shortcut."

Through her stories, Zafra explores the absurdities and complexities of modern life in the Philippines, touching on themes such as corruption, power dynamics, and cultural identity.

2. Lesson

“Manananggal Terrorizes Manila and Other Stories” by Jessica Zafra is a collection of short stories that revolve around the horror genre. Each story brings a different experience and lesson that readers can learn from. Some of the common lessons in the stories include:

1. The danger of trusting strangers: Many of the stories feature unsuspecting characters who fall prey to the schemes of strangers who turn out to be monsters in disguise. These stories remind readers of the importance of being cautious and aware of their surroundings, especially when dealing with people they don't know.
2. The consequences of greed: In some of the stories, characters become victims of their own greed. They are willing to do anything to get what they want, even if it means making deals with the devil or other supernatural beings. The stories show that greed can have serious consequences and that one should always be content with what they have.
3. The power of love and sacrifice: Some of the stories feature characters who are willing to make great sacrifices for the people they love. These stories remind readers of the power of love and selflessness, and how it can overcome even the most terrible of situations.

4. The danger of ignoring warnings: In many of the stories, characters are warned of impending danger, but they choose to ignore these warnings and suffer the consequences. These stories serve as a reminder to always take warnings seriously and to act on them to avoid danger.

Overall, the lessons in “Manananggal Terrorizes Manila and Other Stories” are relevant not only in the horror genre but also in everyday life. They teach readers to be aware of their surroundings, to avoid greed and selfishness, to value love and sacrifice, and to take warnings seriously to avoid danger.

3. Relationship of this story to the current time

"Manananggal Terrorizes Manila and Other Stories" by Jessica Zafra is a collection of horror stories that explores the darker side of Philippine folklore and urban legends. The stories deal with themes such as fear, superstition, and the unknown, and reflect the cultural and historical context of the Philippines.

The collection continues to be relevant today as it highlights the importance of preserving traditional storytelling and folklore. It also provides insight into the Filipino psyche and the way in which horror and fear play a significant role in shaping the culture.

Moreover, with the growing interest in horror and the supernatural in mainstream media, the collection serves as a reminder of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Philippines and the need to appreciate and celebrate it.

