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Instructions:

1. Use the MS word highlighter to highlight the parts of the intro to correspond with the colours below
2. Underline the main body points. (Ctrl U)
3. Bold the thesis. (Ctrl B)

Magic Realism as a Coping Mechanism

Susan Pease Banitt postulates in her book, The Trauma Tool Kit, “Traumatic events, by definition, overwhelm our ability to cope. When the mind becomes flooded with emotion, a circuit breaker is thrown that allows us to survive the experience fairly intact, that is, without becoming psychotic or frying out one of the brain centers.” This perfectly captures how many novels use magical realism. Characters in novels, much like real people often must deal with almost inhuman amounts of tragedy compared to the real world, so they often need to find methods for both readers and characters to cope with difficult and traumatic scenarios. What follows is an examination of three important characteristics of magic realism. The first is trauma. Second is the sometimes hard to believe quality of the story—readers are never quite certain of the veracity of what they are reading. Lastly is the how the magic has a sort of whimsical or absurd quality that undercuts the tragedy. When faced with the overwhelmingly dour realities of life, magic realism is often used by characters as a coping mechanism for the real world.