

“Alma”

- How would you characterize Yunior’s speech? What’s his style?
 - *Blends urban “street style” with elevated, elegant phrases and word choices.*
 - *Blends English and Spanish*
- Why do you think the story is so sexually explicit?
 - *Trying to show off. Showing his confidence.*
 - *Trying to come off as a womanizer, a macho man.*
- How do you feel about Yunior’s character in the end? Is Yunior a victim?
 - *Yunior is an asshole. He gets what he deserves.*
 - *Nobody wants to be friends with him.*

Take another look at the last page of the story, and think about the way that this scene is constructed and told by the narrator. Are there any literary devices or narrative strategies? What are the images, similes/metaphors, or narrative strategies that the speaker uses to describe the scene? And how do these devices and strategies enhance or deepen your interpretation of the story?

- *The way the rest of the text is split off from the regular text --- shows the impact that Alma’s words had on Yunior.*
- *Clearly Yunior is actually hurt, though he pretends to be tough.*
- *“Benuttet” is a neologism, like “befriended” -- it’s poetic.*
- *The use of similes to describe something repulsive, used condoms and dirty diapers.*

Miss Lora

- What happens in this story?
- Who is Miss Lora, Paloma, and Rafa?
- When does the story take place?
- What is Yuniór's state of mind? (150-151)
- How does Yuniór view his relationship with Miss Lora? What does he think? (159)
- How does Yuniór's family affect him? His personality, self perception? (149, 161)

Freewrite

How is this Yuniór different from the Yuniór in "Alma"? How is he the same?
Do you consider Yuniór a victim, or Miss Lora a predator? Why or why not?

New Yorker Article

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<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/04/16/the-silence-the-legacy-of-childhood-trauma>