

Honey Pie

Group One: David, Hegel, Carlos, Jay, Jenni, Yvette, Ginger

Outline



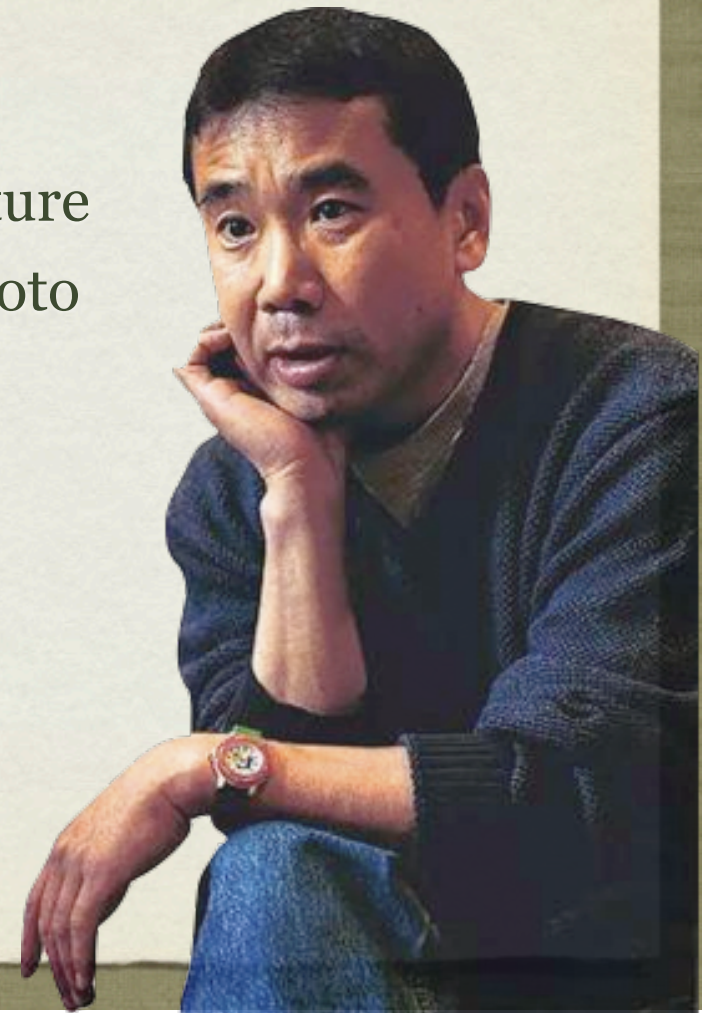
- Introduction
 - Background Info.
 - Haruki Murakami
 - After the Quake
- Thesis
- Discussion
 - Materialist Society
 - Triangular Relations
 - Sala and Junpei's Relationship
 - The Bear Story
 - Images

Thesis

Through composing short stories and story-telling, Junpei relives his past life and trauma; yet through modifying the bear story, Junpei reconciles with his trauma.

Haruki Murakami

- Jan. 12, 1949 Kyoto.
- Both of his parents taught Japanese literature
- Studies drama at Waseda University in Kyoto
- Japanese writer and translator



Important works

- Hear the Wind Sing
- Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World
- Norwegian Wood
- The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle
- Underground
- Kafka on the Shore
- 1Q84

Features of works

- City life
- Love
- Sex
- Death
- Alienation
- Solitude
- Uncanny
- Magical

What makes him special?

- Westernized language
- Breaking the tradition of Japanese literature
- Wind-Up Bird Chronicle
- Starts to deal with history and Japanese Trauma (Underground, After the Quake)
- “Murakami writes in Japanese, but his work isn’t really Japanese. It can read naturally in New York (Kenzaburo Oe).”



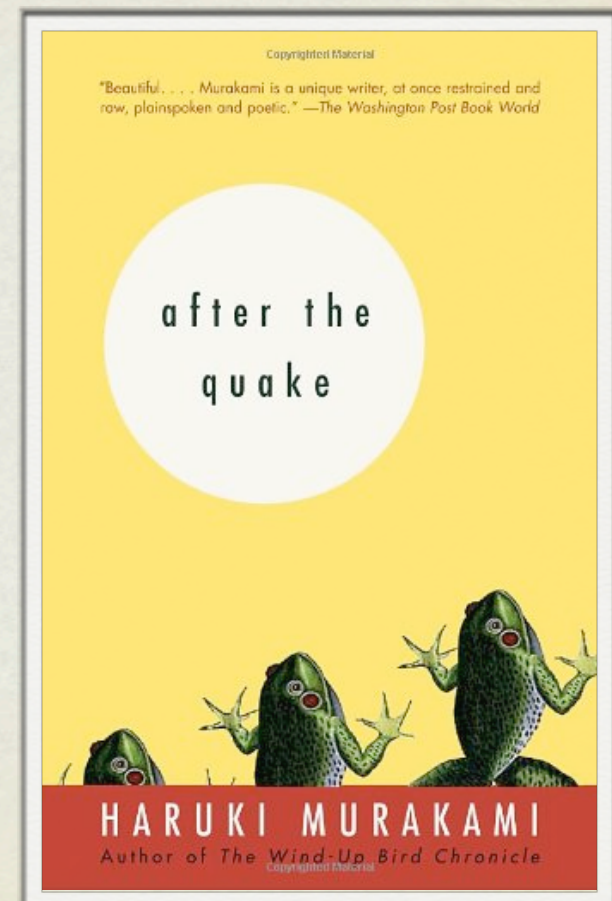
How to connect M's work with our course

- Globalization
- Hybridity
- Post-modernity
- Trauma



After the quake

- A collection of short stories
- All of the short stories are written in the third person point of view
- All of the stories are set in Feb. 1995, the time between the Kobe Earthquake and Tokyo gas attack.
- Supernatural elements
- Animals



MATERIALIST REFERENCE

The frequent reference to materials related to characters

Materialist & Fragments

People fall in different directions, even the same character falls in various directions.

- Connection
- Observation
- Synthetic View of Knowledge
- Relationship to Experience, the Body, Society and Economy
- Uncertain Conclusion

Examples

- Objects:

- Boom box/Schubert
- Bucket/Honey
- Sala/Honey Pie: Profit Margin
- Box/Earthquake Man
- Friendships/Beer
- Mother and Daughter/Bra Trick
- Box/Coffin/TV

- Financial Background:

- Junpei/Father/Jewelry Story
- Sayoko/Traditional Japanese Dress Shop

- Production:

- Junpei's Achievement
- Published Two Volumes of Short Stories
- Before He Turned 30

- Places:

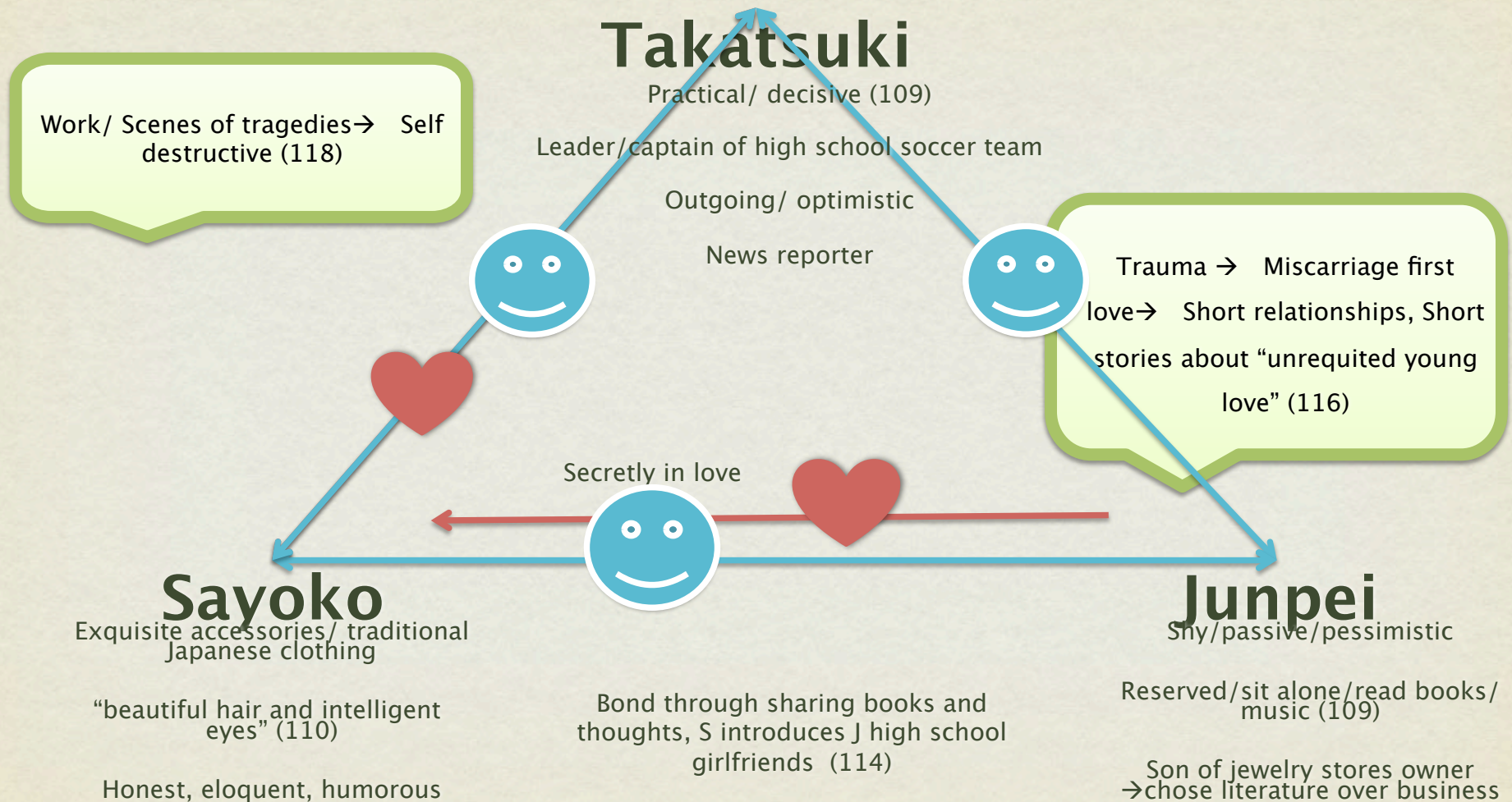
- Attachment to Place/Kobe as Root
- Takasaki/Okinawa

A photograph of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, with their index and middle fingers extended and touching at the tips to form an inverted triangle. The hands are positioned against a piece of light-colored, textured paper that has been torn at the edges. The background is a dark, textured green. The text 'Triangular relations' is overlaid in a dark, serif font across the center of the triangle.

Triangular relations

The response of the three characters to the trauma

Triangular relations: pre-trauma



Pre-trauma: Takatsuki-Junpei/Sayoko

- “Takatsuki seemed to have decided the first time he saw Junpei in class that he was going to make him a friend. He tapped Junpei on the shoulder and said, ‘Hey, let’s get something to eat.’...Takatsuki had jumped with him when he adopted the same approach with Sayoko. He tapped her on the shoulder and said ‘Hey, how about the three of us get something to eat?... (109-110).”

PRE-TRAUMA: TAKATSHKI-JUNPEI-SAYOKO

“They shared lecture notes, ate lunch in the campus dining hall, talked about their future over coffee between classes, took part-time jobs at the same place, went to all-night movies and rock concerts and walked all over Tokyo, and drank so much beer they even got sick together (110).”

PRE-TRAUMA: JUNPEI-SAYOKO

“She read a lot, and she and Junpei were constantly exchanging novels and having intense conversation about him (110).”

“Junpei found the look of hers beautiful, and he knew that his was the girl he had been searching for. He had never fallen in love until he met Sayoko (110).”

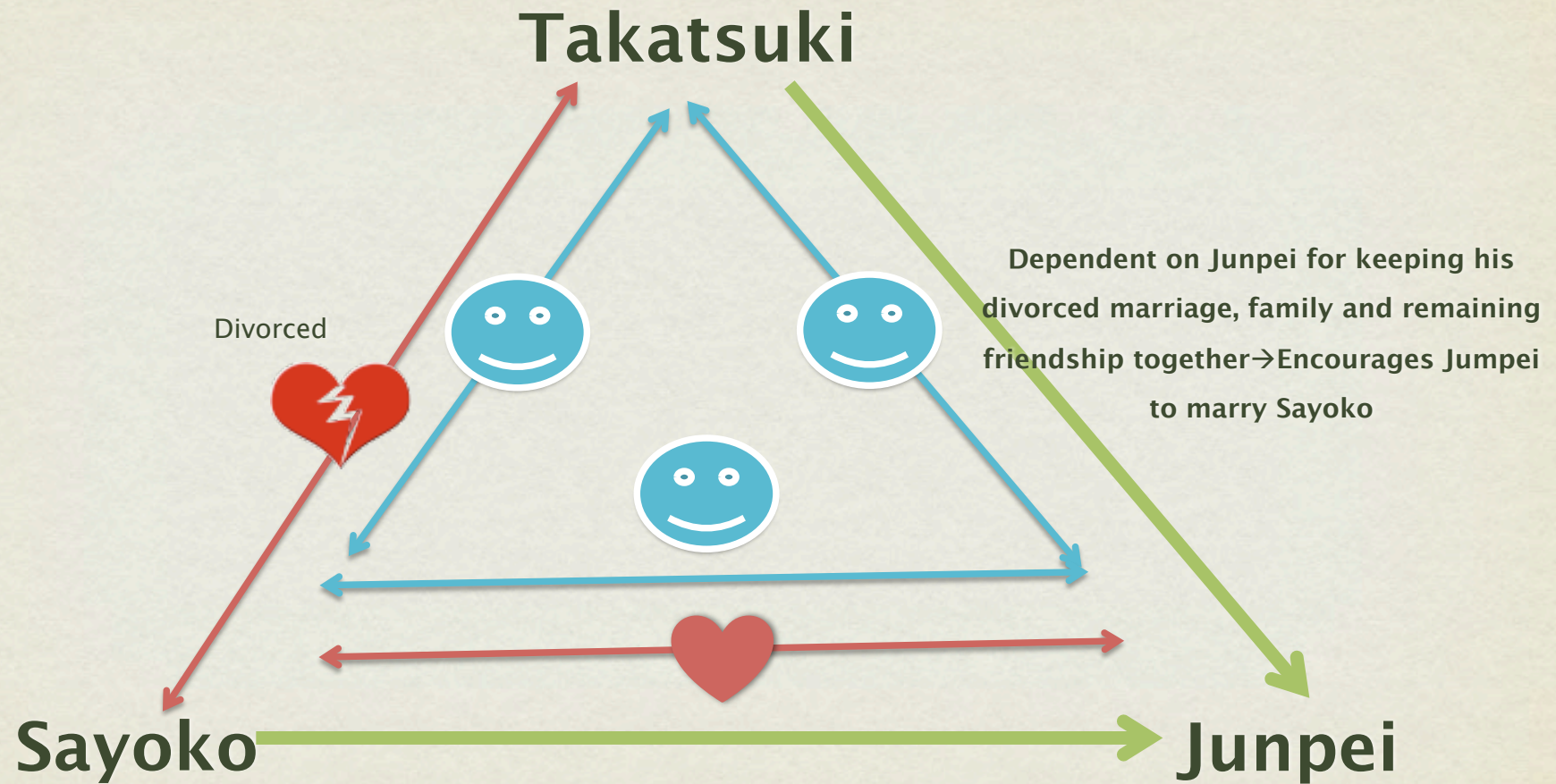
PRE-TRAUMA: TAKATSUKI → JUNPEI

“You were the only one I was worried about. I mean the three of us had such a great thing going, it was kind of like I bet you out. But anyway, Junpei, this had to happen sometimes. You have to understand that. If not now, it was bound to happen sooner or later. The main thing is that I want three of us to go on being friends, OK? (113)”

PRE-TRAUMA: SAYOKO → JUNPEI

“It’s kind of embarrassing to put this into words,’ she said, ‘but I want to stay friends with you, Junpei. Not just for now, but even after we get older. A lot older. I love Takatsuki, but I need you, too, in a different way. Does that make me selfish (112)?”

TRIANGULAR RELATIONS: POST-TRAUMA



Post-trauma: Junpei-Sayoko

- “Takatsuki was sometimes too busy to make it home until morning. Then Sayako would call Junpei. She knew he was often up all night...They would discuss the books they had read, or things that had come up in their daily lives. Then they would talk about the old days when they were all still free and wild and spontaneous. Conversations like that would inevitably bring back memories of the time when Junpei had held Sayoko in his arms (118).”

Post-trauma

- “Sala called Takatsuki ‘Papa’ and Junpei ‘Jun.’ The four of them were an odd pseudo-family. Whenever they got together, Takatsuki would be his usual talkative self, and Sayoko’s behaviour was perfectly natural, as though nothing had happened. If anything, she seemed even more natural than before in Junpei’s eyes. Sala had no idea her parents were divorced. Junpei played his assigned role perfectly without slightest objection (121).”

Post-trauma

- “They all went on meeting at least once a week, as they always had. Whenever urgent business kept Takatsuki away, Sayoko, Junpei and Sala would eat together. The take was quiet without talkative Takatsuki, and the conversation turned to oddly mundane matters. A stranger would have assumed that the three of them were just a typical family (123).”

Post-trauma: Takatsuki-Junpei

- “...I’m ruining my own life. But I’m telling you, Junpei. I couldn’t help it. There was no way I could put a stop to it. I don’t know any better than you do why it had to happen. There’s no way to justify it, either. It just happened. And if not here and now, something like it would have happened sooner or later (122).”

Junpei-sala relationship

JUNPEI-SALA RELATIONSHIP

- Junpei's role: beyond what he is supposed to be
- Gives Sala her name
- Asked to be present when Takatsuki visits

JUNPEI-SALA RELATIONSHIP

- Sala: being practical & materialistic
- Suggests that Masakichi make a honey pie
- “This girl will be a real entrepreneur someday (107).”

JUNPEI-SALA RELATIONSHIP

- Sala's Trauma
- Sala's symptoms:
 - Can't stop shaking & crying
 - Having nightmares (Earthquake Man)
- Adults' reaction:
 - Avoid watching TV
 - Story-telling
- S



story-telling

As a way of communication for Junpei to relive his past and deal with trauma

STORIES

- The short stories
 - Traumatized: a way to re-live the past
- The story-telling
 - Reflects the interaction between Junpei and the society
 - A means to connect with Sala

SHORT STORIES

- Sentimental
- Unrequited Love
- Lyrical
- 4 Publications
 - Horse in the Rain
 - Grapes
 - (Unknown)
 - Silent Moon

STORY-TELLING

- 3 Parts
 - “Masakichi the Number 1 Honey Bear”
 - “Tonkichi”
 - “The revision”

MASAKICHI THE NUMBER 1 HONEY BEAR

- Masakichi
 - Misfit
 - Eccentric
 - Small
- Junpei
 - Loner
 - Lyrical short stories
 - Self-conscious

TONKICHI (1)

- Ordinary bear
- Disliked Masakichi
- Good salmon catcher
 - Traded with Masakichi for honey
 - Befriend with Masakichi
- Salmon disappeared
- Tonkichi → locked in a zoo

TONKICHI (2)

- Tonkichi
 - Ordinary
 - Skilled salmon catcher
 - Self-destructive
- Takatsuki
 - Practical
 - Athletic
 - Love affair

TONKICHI (3)

- The disappearance of salmon
 - Catastrophe: Earthquake, Divorce
- Masakichi finds a friend
 - Junpei and Takatsuki

THE REVISION (1)

- Tonkichi's second talent
 - Making crisps
- Honey + Crisps = Honey Pie
- A happy ending
 - Happily ever after
 - Best friends forever

THE REVISION (2)

- Revised after love-making, witnessing Sala's panic attack
- A sudden, yet optimistic turn
 - Junpei decided to marry Sayoko



Images

The symbolic meaning of images appeared in the novel

IMAGES

- Salmon: Junpei's love to Sayoko (steady relationship with Sayoko)
- The Disappearance of Salmon: Drastic change in life (Earthquake) & a sudden change in Sayoko & Junpei's relationship
- Crazy Box: Catastrophe (Pandora's Box) or Negative Impacts of Mass Media (TV)
- Bra: Sex Object (female sexuality & female oppression)
- Honey Pie: Compromise & Happy Ending

