Elements of magical realism

The following elements are found in many magical realist works.

- Contains fantastical elements.
- The fantastic elements may be intrinsically plausible but are never explained.
- Characters accept rather than question the logic of the magical element.
- Exhibits a richness of sensory details.
- Uses symbols and imagery extensively.
- Emotions and the sexuality of the human as a social construct are often developed in great detail.
- Distorts time so that it is cyclical or so that it appears absent. Another technique is to collapse time in order to create a setting in which the present repeats or resembles the past.
- Inverts cause and effect, for instance a character may suffer *before* a tragedy occurs.
- Incorporates legend or folklore.
- Presents events from multiple standpoints - ie. alternates detached with involved narrative voice; likewise, often shifts between characters' viewpoints and internal narration on shared relationships or memories.
- Mirrors past against present; astral against physical planes; or characters one against another.
- Open-ended conclusion leaves the reader to determine whether the magical and/or the mundane rendering of the plot is more truthful or in accord with the world as it is.

Authors who have written in the genre of Magic realism:
Isabel Allende (*The House of Spirits*)
Gabriel García Márquez (*One Hundred Years of Solitude, Love in the Time of Cholera*)
Franz Kafka (*Metamorphosis*)
Milan Kundera (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*)
Yann Martel (*The Life of Pi*)