

**Title & Author:** The English Teacher by R.K. Narayan

## **Introduction:**

I chose to read 'The English Teacher' by R.K. Narayan because I had already enjoyed a few of his simple and interesting stories. I wanted to see how he wrote about love, loss and inner transformation. I expected a more subdued story about the life of a schoolteacher, yet was greeted with something deeper, more spiritual and more poetically painful.

## **Summary:**

The English Teacher' follows Krishna, a young English literature professor, whose life revolves around his

simple college and warm family. When his wife Susila joins him with his daughter, their world seems picture-perfect-until disaster strikes. The story follows Krishna's emotional and spiritual development as he

grapples with grief, purpose, and the idea of speaking to the dead.

Through a blend of realism and mysticism, the book touches on love, death, and finding peace within oneself, leaving the readers with questions about life and after.

## **Analysis & Opinion:**

One of the most wonderful things about the novel is Narayan's writing, so simple yet sharp. The depth of emotion he invests in the characters, particularly Krishna, is massive. The agony of losing and the healing process which follows is so lyrically written that they follow long after the final page has been turned. Susila, although not with Krishna throughout, is a presence which one would never wish to forget, her effects seen through Krishna's emotional and spiritual journey.

But Narayan does not overdo it-he lets it float smoothly along. Krishna was so uniquely a distinct character because of his transformation. He starts as a plain, rather complacent

fellow and grows to be one deeply introspective and wise.

The saddest scene is when Krishna utters these words, "You are not dead-your soul lives!" It's a grim cry of denial that slowly transforms into acceptance. Elsewhere, he expresses that he would never teach without purpose again, revealing how his grief reshaped him as an educator.

The novel teaches us that sorrow does not conclude-it transforms. And in its transformation, we find clarity, compassion, and peace.

## **Personal Connection:**

This book hit me like a ton of bricks—but in a good way. It made me appreciate the quiet strength needed to heal and taught me that sometimes, letting go is the only way to hold on. I stopped sweeping emotions under the rug and started facing them directly. Krishna felt like a mirror—I saw my

own doubts in his pain. The book helped me slow down, look within, and see loss not as an end, but as a path to growth.

## **Conclusion:**

Absolutely, I would recommend this book. It's a short read but delivers a powerful emotional punch.

Anyone

who's dealt with grief, loss, or simply wants to understand the quiet complexities of the human heart will find

this book a gem. It's not just for literary buffs-it's for anyone who has ever loved deeply and lost deeply.