

#flo #ret #disorganized #incomplete

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## 1 | 'in class' close reading.

prompt:

\_Instructions:\_ Select one of the following citations from Roy's \_The God of Small Things\_ for your in-

Rubric Categories:

- Understanding Literature
- Close Reading
- Structure & Mechanics
- Writer's Voice

Please create your paragraph in a Google Doc and submit it to Canvas at the end of class. You will be g

1) She lay in it in her yellow Crimplene bell-bottoms with her hair in a ribbon and her Made-in-England

2) Chacko said:

- You don't \_go\_ to Oxford. You \_read\_ at Oxford.

And

- After \_reading\_ at Oxford, you \_come down.\_

"Down to earth, d'you mean?" Ammu would ask. "\_That\_ you definitely do. Like your famous airplanes."

Ammu said that the sad but entirely predictable fate of Chacko's airplanes was an impartial measure o

3) A few months later Miss Mitten was killed by a milk van in Hobart, across the road from a cricket o

4) When he finished, Estha moved the cans to the basin in front of the mirror. He washed his hands and v

example:

It \_was\_ Velutha.

That much Rahel was sure of. She'd seen him. He'd seen her. She'd have known him anywhere, any time. A

A lucky leaf that wasn't lucky enough. (70)

This passage from \_The God of Small Things\_ by Arundhati Roy occurs in the immediate context of Rahel's

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1. Chacko said:

2. You don't *go* to Oxford. You *read* at Oxford.

And

1. After *reading* at Oxford, you *come down*.

"Down to earth, d'you mean?" Ammu would ask. "*That* you definitely do. Like your famous airplanes."

Ammu said that the sad but entirely predictable fate of Chacko's airplanes was an impartial measure of his abilities. (55)

go to vs read at

come down

d'you mean -> not elitest talk

read -> reading aloud voice

1. and b) -> lecturer, and thus, others are student reductionistic, like marxist?

### **ABOVE in hierarchy ASPIRATION**

come down -> raises oxford up, come down from heaven. place you are in (ayemenem) is "down" ^ hierarchy

airplane kits -> promise that relies on work, failure falls on the maker false promise, never learns like oxford promise, like capitalist promise, like marxist promise?

kits are a mock up, not the real thing extent of his abilities

Ammu defeats without elitist talk or ideals

he is not able to stay aloft

ammu says it's an impartial measure, right and wrong. kits are bs, but he doesn't realize ammu knows that the kits are bs, because she claims that the crashes are **entirely** predictable inevitable that it will crash

oxford is a kit doesn't receive the access to privilege, the ability to soar "high" like the airplane instead he crashes to earth again and again

ammu relates chacko to airplane clearly

^ contradiction between entirely predictable and measure of ability, lead into above idea

impartial -> planes crash, not based in opinion or bias

def ability: restricted by world or in non-restrictive environment?

if first, then bias becomes a part

kits are the environment he relies in biased, and thus, will inevitably not be able to soar

chacko never blames the kits, doesn't recognize the futility

impartial given environment that is partial

contradiction!

regular, not dialogue

## **1.1 | Outlining**

- go vs read
  - reading aloud voice
- start with coming down from oxford

- oxford is high up, heavenly,
- where they are now is lower.
- hierarchy
- down to earth?
  - more like heaven
  - also, not reality
- airplanes
  - airplane kits
    - \* kit's as promise
    - \* like oxford
      - will never be able to our high enough to reach oxford
- contradiction
  - entirely predictable and measure of ability
  - talk about ability in the world
  - kits are the environment

## 1.2 | Writing time

Chacko said:

a) You don't go to Oxford. You read at Oxford.

And

b) After reading at Oxford, you come down.

"Down to earth, d'you mean?" Ammu would ask. "That you definitely do. Like your famous airplanes."

This excerpt is not dialogue — instead, it is an ordered list of points. It represents a plethora of conversations, all condensed into just a few bullet points: "a)" and "b)". Condensing these conversations into so few bullet points, clearly defined down to the individual word level, not only represents the characters more broadly but also shows the lack of change in the characters involved. Chacko begins by drawing a dichotomy: "a) You don't *go* to Oxford. You *read* at Oxford." Chacko's usage of the word "*read*" removes Oxford from the world of the physical and moves it into the world of the intellectual; in Chacko's mind, Oxford is not defined as merely a place. This sentiment is also conveyed in Chacko's second and last point: "b) After *reading* at Oxford, you *come down*." Oxford is not equal to the rest of the world, but rather something heavenly. By saying that one "*comes down*" from Oxford, it raises Oxford up. It places Oxford higher in the hierarchy, and in turn, places Chacko's current state lower. Ammu responds, "Down to earth, d'you mean?" She is depicted as using the word "d'you", starkly contrasting Chacko's style of speech — placing emphasis and importance on single words: "*go*, and"/*read*". "[D]'you" is not elitist and not proper, and yet Ammu still overcomes Chacko in conversation: she continues, "*That* you definitely do. Like your famous airplanes." The airplanes Ammu refers to are airplane kits which regularly arrive for Chacko. Ammu states "that the sad but entirely predictable fate of Chacko's airplanes was an impartial measure of his abilities." Chacko painstakingly assembles them, time after time, and when they inevitably crash, he never blames the kits. These kits represent a promise. A promise that, if one puts in the work to assemble them, they will succeed — the plane will soar high. If it doesn't, then the failure falls on the maker, not the kit. This promise, of

course, is a false promise. No matter what Chacko does, he will never be able to stay aloft, hence why the fate of the planes is "entirely predictable." Furthermore, kits are a mockup, not the real thing. These kits are akin to Chacko's experience with Oxford — the false promise of being able to soar high if only one puts in the work. But alas, Chacko's planes inevitably crash. He never receives the access to privilege and the elite that he is promised, the ability to soar high like an airplane. Instead, he crashes "down to earth" over and over again. Ammu states a contradiction, that the "entirely predictable fate" of Chacko's airplanes are an "an impartial measure of his abilities." If the fate is *entirely* predictable, how can it be an impartial measure? Out of this contradiction arises meaning. The kits will inevitably fail, no matter what Chacko does. He is in a biased environment, one that is a mockup of the real thing, one where he cannot succeed. The true measure of Chacko's ability arises from the fact that he doesn't recognize his own futility in engaging in this clearly biased system, these clearly flawed kits.