

Source: [KBEnglishMasterIndex](#)

# 1 | God of Small Things Essay

## 1.1 | General Information

Due Date	Topic	Important Documents
March 5th, 5PM	GoST	GoST

## 1.2 | Prompt

For this assignment, you will craft a literary analysis essay that shows your understanding and close reading of a thematic aspect of Roy's *The God of Small Things*. As always, close reading can involve tracking a repetition of some type in the text, including but not limited to repetitions in diction, images, structure, syntax, or characters' behaviors. You might also think about tracking a change of some kind in the novel.

You may think of this analysis in two pieces:

- A deep engagement with textual evidence, close reading, and a thematic scope of Roy's *The God of Small Things*
- A tracking and analysis of a pattern, theme, motif, or element of the narrative. Your analysis MUST include the significance of this tracking. It is not enough to notice a pattern, you must examine WHY and HOW that pattern functions within the broader scope of the narrative.

## 1.3 | Evidence bin

"Whole was very frequent"

### 1.3.1 | Holes and Smashed

- (Holes) "Wild creepers burst through latente banks and spill across the flooded roads. Boats ply in the bazaars. And small fish appear in the puddles that fill the PWD potholes on the highways." AA => AA muddy water fills public works' caused holes in road
- (Holes) "Steelshrill police whistles pierced holes in the Noise Umbrella. Through the jagged umbrella holes Rahel could see pieces of red sky." (w.r.t. communism march) AB => AB holes in communist umbrella reveal sky?
- (Holes + Squash) "Vellya Paapen had assured the twins that there was no such thing in the world as a black cat. He said that there were only black cat-shaped holes in the Universe. // Squashed Miss Mitten-shaped stains in the Universe. // Squashed frog-shaped stains in the Universe." AC => AC Black Cats as Holes; Death as Holes. Black associated with God of Retrobution. Holes as retrobution.
- (Holes) "Chacko marveled at how someone so small and undefined, so vague in her resemblances, could so completely command the attention, the love, the sanity, of a grown man. // When he left, he felt that something had been torn out of him. Something big. // But Joe was dead now. Killed in a car crash. Dead as a doorknob. A Joe-shaped Hole in the Universe." AD => AD death as leaving a hole + leaving as tearing a hole
- (Holes) "Estha wouldn't look up. His mind was full of trains. He blocked the light from the door. An Estha-shaped Hole in the Universe." (no, train was not mentioned elsewhere) AE => AE Estha experiences retrobution? death? by himself

- (Holes) “How marvelous!” Margaret Kochamma said. ‘It’s a sort of sniffing! Do the Men and Women do it to each other too?’ She hadn’t meant it to sound quite like that, and she blushed. An embarrassed schoolteacher-shaped Hole in the Universe.” AE => AE British people looking down upon Indians, having been snapped at, “dies” and gets hole-y retrobution
- (Holes) “Esthappen and Rahel both knew that there were several perpetrators (besides themselves) that day. But only one victim. ... He left behind a Hole in the Universe through which darkness poured like liquid tar.” AF => AF Valutha died as a victim, while bleeding black, rebtrobuting liquid from his hole
- (Holes) “She concealed her anguish under the brisk, practical mask of a schoolteacher. The stern, schoolteacher-shaped Hole in the Universe (who sometimes slapped).” AG => AG Joe died, and Margret Kochamma hid that using a hole

### 1.3.2 | Bottles and Cans

- (Bottles) “She even locked her sad, paint-flaking fridge, where she kept her week’s supply of cream buns that Kochu Maria brought her from Bestbakery in Kottayam. And the two bottles of rice water that she drank instead of ordinary water.” (w.r.t. Baby Kochamma) BA => BA Baby Kochamma drinks weak gruel instead of water (seeking to gain small gains by taking the wastewater of rice cooking)
- (Bottle (sealing)) “He commuted his pension and provident fund to buy a Bharat bottle-sealing machine. Mammachi just ran it like a large kitchen. Chacko had it registered as a partnership and informed Mammachi that she was the Sleeping Partner. He invested in equipment (canning machines, cauldrons, cookers) and expanded the labor force. Almost immediately, the financial slide began” BB => BB Industrial bottling machine for sealing bottles leads to financial slide
- (Cans) “His honor redeemed by his grandmother’s cans, Estha Alone organized the rusty cans of nothing in front of the urinal. He stood on them, one foot on each, and pissed carefully, with minimal wobble.” BC => BC humiliation/undue sense of male responsibility lead Estha to “balance on bottles”
- (Bottles (Closing)) “Sound of Music smell that Rahel remembered and treasured. Smells, like music, hold memories. She breathed deep, and bottled it up for posterity.” BD => BD smell of movies bottled up for memories
- (Bottles, and other things.) Welp welp welp this is a quote from the book so here goes nothing “He got a cold bottle and a straw. So he held a bottle in one hand and a penis in the other.” BE => BE abuse as balance between bottle and um... that other thing
- (Cans) “When she was questioned by the Principal about her behavior (cajoled, caned, starved), she eventually admitted that she had done it to find out whether breasts hurt.” BF => BF Rahel “canned”
- (Cans) “They gave him rusted film cans in which to put the vegetables he picked. He never bargained. They never cheated him. When the vegetables had been weighed and paid for, they would transfer them to his red plastic shopping basket”

### 1.3.3 | Eggs and Bubbles

- (Eggs) “Rahel had come to see her brother, Estha. They were two-egg twins. “Dizygotic” doctors called them. Born from separate but simultaneously fertilized eggs. Estha—Esthappen—was the older by eighteen minutes.”
- (Eggs) “‘I tell you, these Hindus,’ Baby Kochamma said piously. ‘They have no sense of privacy’ // ‘They have horns and scaly skins,’ Chacko said sarcastically. ‘And I’ve heard that their babies hatch from eggs.’”
- Ok so this again. I am so sorry. (Eggs) “Then the gristly-bristly face contorted, and Estha’s hand was wet and hot and sticky. It had egg white on it. White egg white. Quarter-boiled.”
- (Eggs) “The moth on Rahel’s heart lifted a downy leg. Then put it back. Its little leg was cold. A little less her mother loved her. The Sea Queen room smelled of eggs and filter coffee.”
- (Eggs) “When the red cement floor to the Ayemenem House was laid, the egg whites from nearly nine hundred eggs went into it. It took a high polish.”
- (Eggs) “War could have been the stallion that he rode, part of, if not all, the way to the Legislative

Assembly, whereas victory left him no better off than when he started out. He broke the eggs but burned the omelette.”

- (Eggs) “Father Mulligan was in saffron. A yolk addressing a sea of boiled eggs. His white beard and hair were long, but combed and groomed”
- (Bubbles) “Rahel ignored her and blew an inadvertent spit bubble. Ammu hated them blowing spit bubbles. She said it reminded her of Babà. Their father. She said that he used to blow spit bubbles and shiver his leg. According to Ammu, only clerks behaved like that, not aristocrats.”
- (Bubbles) “Blowing through the straw (while his other hand moved), Estha blew bubbles into the bottle. Stickysweet lemon bubbles of the drink he couldn’t drink.”
- (Bubbles) “So once again, in the space of two weeks, bottled Fear for Estha. Chilled. Fizzed. Sometimes Things went worse with Coke. The fizz went up his nose. He burped. Rahel giggled. She blew through her straw till the drink bubbled over onto her dress. All over the floor.”

## 1.4 | Claim Synthesis

## 1.5 | Defluffifying

### CHOSEN THESIS CLAIM

- Point a
- Point b
- Point c

So what? SO WHAT

Now, defluffify by re-writing the three points + so what in as little words as possible.

### RESTATED CLAIM

## 1.6 | Outline

- Claim 1: *claim*
  - How
    - HOW IS CLAIM TRUE?
    - Evidence -> HOW IS YOUR REASONING TRUE?
  - So What
    - WHY DO I CARE?
- Claim 2: *claim*
  - How
    - HOW IS CLAIM TRUE?
    - Evidence -> HOW IS YOUR REASONING TRUE?
  - So What
    - WHY DO I CARE?
- Claim 3: *claim*
  - How
    - HOW IS CLAIM TRUE?
    - Evidence -> HOW IS YOUR REASONING TRUE?
  - So What
    - WHY DO I CARE?

There is always UCLA Writing Lab