UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

English Code:30

Indian Writing in English

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Introduction

It all began with Queen Elizabeth I granting the first charter to East India company in the year 1699. The Company entered with business prospects and soon discovered its colonial aims by filling in the administrative vacuum caused by internal conflicts and chaos. With the tacit help of the Hindu bankers and Mughal rulers they nourished their company to an absolute economic giant and initiated the building of British infrastructure in Indian soil in the form of forts and army regiments on the pretext of defending their economic interests here. Soon after defeating Indian resistance both by military and diplomatic supremacy they became the masters of Indian provinces like Bengal, Madras and Bombay. And by the end of the eighteenth century they found themselves ruling in almost every nook and corner of India through direct administration or by indirect influence.

Now, after ascending the pedestal, they had to adapt themselves to the Indian ethos and oriental learning. Some of the company officials were great champions of Oriental learning. So, at the outset the company's policy was to project orientalist education in India, and for that they built Calcutta Madrasa for teaching Persian and Arabic in 1781 and Sanskrit College in Benaras in 1792. But soon the direction of the tide started to change in favour of English education with the pressing need for English learned Indian clerks, translators and lower officials in administration. The missionary schools imparting English education already existed in South India before the eighteenth century but now those schools were building their grounds in Bengal and Bombay. The missionaries believed themselves to be breaking the earthenware vessels of Hinduism with a iron rod by exposing the Indians to western educational framework.

Many Indian intellectuals also supported the cause of Indian education in India .How can we forget the name of Raja Rammohun Roy in this domain. He vociferously argued for the English education in his persuasive letter on English education to lord Amherst in 1823.He also founded the Hindu College in Clacutta on 20 January 1817 along with the aid of David Hume and Edward Hyde-East. He also funded the establishment of several other Anglo - Hindu schools in Bengal.

But the coup de grace was delivered by Macaulay's Minute on education of 2 February 1835. As a result Lord Bentinck adopted the policy of English education through the Government resolution of 7 March 1835. It declared that 'the great object of the British Government ought to be the promotion of of European literature and science among the natives of India , and all the funds for the purpose of education would be best employed on English education alone'. This approach was much furthered by Charles Wood. In his well known Despatch of 19July 1854 he reiterated the necessity of imparting European knowledge throughout all the classes of people. The logical outcome was the establishment of three first Indian universities – those of Calcutta , Bombay and Madras – in 1857 which fostered the spirit of renaissance inside them which found its manifestation hardly within a generation in every sphere of society giving birth to mature Indian Writing in English.

In this Module we are going to divide Indian Writing in English in three sections and discuss about the authors and their cannons.



Unit 1: Pre-independence Indian Authors

The beginnings of Indian English literature are not fully documented. For long, Cavelley Venkata Boriah's "Account of the Jains" published in 1809 in a journal has been considered the first published work by an Indian in English. M.K.Naik and K.R.Srinivasa lyengar in his Indian Writing in English (1962) supported this view because The Travels of Dean Mahomet had been forgotten. It is only in 1996 that a historian, Michael H. Fisher, brought this work to light, His scholarly work, The First Indian Author in English: Dean Mahomed (1795-1851) in India, Ireland and England has chronicled the life of this unknown Indian, tracing his later life as the first Indian entrepreneur in England and the role his wife Jane played in furthering his business of running a coffee house and later a medicinal bath. But it is difficult to correctly place Dean Mahomet's work in the tradition of Indian English writing, He is chronologically the first, but we do not know whether later writers like Raja Rammohun Roy were aware of his work.

Major Authors:

- 1.Dean Mohomet
- 2.Raja Rammohun Roy
- 3. Kashi Prasad Ghose
- 4.Henry Derozio
- 5.Toru Dutt
- 6.Aurobindo Ghosh
- 7.Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- 8. Micheal Madhusudan Dutt
- 9. Rabindranath Tagore

- 10.Amrita Pritam
- 11.Swami Vivekanand
- 12.Mulk Raj Anand
- 13. Raja Rao
- 14.R.K Narayan
- 15. Sarojini Naidu
- 16.Jawaharlal Nehru

1.Dean Mohomed

Sake Dean Mahomed, a noted traveler, surgeon, author, and entrepreneur who was born in Patna, India in 1759. Though he's been left out of many modern history books, Mahomed left a profound impact on Western culture that is still being felt today.

- In 1794, Sake Dean Mahomed published The Travels of Dean Mahomet, an autobiography that details his time in the East India Company's army in his youth and his journey to Britain. Not only was it the first English book written by an Indian author, The Travels of Dean Mahomet marked the first time a book published in English depicted the British colonization of India from an Indian perspective.
- The Travels of Dean Mahomet is the book which was written more than two centuries ago, just when the Mughal Empire was fading away and the British was covering the whole parts of India, they occupied Mughals, Then Peshvas, and Then Mysore etc. Dean Mahomet Describes various aspects of life in India, always laying stress on the beauty of the country and the nobility of its people. He describes "the Mohammedan ceremony of marriage". The caste system, the custom of offering betel leaves, and the goods manufactured in different parts of the country;, such as the fine cloth of Dhaka. But the tone is always that of a neutral observer. One often finds the author taking over

the European's values along with his vocabulary: the Indians who attack the Bengal Army's convoy, are described as "a savage clan" and "unfeeling barbarians". The tribals armed with bows and arrows are no match for the British guns and they are punished brutality: "some being whipped in a public manner, others suspended on a kind of gibbets, ignominiously exposed along the mountain's conspicuous brow."

- While studying English in Ireland, Mahomed met and fell in love with an Irish woman named Jane Daly. It was illegal for Protestants to marry non-Protestants at the time, so the pair eloped in 1786 and Mahomed converted from Islam to Anglicanism.
- Prior to Sake Dean Mahomed's arrival, Indian food was impossible to find in England outside of private kitchens. He introduced the cuisine to his new home by opening the Hindoostane Coffee House in London in 1810. The curry house catered to both British and Indian aristocrats living in the city, with "Indianised" versions of British dishes and "Hookha with real Chilm tobacco." Though the restaurant closed a few years later due to financial troubles, it paved the way for Indian food to become a staple of the English food scence.
- Following the failure of his restaurant venture, Mahomed opened a luxury spa in Brighton, England, where he offered Eastern health treatments like herbal steam baths and therapeutic, oil-based head massages to his British clientele. The head massages eventually came to be known as *shampoo*, an anglicized version of the Hindi word *champissage*. Patrons included the monarchs George IV and William IV, earning Mahomed the title *shampooer of kings*.
- Though *The Travels of Dean Mahomet* is his most famous book, Mahomed published another book in English in 1828 <u>called Shampooing</u>; or, Benefits Resulting from the Use of the Indian Medicated Vapour Bath.

2. Raja Rammohan Roy

- Ram Mohan Roy was born on 22 May 1772 in Hindu Brahmin family in Hooghly,
 Bengal. His father, Ramkanto Roy, was a scholar of Sanskrit, Persian and English
 languages, who also knew Arabic, Latin and Greek. Not much is known of his early
 life, but it is widely believed that he travelled a great deal and picked up languages
 like Persian, Arabic and English apart from Sanskit, Bengali and Hindi.
- In his letter to Lord Amherst, the former Governor-General of India, dated 11 December 1823, Raja Ram Mohan Roy wrote, "...we now find that the government is establishing a Sanskrit school under Hindu pundits to impart knowledge as is already current in India. This seminary can only be expected to load the minds of the physical distinctions of little or no practical use to the society......The Sanskrit system of education would be best calculated to keep this country in darkness"
- Raja Rammohan Roy could be named as first of the **Indian** masters of **English** Prose.
- The introduction of English schooling in India is synonymous with T.B
 Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education (1835). But the wheels for this had been set in motion much earlier, with Roy's opposition to establishment of the Sanskrit College.
- While the British empire's agenda was to further colonise the minds of its Indian subjects, Roy believed that the introduction of English education, with a scientific temperament, would aid in establishing a "more liberal and enlightened system of instruction."
- He paved the way to revolutionizing education system in India by establishing Hindu
 College in 1817 along with David Hare which later went on to become one of the best
 educational institutions in the country producing some of the best minds in India. His
 efforts to combine true to the roots theological doctrines along with modern rational
 lessons saw him establish the Anglo-Vedic School in 1822 followed by the Vedanta
 College in 1826.

Publications: Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidinor A Gift to Monotheists (1905), Vedanta (1815), Ishopanishad (1816), Kathopanishad (1817), Moonduk Upanishad (1819), The Precepts of Jesus - Guide to Peace and Happiness (1820), Sambad Kaumudi - a Bengali newspaper (1821), Mirat-ul-Akbar - Persian journal (1822), Gaudiya Vyakaran (1826), Brahmapasona (1828), Brahmasangeet (1829) and The Universal Religion (1829).

3. Kashi Prasad Ghose

- Born in 1809, Kashiprasad Ghose graduated from Hindu College, Calcutta, in 1828, and went on to edit a weekly newspaper, The Hindu Intelligence. His only volume of poems, The Shair and Other Poems, came out in 1839. He died in 1873.
- M. K. Naik remarks about Kashiprasad Ghose's craftsmanship of Poetry by saying "Kashiprosad Ghose seems to intimate by turns the stylized love-lyrics of the Cavalier poets, the moralizing note in Neoclassical poetry and the British Romantics and his "Shair" being obviously Scott's minstrel' in an Indian garb, slightly dishevelled as a result of the [3]arduous voyage across the seas. His use of Indian material in his poems about the Hindu festivals and in lyrics like "The Boatman's Song to Ganga" indicates an honest attempt to strike a native wood which fails not because earnestness of purpose is writing but owing to the sheer look of true poetic talent"
- Works:

The Shar and Other Poems (1830) (transcription project) (external scan)

Dasahara

To a Young Hindu Widow

Storm and Rain

To a Dead Crow

The Boatmen's Song to Ganga

King of Oude (external scan)

4. Henry Derozio

- Poet, Journalist, teacher
- Became a teacher of English literature in the Hindu College at the age of 18.
- "He does not only taught English Literature, but also made his pupils to ask questions, think for themselves, and not shrink from the right answers."
- He loved India and loved Nature, he also loved his students- are reflected in his poems.
- HIS works are influenced by French Revolution and English Romantics.
- He has written many short lyrics, and sonnets.
- His most famous work is Fakir ofJungheera-1828.
- The protagonist of the Fakeer poem is a robber Fakeer or a mendicant, who belongs to some unidentified Muslim sect, while the heroine, the widow Nuleeni, comes from an upper cast Bengali Hindu family. Derozio's uses Christian imagery, such as heaven and juxtaposes it against the Hindu tradition of sati, Muslim prayers and tantric tale of raja Vikramjit and Baital to create acquaint, romantic atmosphere.

TORU DUTT

- Toru Dutt was one of the greatest writers of English Literature. She was a poet, novelist, translator and what not..
- Though she died at a very young age of twenty-one, she had left behind an immense collection of prose and poetry.
- Toru Dutt was born on 4 March 1856 in the prosperous and cultured Hindu family of the Dattas of Rambagan, Calcutta...
- Toru translated some sonnets of deCramont and regarded him as one of the best of modern French poets.
- Works:
 - Her poems include Ancient Ballads and other Legends of Hindustan, Baugmaree, France, The Lotus, The Tree of Life, and Our Casurina Tree. Her last poem" AMon Pere" is praised worldwide and is considered "faultless".

Aurobindo Ghosh

- He was born in 1872. He lived in Pondichery inan Ashram. He died in 1950..
- He wrote *Savitri* A Legend and a symbol, which contains 24000 lines.
- He won Pulitzer, Prize when he was studying in England. He died in 1950.
- WORKS

Lion

Woodlands

Achab and Esar

The Visser of Bassora- A Dramatic Romance

Pursucs, the Deliverer

Rotogume

The Maid in the Mill

Love Shuffles the Cards

The House of Brute

The Birth of Sin

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was born on 27th June, 1838 in Kanthalpara, west Bengal.
 His parents were Jadabchandra chattopadhyay and Durgadevi. He completed his
 education from the presidency college of Kolkata. He was also called as Rishi Bankim
 Chandra Chattopadyay.
- At the beginning of his writing career he wrote in English language as he desired to close. In this attempt he wrote his first novel titled 'Rammohan's Wife', But he soon felt the he could express his feeling more naturally and clearly in mother tongue. Thus he produced many of his great works. 'Vande Mataram' is a poem that is mentioned in his novel 'Anandamath', which became the inspirational song for India's freedom struggle, later became the national song of India.

- In 1892 he started a Bengali literary magazine under the title 'Bangadarshan'. He also served as a Deputy Collector and Deputy Magistrate. Ile is also called as the "The Father of Bengali Fiction"-
- Among the works of Bankim Chandra Anandmath occupies a major position because of its great contribution to India's Freedom Struggle through its strong characters and thundering dialogues. Due to ill health, he died on 8th April, 1894.
- Durgeshnandini: This novel is based on history. It was written .in
- 1865.
- Kapal Kundala: In this novel he wrote about magic, ghost and mystery. It was written in 1866.
- Mrinalini: This patriotic novel was written in 1869.
- Anandmath: This patriotic novel was written in 1884 on Bengal: Famine. It has the famous song 'Vande Mataram', which became Popular in those days among patriotic people and was accepted by the Indian Government as the 'National Song after Independence. novel is based on the Sanyasi Revolt of North Bengal in 1773. It draws the fearful and moving picture of Bengal Famine.
- The Poison Tree: This novel was written in 1884. It is a story of Hindu life in Bengal in the English period.
- Other Works: 'Krishna Kant's Will' in 1895 and 'The Two Rings' in 1897.

Kapalkundala

- The rural milieu of 19th century, ingrained with tantricism presents Kapalkundala as a romantic novel of Bankim
 - Chandra Chattopadhya. The romantic amorous relationship between Nabakumar and Kapalkundala is the heart of the novel. The zamindar Nabakumar once being shipwrecked took refuge in a forest caped island, where he met Kapalkundala, lived in the shelter of a Tantric saint. The passionate urge between each other ultimately finds expression in the marriage of Naba Kumar and Kapalkundala. Liberated from the shackles of the recluse, Kapalkundala, stated to survive in the normal world as

Mrinmoyee, the wife of zamindar. But the Tantric rediscovered the true face of Mrinmoyee and bullied her to relinquish the family life. Finally to save her family and her beloved Nabakumar, she committed suicide, to desert her family as well as her own life.

• Kapalkundala, centers round the life and activities of the protagonist Kapalkundala, later known as Mrinmoyee. The title truly signifies the sacrifice and penalty; she has to give being a poor prey of religious extremism. Through a bold presentation of the heroine Kapalkundala, Bankim Chandra represents the predicament of the entire womenfolk, who became the victim of the socio-religious conventions.

Michael Madhusudan Dutt(1827-1873)

- Poet, Lawyer
- Influenced by English Romanticism.
- His fame as poet rest upon his great Bengali Epic "Meghnad Bodh" and narrative poem "The captive Ladie" appeared In Madras in 1849.
- It evokes Muhmmad Gazni's vision of slaughter of Hindus in Old Delhi.
- He is known as Poet's Poet in Bengal. Technology
- Sri Aurobindo said about this poet, "The God himself took thy pen and wrote."

Rabindra Nath Tagore

- He was a poet, philosopher, musician, writer, and educationist.
 Rabindranath Tagore became the first Asian to become Nobel laureate when he won Nobel Prize (1913) for his collection of poems, Gitanjali: Song Offerings (1912).
- He was popularly called as Gurudev.
- Tagore wrote eight novels and four novellas.
 Works:
- Sandhya Sangeet (1882)
- Prahbat Sangeet (1882)

- Shaishav Sangeet and Chabi o Gan (1883) Kadi o Komal (Sharp and Flats), (1886)
- Mansi (The Deserted She), (1890)
- Ganer Bashi (1893)
- Sonar Tari (Golden Boat), (1893)
- Chi Lali (1896)
- Kahini (1900)
- Katha o Kahini (1900)
- Kalpana (1900)
- Kshanilca (The Momentary She), (1900)
- Naibedya (offerings), (1901)
- Samran (Remembrance), (1903)
- Shishu (The Child), (1903)
- Utsarga (1903)
- 'Kheya (The Ferry), (1905)
- The Gardener (1913)
- The Crescent Moon (1913)
- Fruit Gathering (1916)
 Text with Technology
- Balaka (1916)
- stray Birds (1917)
- Palataka (1918)
- Purabi (1925)
- Mahua (1929)
- Bamabani(1931)
- The Parises (1932)
- Punascha (1932)
- Arogya (1941)
- Janam Dine (1941)

- All these poems except 'The Child' were written in Bangla. Later, they were translated into English. The Child, (Shishu) was first written in English. Later, it was translated in Bangla,
- Collected poems and plays in 1936.

Novels

- Gora
- The Broken Nest
- The Home and the World

Plays

- The Geneus of valmiki
- The Sacrifice
- The Post Office

Short Stories

- The Home Coming
- The Kabuliwalah
- My Reminiscences in his autobiography
- The Home and the World 1916 ith Technology

Originally written as 'Ghore Baire' .The story 'The Home and the World' is set at the background of the partition time of 1947.

Main Characters: Nikhil, Bimala, his wife, and Sandeep

Nikhil lives a happy life with his wife Bimala till the time his friend Sandip appeared. Nikhil was definitely devoted to his wife and he tried hard to educate her and enable her to discover herself not in the confinements of the four walls of the house but in the big wide world outside. Nikhil's friend Sandip is a revolutionist. He easily attracts the innocent and unsuspecting Bimala, creating a love triangle as a whole. Although Nikhil

figures out what is happening, he doesn't reveal this his wife. He is mature enough to do that and thus grants Bimala freedom to grow and choose what she wants in her life. They had an arranged marriage and a huge age difference between them. Meanwhile Bimala experiences the emotions of love for the first time in a manner which helps her

understand that it is indeed her husband Nikhil who really loves her. The novel ends with Sandeep running away like a common thief after the communal seeds that he had sown in the once peaceful community results in a bloody riot. Bimala loses both her home and the world as Nikhil almost dies trying to quell the riot.

AMRITA PRITAM

Amrita Pritam was a popular Indian writer and a leading Punjabi language poet. Amrita
Pritam, born on 31st August 1919, is considered as the first renowned poet, essayist and
novelist of Punjabi literature.

Awards:

- She is the first woman in Punjabi literature to win the esteemed Sahitya Akademi Award for her composition 'Sunehray'.
- In the year 1982, she also received the Jnanpith Award for `Kagaz Te Canvas` (The Paper and the Canvas).
- In the year 1969, she was awarded the Padma Shri Award
- In the year 2004, she received the second highest civilian award of India that is the Padma Vibhushan Award. Text with Technology
- Works:

Novels

Pinjar

Kore Kagaz,

Unchas Din

Doctor Dev

Rang ka Patta

Sagar aur Seepian

Terahwan Suraj

Dilli ki Galiyan

Yaatri

• Amrita Pritam began her career as a romantic poet. She is widely remembered for her emotional poem 'AjAakhaan Waris Shah Nu' (Today I invoke Waris Shah – 'Ode to

Waris Shah`). It was an expression of her agony over the violent massacres that took place during the partition of former British India. One of the most noted works of Amrita Pritam was 'Pinjar' (The Skeleton). This novel portrays the violence against women and loss of humanity.

- Her various works including her autobiography `Black Rose and Revenue Stamp` have been translated into other languages like English, Japanese, Danish, French, Urdu and many more. Amrita Pritam also published several autobiographies namely `Kala Gulab` (Black Rose), `Rasidi Ticket` (The Revenue Stamp) and "Aksharon kay Saayee" (Shadows of Words).
- Feminism and humanism are the main themes used by Amrita Pritam in her write-ups Through her work she always tried to portray the realism of society. The most popular short stories written by Amrita Pritam are "Kahaniyan jo Kahaniyan Nahi", "Stench of Kerosene" and "Kahaniyon ke Angan mein".

Swami Vivekanand (1863-1902)

- He was born on Monday 12th February, 1863 in Calcutta. His name was Vishveshwar
 Dutt. I lis father's name was Babu Vishwanath Dutt. When he was sent to school, his
 name was changed as Narendranath Dutt.
- He passed High School from a famous institute of Calcutta. He passed BA in 1884 from a Christian College in Calcutta.
- As a student, he was interested in boxing, swimming, rowing, riding, nutsic and many other activities. He had no faith in God. He became a total an atheist.
- Afterwards, he came in contact with Swami Ram Krishna paramhans and became his
 disciple and saint. After accepting Sanyas, the name was changed to Swami
 Visekanand.
- He founded the Ram Krishna Mission.
- After the death of his guru in 1886, he begun completing his mission. He went on a pilgrimage. After doing Tapasya, in the Himalayas for six years he went to Tibet. He

studied deeply the doctrines of the Buddhism and its various branches. He went to USA in 1893 and took part in the Parliament of religions at Chicago.

• He preached the great ideals of Hinduism. Impressed with his personality and address many foreigners came to India as his disciples. He also preached the doctrines of Hinduism in Japan and England. He died in 1902.

• Literary works

Raja Yoga, Karma Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Jnana Yoga, My Master, Lectures from Colombo to Almora

Published in his lifetime

Sangeet Kalpataru (1887, with Vaishnav Charan Basak)[79]

Karma Yoga (1896)[207][208]

Raja Yoga (1896 [1899 edition])[209]

Vedanta Philosophy: An address before the Graduate Philosophical Society (1896)

Lectures from Colombo to Almora (1897)

Bartaman Bharat (in Bengali) (March 1899), Udbodhan

My Master (1901), The Baker and Taylor Company, New York

Vedânta philosophy: lectures on Jnâna Yoga (1902) Ved<mark>ân</mark>ta Society, New York OCLC

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Jnana yoga (1899)

Published posthumously

Here is a list of selected books by Vivekananda that were published after his death (1902)[206]

Addresses on Bhakti Yoga

Bhakti Yoga

The East and the West (1909)[210]

Inspired Talks (1909)

Narada Bhakti Sutras – translation

Para Bhakti or Supreme Devotion

Practical Vedanta

Speeches and writings of Swami Vivekananda; a comprehensive collection

Complete Works: a collection of his writings, lectures and discourses in a set of nine volumes (ninth volume will be published soon)

Seeing beyond the circle (2005)

Mulk Raj Anand

- Mulk Raj Anand is popularly known as an Indian novelist, short-story writer, and art critic. As he used to write in English he was among the first writers to render Punjabi and Hindustani idioms into English.
- Called the Zola or Balzac of India. Anand drew a realistic and sympathetic portrait of the poor of his country.
- The author was also regarded as one the 'founding fathers' of the Indian English novel.
- Mulk Raj Anand's stories depicted a realistic and sympathetic portrait of the poor in India.
- He spent World War II working as a scriptwriter for the BBC in London, where he became a friend of George Orwell.
- He founded a literary magazine called "Marg".
- Works:

Untouchable (1935)

Coolie (1936)

Two Leaves and a Bud (1937)

The Village (1939)

Across the Black Waters (1939)

The Sword and the Sickle (1942)

The Private Life of an Indian Prince (1953)

Untouchable – 1935

- His friend, E. M. Forster, whom he met while working on T. S. Elliot's magazine Criterion, wrote the introduction.
- His first main novel, "Untouchable", published in 1935, was a chilling exposé of the day-to-day life of a member of India's untouchable caste.

• It is the story of a single day in the life of Bakha, a toilet-cleaner, who accidentally bumps into a member of a higher caste. Bakha searches for comfort to the tragedy of the destiny into which he was born, talking first with a Christian missionary and then with a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, but by the end of the book he concludes that it is technology, in the form of the newly introduced flush toilet thatwill be his saviour. While the toilet may deprive him and his family of the traditional livelihood they have had for centuries, it may also liberate the in the end by eliminating the need for a caste of toilet cleaners.

Coolie (1936)

- Coolie, by Mulk Raj Anand, was first published in 1936 and helped to establish Anand
 as one of the foremost Anglophone Indian writers of his day. Like much of his other
 work, this novel is concerned with the consequences of British Rule in India and with
 the rigid caste system that structured Indian society.
- "Coolie" is a term for an unskilled laborer, though it can also be used as a pejorative. Anand's novel tells the story of Munoo, a young boy from the Kangra Hills in Bilaspur. He is an orphan who lives with his aunt and uncle; however, early in the novel they reveal they can no longer support Munoo and insist that he get a job. This is the beginning of a journey that will take Munoo to Bombay and beyond, but it also marks the end of his childhood.
- With his Uncle, Munoo travels to a nearby town where he finds a job as a servant to a bank clerk, Babu Nathoo Ram. Munoo is mistreated by his master's wife but he admires his master's younger brother, Prem Chand, who is a doctor. Babu Nathoo Ram himself is something of a caricature; a typical example of a Middle Class Anglophile who has internalized the values of the colonizer and firmly believes in the supremacy of white people. A great fuss is made when the aptly named Mr. English visits the bank where Babu Nathoo Ram works, but Anand uses this episode to undercut the apparent superiority of the English. When Prem Chand enquires about the best place in Britain

- to further his medical training, it is revealed that Mr. English is uneducated and doesn't know.
- After accidentally injuring Sheila, Babu Nathoo Ram's daughter, Munoo is beaten and decides to run away. He makes it as far as Daultapur, where he is taken in by Prabha, who runs a pickle factory. Prabha and his wife are kind to Munoo, although the work is hard. Throughout the novel, Anand points to the way the lower classes are exploited by those above them, with Munoo being the ultimate example of this exploitation. Here, he shows how Prabha must appease his neighbor, the Public Prosecutor Sir Todar Mal, with free pickles and jam to prevent him having the factory shut down because the smoke irritates him. Ultimately, however, it is Prabha's own business partner, Ganpat, who cheats him and leaves him bankrupt, suggesting a lack of class consciousness or solidarity.
- When Prabha loses the factory, Munoo is left to fend for himself once again. He meets an elephant driver who is travelling to Bombay with a circus and decides to join them. At first, Munoo is delighted with Bombay, but he soon realizes that, even here, "coolies" must sleep on the streets. He finds work at Sir George White's cotton mill where he meets Ratan, a man he comes to idolize. Ratan is a wrestler and a member of the worker's union, a man who has chosen to fight his masters and reject the exploitative conditions in which he labors. The optimistic possibility symbolized by Ratan is short lived for Munoo, however, as a riot breaks out during a workers' strike and he becomes lost.
- While wandering the streets, he is run over by Mrs. Mainwaring's car. As compensation, she hires him as a servant and takes him to Simla. Mrs. Mainwaring offers insight into another dimension of Indian society. She has English, as well as Indian, ancestry, and longs to be accepted by English society. As a result she travelled to England and married a young English soldier. Her desire to be recognized as English can also be read as a desire to be recognized as white, with all of the privileges that accompany whiteness in colonial India, privileges that Munoo will never enjoy. Despite the kindness that Mrs. Mainwaring shows him, Munoo contracts tuberculosis and dies, aged just fifteen.

Two Leaves and a Bud – 1937

- The story is about a poor Punjabi Cleaner
- Gangu is the protagonist of the novel.
- He is brutally exploited in a tea plantation and killed by a British official, who tries to rape his daughter. This is mainly about the plight of the laborers in a tea plantation in Assam. The tea gardens in Assam become a symbol of his slavery.
- The novel describes an exploited peasant, who is killed while trying to protect his daughter from being raped by a British colonial official.
- The two leaves and the bud of the tea trees, the shade shrubs are the silent witnesses of this oppression and agony of the poor Punjabi laborer who represent the oppressed class.
- The novel explores the plight and sufferings of the tea laborers.
- Reggie Hunt is the British Official who attempts to rape Gangu's daughter and kills
 Gangu when he tries to save his daughter.

Across the Black Waters

- 'Across the Black Waters' is an English novel by the Indian writer Mulk Raj Anand first published in 1939.
- Lalu is the protagonist.
- It describes the experience of Lalu, a sepoy in the Indian Army fighting on behalf of Britain against the Germans in France during World War I.
- It describes the experience of Lalu, a sepoy in the Indian Army fighting on behalf of Britain against the Germans in France during World War I.

Raja Rao

Raja Rao was born on November 8, 1908 in Hassan, in the state of Mysore in Karnataka.
 He was an Indian writer of English-language novels and short stories, whose works are deeply rooted in metaphysics.' The Serpent and the Rope' (1960), a semi-autobiographical novel recounting a search for spiritual truth in Europe and India,

established him as one of the finest Indian prose stylists and won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1964. For the entire body of his work, Rao was awarded the Neustadt International Prize for Literature in 1988. Rao's wide-ranging body of work, spanning a number of genres, is seen as a varied and significant contribution to Indian English literature, as well as World literature as a whole.

• Works:

Kanthapura (1938

The Serpent and the Rope(1960

The Cat and Shakespeare (1965)

Comrade Kirillov (1976)

The Chessmaster and His Moves – 1988

Kanthapura 1938

- Deals with Civil Disobedience Movement
- Achakka narrates the whole story.
- The story is narrated in the form of "Sthalapurana"
- Kanthapura is a traditional Caste ridden Indian Village. The village is believed to be protected by a local deity 'Kenchamma'.
- Moorthy is the main character in the story
- "Hirakata", a traditional form of storytelling was practiced in the village.
- Hari Katha man, Jayaramachar, narrated a Hari katha based on Gandhi and his ideals.
- Bade Khan, a police officer in the story
- Skeffingston Coffee Estate is in this story.
- Moorthy was arrested and women of Kanthapura took charge of the struggle for freedom under the leadership of Rangamma.
- It is mentioned that people of the village were settled in Kashipur and Kanthapura was occupied by the people from Bombay.

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The The Serpent and the Rope 1960

- A semi auto-biographical story.
- The story is about the relationship between Indian and Western culture.
- Ramaswamy, a young Brahmin studying in France, is married to a French college teacher Madeleine.
- Madeleine becomes Buddist in her spiritual quest and renounces worldly desires after the death of their son Pierre. She leaves her husband to find his own true self and also metaphysics of death.
- Ramaswamy is described by his wife as "either a thousand years old or three" and "the wisdom of ages".

The Cat and Shakespeare

- It a Metaphysical Comedy
- The cat represents the Hindu concept of karma.
- Ramakrishna Pai is the protagonist and narrator.
- Govindan Nair and Ramakrishna Pai are the two major characters.

Comrade Kirilov

- The story depicts the Life and ideology of the protagonist Padmanabha Iyer.
- Shows Rao's inerest in Marxism.
- An Indian who ventured abroad when still young, Kirillov came to England in 1928 and settled there. He is a seeker, and taken from the first by Marxism. Kirillov can excuse and justify the show-trials, while at the same time denigrating Mahatma Gandhi and his efforts in India. The novella covers the 1930s and 1940s, to Indian independence and beyond. As the narrator recognises, Kirillov is torn between the Indian tradition that remains a part of him and the newfound ideology that he has embraced. Indeed, even as he claims to be what amounts to the Soviet ideal, he sounds like nothing so much as the ascetics of his homeland. Kirillov eventually returns to India. At the end the author offering a chunk of the diary of Kirillov's wife, Irene, before the conclusion.

It is the next generation, Kirillov's son Kamal, that is then the focus at the end, the author giving up on Kirillov. Kamal, soon immersed in his past, offers hope for the future, while Kirillov is lost down this path he cannot escape from, obsessed like the religious fanatic.

The Chessmaster and His Moves -1988

- Contains three books
- In this novel Rao used the metaphor of the chess game to animate philosophical and psychological ideas.
 - The Chess master is the story of an impossible love between

 Sivarama Sastri, an Indian mathematician working in Paris and a married woman. The story is full of uncertainty with no ending and can only end in sorrow and desperation.

 To come to terms with its impossibility, the protagonists turn inward in their search for answer and meaning, transforming the book into a metaphysical exploration. Amidst this search they get involved in various search big or small. Sastri's love for the French actress, Suzanne Chantereux, or her beguiling, effervescent compatriot Mireille, for instance serves to underline the differences between the East and West; while the latter seekshappiness in the world, Sastri is looking for freedom from the world itself.

R K Naravan

- R.K.Narayan's writing career began with Swami and Friends. At first, he could not get the novel published.
- Eventually, a mutual friend, Purna, showed the draft to Graham Greene. Greene liked it so much that he arranged for its publication. Greene was to remain a close friend and admirer of his.
- After that, he published a continuous stream of novels, all set in Malgudi and each of
 it, dealt with different characters in that fictional place. Narayan's style of writing style
 is compared to William Faulkner.
- He created the fictional town Malgudi.

• R. K. Narayan passed away on 13th May 2001.

Awards:

- He won the National Prize of the Sahitya Akademi, the Indian literary academy, for The Guide in 1958. He was the first Indian English writer to win the Sahitya Akademi Award.
- He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, a coveted Indian award, for distinguished service to literature in 1964.
- In 1980, the Royal Society of Literature awarded the AC Benson Medal R. K. Narayan.

Works:

Swami and Friends-1935

The Bachelor of Arts – 1937

The Dark Room – 1938

The English Teacher – 1945

Mr. Sampath - The Printer of Malgudi 1948

The Financial Expert- 1952

Waiting for the Mahatma – 1955

The Guide – 1958

The Man-Eater of Malgudi – 1961

The Vendor of Sweets – 1967

The Painter of Signs – 1977

A Tiger of Malgudi − 1983 ☐ Talkative Man − 1986

The World of Nagaraj – 1990

Grandmother's Tale – 1992

My Days – 1974 (His Autobiography)

Swami and Friends:-1935

- Semi autobiographical Novel
- Swami and Friends is the first novel of a trilogy of novels written by R.K. Narayan. (
 Other two in trilogy are The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher)
- The book consists of 19 chapters in total.
- Rajam, Police Superintendent's son, who becomes close friend to Swami.
- Swami and Friends ideally depicts the growing pain of an adolescent mind, the tears after getting hurt and certainly the fears of losing a friend.
- Mani, Somu (Monitor), Sankar, Samuel (The Pea) are the friends of Swami in the story.
- The story is about an adolescent boy of 10 years who was growing up at this time of pre
 independence era. The story is about this growing of the little boy; about his tears and
- Swami is the student at the Albert Mission School. Albert Mission emphasizes on the magnitude of Christianity and stresses on the importance of English literature.

fears, about his mischief and happiness and about his wonders and innocence.

- Rajam is the symbol of colonial power that drastically changes the Swami's life
- They form a team called MCC: Malgudi Cricket Club

An Astrologer's Day (1947)

- 'An Astrologer's Day' was first published in the newspaper `The Hindu`
- The An Astrologer's Day is a collection of thirty short stories that purely describes life and different aspects of life.
- An Astrologer's Day' is mainly a collection of stories about characters from every walk
 of Indian life and that includes merchants, beggars, herdsmen, rogues, all of them in
 one place i.e. Narayan's make-believe village Malgudi.

The Bachelor of Arts – 1937

- Written in 1937
- It is the second book of a trilogy that began with `Swami and friends` and ended with `The English Teacher`.
- The story is set in a make-believe south indian town called Malgudi.
 The time is pre-independence and it captures the spirit of Indians in sufferings of the freedom struggle and also the east-west clash.
- Chandran is the main character.
- The Bachelor of Arts is the saga of a young mind gradually moving towards maturity.
 The story illustrates the need of possessing a Bachelor of Arts degree and also portrays the dilemmas associated with it.
- The teacher `Gajapathi` who teaches Shakespeare in accented English, struggles with time table, exams interpolated with secret cigarette smoking sessions and also watching films are described so colorfully that anyone can experience of being at that time.
- Chandran falls in love with Malti and after graduation when he tries to marry Malti; he got rejected by her parents because of his horoscope. It says that he is mangalik and if he marries any non mangalik girl she will die eventually. So this frustrates him a lot and he left in search of some peace in his life which ends in making him a sage. During his adventure he meets many people and gets enough respect by simple people. But after 8 months, he returns home and takes up a job as a news agentand decides to marry. The story ends with his falling in love afresh with Sushila.

The Dark Room

- First published in Great Britain in 1938
- Feminist view of the contemporary South Indian society.
- Savitri is the main character
- Savitri is married to Ramani.
- Ramani is an employee in Engladia Insurance Company.
- Kamala, Sumati and Babu are the three children of Ramani and Savitri.

- Savitri, being a submissive housewife gives birth to three children. Her husband always dominates her and whenever his tortures become unbearable to her she retires in a dark room in their house. As the story progressed in certain distance her husband got engaged with another woman and in order to set up her place he shifted many of their furniture from home. These include one of her favorite furniture also. While shocked by the news of his relation Savitri tries to win back her husband but cannot do so because of Ramani's obstinate nature. During the course one day she fights back and leaves home without thinking anything.
- "Dark room" becomes symbolic element in the story.
- The story can be compared with "The Doll's House"

The Man-Eater of Malgudi

- The Man-Eater of Malgudi`, describes about the good and evil forces of the central character.
- Narayan bases his story on the ancient Indian myth of a boasting demon BHASMASURA who terrorizes the world and dies eventually.
- The novel is a kind of an allegory.
- It is a post-colonial tale.
- Nataraj, Vasu, are the main characters.
- Nataraj is owner of a small, friendly printing press in Malgudi. He is a very polite person with no enemy as such. His life is tensionless till the day he meets Vasu. Vasu arrives at Nataraj's printing press demanding 500 visiting cards.
- Vasu is a taxidermist (animal stuffer). He depicted as a demonic one terrorizing thebmankind. He starts living in the printer's stairs. Vasu was creating many problems to Nataraj`s life. Vasu never gives him money nor does he sign any rent slip. During story`s progression Vasu encroaches Nataraj`s life in all aspects. The story comes to an end when Nataraj decides to organize a function on the release of a book of his friend. But very soon someone informs that Vasu is going to kill the elephant at the procession. Nataraj decides to talk to Vasu for the last time but he finds him sleeping. But on the next day Vasu was dead. Nataraj was being arrested and later gets a clean chit from

police. His friends start avoiding him. Shastri informs Nataraj that Vasu was not murdered but he had damaged his nerves with his powerful hands while smashing a fly and died instantly.

- Kumar is the name of the elephant.
- Rangi is a prostitute who had an affair with Vasu.
- Vasu is the Man eater of Malgudi.

The Guide:

- 1958
 - Brought its author Sahitya Academy Award
- The novel describes the transformation of the protagonist Raju, from a tour guide to a spiritual guide.
- Railway Raju is the nick name of the protagonist.
- Raju is the hero of the story who grows up near a railway station and eventually becomes a shopkeeper. Later he becomes a resourceful tourist guide.
- Raju falls in love with a beautiful dancer, Rosie, the neglected wife of archaeologist Marco. Marco does not approve of Rosie's passion for dancing. With the help of Raju's Marketing tactics, Rosie becomes a successful dancer.
- Raju is caught red handedly while forging Rosie's signature to sell one of her necklaces. He stays in jail for two years. After returning from imprisonment he decides not to go to Malgudi. He goes to a village named Vellan where the people take him wrongly as a spiritual guide. They start offering him food and some comforts. The irony of the story is a drought that occurs in the village. Raju takes 12-day fast on people request. After many days of his fasting in one fine morning when he goes to the riverside for his daily rituals his legs sag down and he feels it is raining in the hillside. The ending of the novel is a bit confusing as it leaves an unfinished end of Raju's death or end of drought.
- Open Ended

Mr Sampath - The Printer of Malgudi

- First published in 1949
- The central character is Mr. Sampath
- Mr Sampath The Printer of Malgudi is a story of relationships.
- The novel portrays the journey of the central character "Mr Sampath who was the printer of the newspaper "The Banner".
- The protagonist of this story is Srinivas. He is a passionate editor of a newspaper that is run by only one person. The name of the newspaper is `The Banner` and Mr Sampath is the printer there who shoulders the financial burden of the newspaper. In this schedule he also makes uninvited editorial comments. This relationship appears to work well for Srinivas until the paper closes down and Sampath invites his friend to join him in the world of cinema or movie making. Eventually Sampath falls in love with the heroin of the movie and this step makes his life difficult as well. Srinivas has his problemof over responsibility. Due to some unavoidable circumstances Srinivas leaves the studio and revive `the banner` with another printer. Sampath was not bothered about it. But at the loss of the lady, money, fame, wealth, and peace he comes back to Srinivas. Sampath has learnt from his past mistakes and foundhis true niche (place, position) in life.

A Tiger for Malgudi - 1961

- 'A tiger for Malgudi' is mainly a story in a tiger's version.
- Raja, the tiger, is the protagonist.
- This is a comic story that takes place by the narration of a tiger. It recounts its story of capturing by a circus owner from where he escaped successfully. But again caught by a monk with whom he spends the rest of his life in a hill and and realizes the inner meanin of life by spiritual knowledge.

Grandmother's Tale

 Grandmother's tale is a narrative story where the author narrates his grandmother's stories with utmost tenderness. Naryan is writing his Grandmother's story, a look into an India where child marriage was normal and annas were still the currency. This book

- allows a reader to journey through an old India, which is filled with ancient and family traditions. The life style at that time was bit difficult but however it is Narayan depicts it with full grace.
- Told by the narrator's grandmother, the tale recounts the adventures of her mother, married at seven and then abandoned, who crosses the subcontinent to extract her husband from the hands of his new wife. Her courage is immense. But once her mission iscompleted her independence vanishes. Waiting for the Mahatma
- set amid the final years of India's freedom struggle where Mahatma Gandhi also appears in the novel.
- Sriram and Bharti are the major characters
- The central character of this story is Sriram. He is a high school graduate and lives with his grandmother in the said village. Sriram is attracted to a girl named Bharati who is active in Mahatma Gandhi`s Quit India movement. So consequently inclined by his love`s route he commits himself to Gandhi`s Quit India campaign. Sriram gets involved in some underground activities that take place in the countryside. He is new to the place and some misunderstandings takes place which turns the story in a comic style. He goes to jail and after returning from there Sriram reunites with Bharati. At the ending their engagement takes place with some of sour taste as this happens in the middle of India`s partition in 1947.

My Days:

- 'My Days' is an autobiography written by the famous writer R. K. Narayan.
- The book, 'My Days' depicts all the happenings of authorR.K.Narayan's life as well his ups and downs in his career.

The Financial Expert – 1952

- This is a story in 5 parts
- Margayya is the protagonist in the story and a proud money lender.
- Balu is the son of Margayya and he marries Brinda.

- Theme of the novel is Lust for Money
- The rise and fall, the pain and agony of the main protagonist are aptly described in the novel. It is the story of a financial expert who was once a proud one but later in his life lost almost everything and had to start from scratch all over again.
- He usually spends his time under a banyan tree in front of the Central Co-Operative Land Mortgage Bank and distributes financial advice to those willingto pay for his knowledge.
- He becomes rich but darkness comes in his own life as his son becomes spoiled. When he lost all his money his son denies to sit under the banyan tree so at his old age he himself decides to sit under the tree and starts all over again.
- William Walsh hails Margayya as "probably Narayan's greatest single comic creation".

Under the Banyan Tree

- Under the Banyan Tree` is a collection of 28 short stories.
- The character from the title story `Nambi` is a unique character created by Narayan.

The English Teacher

- ☐ The English Teacher is the third of the trilogy that began with Swami and Friends, and The Bachelor of Arts.
- The English Teacher is the tale of love; the saga of ceaseless passion of loving someone so very dearly. The male protagonist at the beginning of the story is seen working as an English teacher in the same school where he was once studying. The story deals with his life, love, happiness and sadness.
- The English teacher as an eternal saga of ceaseless love.
- R.K.Narayan dedicates this book to his wife Rajam.
- It is an autobiographical story.
- Krishnan is the central character.
- The story is a series of experiences in Krishnan's life. These includes some joyful, and also some sorrowful. The hero in this story was in complete love with his wife and after her death he plunged into a period of 'darkness' and was subsequently obsessed by the

thought of communicating with her. Krishnan undertakes an emotional, intellectual, and spiritual journey during the course of the novel. At the beginning of the story he works as an English teacher in the same school where he was once studying. While at the end he resigns from his post and begins work at a nursery school. His life becomes unpredictable and it happens not as a result of any grand plan or ambition, but as a result of his response to a series of challenging circumstances.

• It narrates Narayan's own happy days with his wife Rajam, who died because of typhoid just after five years of their happily married life.

The Vendor of Sweets

- The story illustrates the conflicts between two generations of father and son.
- Jagan, the vendor of sweets and the central character
- Mali, Jagan's son
- Narasimha, Jagan's cousin
- It is the story of a merchant, Jagan, who at the age of 60 still feels young at heart and makes good profit out of his sweet shop. Jagan is depicted as the vendor of sweets in this story. Some waves come to his life when his son, Mali, returns from America with his Korean wife. Jagan tries to cope with the situation even with his conventional thoughts but

finally fails to do so because of his son's nature.

• Jagan starts feeling irritated all the time because of his son's activity. But subsequently Jagan develops affection for his foreigner daughter-in-law. He notices that Mali, his son, is not paying full attention to his wife. Jagan gets scared as he did the same mistake with Mali's motherbecause of his involvement in freedom struggle movement. Jagan tries to talk to Mali but he denies. Mali needs some money for his business but Jagan refused to lend him. As a result some friction takes place and Jagan starts living isolated in his own family. The story turns to an ending point when Jagan develops some urge to leave the worldly affairs and do some religious work. At that very moment he is informed that Mali is in police custody and also has left his wife. Jagan gets shuttered.

He refuses to help his son but instructs Narsimha to help Mali's wife to return to her homeland.

Talkative Man

- Talkative Man is a local journalist in Narayan's fictional town of Malgudi.
- The central character in this story is the talkative man. Another important character is Dr. Rann who comes to the village with some wicked thoughts. But he could not succeed in his plans as he was caught by the talkative man. The story flows in a logical manner, which aptly echoes the meaning of the title with the nature of the protagonist.
- He meets an intended doctor from the land Timbuktoo who has supposedly come to the town on a mission for the United Nations. The talkative man has no real job and no visible meansof support, but is a dashing dresser and elegant man.
- As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that he is a womanizing predator who seduces young women and then abandons them without warning. The climax comes when Talkative Man attempts to prevent the doctor from seducing a young Malgudi woman whom Talkative Man has known since birth.

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The Reluctant Guru:-

- An autobiographical essay.
- This is an effort of unveiling the true face of India to the people who thinks that India only the land of snake charmers and black magic.
- The author himself becomes the Guru who visits and professes people.

The Painter of Signs

- Published in 1976.
- Raman is a sign painter in Malgudi
- The Painter of Signs is the story of Raman and daisy. Raman is the painter and Daisy
 the female activist who employs Raman to paint the different signs and symbols in
 regard to family planning. Raman becomes infatuated with Daisy. Their relationship

gets destroyed by some misunderstanding and creates a hopeless tension. Finally, he returns to his own business life as a minor artistthat he was before, a painter of signs.

• The novel deals with the contradictory impulses of family planning.

The World of Nagaraj

- Nagaraj is the protagonist
- Written in the form of dialogue.
- `The World of Nagaraj` is a portrait of Nagaraj and the people around him and through them of the town of Malgudi.
- The story revolves around Nagaraj. He is a rich aristocrat belonging to the wealthy Kabir Lane. He enjoys his time at home, lecturing his wife Sita or seated on the pyol watching people move around in the mystical town of Malgudi. In his free time he works for free doing the accounts for his friend Coomar's sari shop, he eats in his favorite cafe, he gossips with his neighbour the Talkative Man, and he plans to write a book about the sage Narada. He is forever planning snappy responses or forceful actions he never finds the courage to carry out He is unable to stand up even to his wife Sita, his brother Gopu, or his nephew Tim. Not even when Tim's wife Saroja's harmonica playing destroys the peace of his home. His plans to write about Narada never come to much, between his own

worthlessness and the uncooperativeness of the pundits he has to work with.

Sarojini Naidu

Sarojini Naidu (13 February 1879 – 2 March 1949) was an Indian political activist and poet. A proponent of civil rights, women's emancipation, and anti-imperialistic ideas, she was an important figure in India's struggle for independence from colonial rule. Naidu's work as a poet earned her the sobriquet Nightingale of India by Mahatma Gandhi.

- Naidu began writing at the age of 12. Her play, Maher Muneer, written in Persian, impressed the Nizam of Kingdom of Hyderabad.
- In 1905, her first collection of poems, named The Golden Threshold was published.[8] The volume bore an introduction by Arthur Symons. Her poems were admired by prominent Indian politicians like Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- Naidu poem "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" was published as a part of The Bird
 of Time with her other poems in 1912. "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" was well
 received by critics, who variously noted Naidu's visceral use of rich sensory
 images in her writing.
- The Feather of The Dawn which contained poems written in 1927 by Naidu was edited and published posthumously in 1961 by her daughter Padmaja Naidu
- Works.
- 1905: The Golden Threshold, published in the United Kingdom
- 1912: The Bird of Time: Songs of Life, Death & the Spring, published in London
- 1917: The Broken Wing: Songs of Love, Death and the Spring, including "The Gift of India" (first read in public in 1915)
- 1919: Muhammad Jinnah: An Ambassador of Unity
- 1943: The Sceptred Flute: Songs of India, Allahabad: Kitabistan, posthumously published
- 1961: The Feather of the Dawn, posthumously published, edited by her daughter, Padmaja published
- 1971:The Indian Weavers
- Awards
- Naidu was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal by the British government for her work during the plague epidemic in India, but later she returned as a protester due to the April 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

- For her work in the field of poetry writing, Naidu was given the title of "Nightingale of India".
- In 2014, Google India commemorated Naidu's 135th birth anniversary with a
 Google Doodle.Naidu was listed among "150 Leading Women" list by the
 University of London to mark the 150 years since women gained access to
 higher education in the United Kingdom in 2018.

Jawaharlal Nehru

- Jawaharlal Nehru (14 November 1889 27 May 1964) was an Indian independence
 activist and, subsequently, the first Prime Minister of India, as well as a central figure
 in Indian politics both before and after independence.
- He emerged as an eminent leader of the Indian independence movement, serving India as Prime Minister from its establishment in 1947 as an independent nation, until his death in 1964.
- He was also known as Pandit Nehru due to his roots with the Kashmiri Pandit community, while Indian children knew him as better as Chacha Nehru.
- Nehru was a prolific writer in English and wrote a number of books, such as The 'Discovery of India', 'Glimpses of World History', and his autobiography, 'Toward Freedom'.
- He had written 30 letters to his daughter Indira Gandhi, when she was 10 years old
 and in a boarding school in Mussoorie, teaching about natural history and the story of
 civilizations. The collection of these letters was later published as a book 'Letters
 from a Father to His Daughter'.

Unit – 2: The Post-Independence Indian Authors

ARUNDHATI ROY

 Arundhati Roy is a popular writer, activist and novelist. She was born in Shillong, Meghalaya.

Awards:

- Arundhati Roy won Booker Prize in 1997 for her first novel The God of Small Things.
- She was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006.

Works:

The God of Small Things.

The End of Imagination.

The Cost of Living

The Greater Common Good.

The Algebra of Infinite Justice.

An Ordinary Person's Guide To Empire.

The Shape of the Beast: Conversations with Arundhati Roy.

Walking with the Comrade

The God of Small Things -

- It centers around a tragedy that rends a family apart and its lasting effects on the twins who were at the heart of it.
- In The God of Small Things, the predicament of Indian women is studied in depth along with the plight of dalits (untouchables), lower class people, racial subalterns visà-vis global capitalism and neo-imperialism masquerading as globalization.
- Ammu is the most important female character in The God of Small Things. Baba is Estha and Rahel's father. Ammu divorces him when the children are very young.
- The story chiefly takes place in a town named Ayemenem now part of Kottayam in Kerala. The story enters in the 1990s as the young woman named Rahel returns to her

village to be reunited with her twin brother Esthahappen whom she hasn't seen in many years. Two of the lead characters are the fraternal twins Estha and Rahel. They are bonded unusually close. They used to called themselves as 'Me', and when separated as 'We' or 'Us'. The temporal setting shifts back and forth from 1969, when Rahel and Estha, a set of fraternal twins are 7 years old, to 1993, when the twins are reunited at age 31.

- The day before Margarget and Sophie arrive, the family visits a theater to see "The Sound of Music", where Estha is molested by the "Orangedrink Lemondrink man", a beverage vendor.
- Velutha is an untouchable (the lowest caste in India), a dalit. His family has been working for the Ipe family for generations. Rahel and Estha form an unlikely bond with Velutha and come to love him, despite his untouchable status. When Ammu's relationship with Velutha is discovered, Ammu is locked in her room and Veluthais banished. In her rage, Ammu blames the twins for her misfortune and calls them the "millstones around her neck".

Anantha Murthy U R Text with Technology

U R Ananthamurty is a renowned Kannada writer who won the Jnanpith award in 1995. Samakara is his first novel and is considered as a classic in Indian literature. Samskara, originally written in Kannada was published in 1965. It was translated by the renowned poet A.K.Ramanujan in 1976. The novel was made into a feature film which was initially banned by the censor board for portraying sensitive caste issues. But later the film won the president's gold medal for the best Indian feature film of 1971.

Works

 Ananthamurthy's works have been translated into several Indian and European languages and have been awarded with important literary prizes. His main works include "Prashne", "Aakasha Mattu Bekku", Samskara, Bhava, Bharathipura, and

- Avasthe. He has written numerous short stories as well. Several of his novels and short fictions have been made into movies.
- Most of Ananthamurthy's literary works deal with psychological aspects of people in different situations, times and circumstances. His writings supposedly analyse aspects ranging from challenges and changes faced by Brahmin families of Karnataka to bureaucrats dealing with politics influencing their work.
- Most of his novels are on reaction of individuals to situations that are unusual and artificial. Results of influences of sociopolitical and economic changes on traditional Hindu societies of India and clashes due to such influences between a father and a son, husband and wife, father and daughter and finally, the fine love that flows beneath all such clashes are portrayed by Ananthamurthy in his works. This is evident in his stories like Sooryana Kudure (The Grasshopper)", Mouni (Silent Man)", "Karthika, "Ghatashraddha" etc. It does not mean that Ananthamurthy is just clinging to portraying only such somewhat standard subjects of Indian literature of his period. His novelette Bara (Drought) portrays the dynamics of a drought-stricken district of Karnataka and the challenges and dilemmas a bureaucrat may face in such situations.
- The central figure of the novel Sooryana Kudure Venkata is shunned by his son and wife for his easy-going attitude that does not take him anywhere. Venkata is a non-achiever who could not achieve any material or monetary success in his life. However, he is a simpleton who does not take life's suffering to his heart too much. He likes to see life as living in the love of Amma (or mother-goddess). In all sufferings of life, he has the child-like curiosity about the smallest things in life like a grasshopper (Sooryana Kudure). The evening after his son revolts and leaves the house, he would be engrossed in a sight in his yard a grasshopper shining in the sun's light.
- His several novels were made into films like Samskara, Bara, Avaste, Mouni,
 "Ghatashraddha" and Diksha.

Arjun Dangle

- Arjun Dangle's Poisoned Bread was the first ever attempt to anthologize Dalit writings in English.
- The book comprised poems, short stories and essays written by prominent authors including Baburao Bagul, Namdeo Dhasal, Raja Dhale, who had given voice to their pain and anger at generations of subjugation under the caste system.
- The youth who spoke out in Poisoned Bread were inspired by the ideology and teachings of Ambedkar. But they were also looking beyond Ambedkar to the Dalit Panthers movement. The Dalit Panthers had been formed this day in 1972 by these authors, who were then in their teens, with the firm
- belief that the system can be changed only with political methods. They had the support of senior activists who had suppressed their anger for long.
- Poisoned Bread played a significant role in creating an ideological bond and recognising the writers who had so long been expressing themselves in a sporadic fashion. The book received an overwhelming response, got translated into Indian as well as foreign languages, creating a vibrant literary movement. In Maharashtra, the custodians of mainstream Marathi literature got a jolt, which lead to a serious debate about whether new parameters of judging the literature of protest should be evolved or whether the accepted norms of classic literature should be used.
- All those who were at the forefront of the literary movement—Namdeo Dhasal, Raja
 Dhale, Arjun Dangle—later emerged as the main articulators of the socio-political
 aspirations of the Dalit Panthers movement. How the Dalit Panthers lost its shine later
 and how the Republican Party of India got splintered are a matter of history.
- However, Dalit literature made Marathi literature more vibrant and unshackled it from
 conventional parameters. At the same time, Poisoned Bread recognised the literary
 value of writings by Dalit authors, thus giving them a platform. Over the years, these
 authors' merit has been acknowledged by scholars and littérateurs.

Anita Nair

Anita Nair was born in Kerala. She is a famous poet, short story writer and journalist.
 In Ladies Coupe Anita Nair focuses on men and women relationship, marriage and divorce, social and cultural, and psychological issues.

Ladies Coupe:

- This is her second novel.
- Akhilandeshwari or Akhila for short is a 45 year old single Indian woman from a Tamil Brahmin family who works as an income tax clerk.
- In Ladies Coupé, the Brahmin heroine, Akhila, whose life has been taken out of her control, is a 45-year-old spinster, daughter, sister and the only provider of her family after the death of her father. Getting fed up with these multiple roles, she decides to go on a train journey away from her family and responsibilities, a journey that will ultimately make her a different woman.
- This is the story of Akhila, who happens to be the most subdued, rather crushed member of the family. Akhila is like a catalyst whose presence is never noticed, never appreciated

 Text with Technology

and yet whose absence may make all the difference. Akhila is a woman lost in the jungle of her duties; sometimes to her mother, at other times to her brothers and still at other times to her. sister. She is expected to be an obedient daughter, affectionate and motherly sister and everything but an individual. As a woman Akhila has her dreams, her desires, but when her dreams come in conflict with the comforts of her family it is she who has to sacrifice. She lives a life designated by the society or family.

Mistress:

- The novel explores the depth of relationship between Shyam and Radha. Radha rejects her
 - husband's oppressive environment and she rebels against the false materialism and vulgarity of society. She even virtually rejects her marriage. She distrusts love as a form of male possessiveness and does not want love to be an aspect of male domination.

Radha who had a pre-marital affair with a married man, had an abortion, Later her post-affair with Christopher, she grapples for the true sense of love, completely divorced from the sense of guilt. As she travels back to her uncle life she confronts many harsh truths of her own past. To the agitated self of Radha who is fed up with ugly life, she has a strong desire to find out an order. She tries to explore the past of her uncle, as well as, Chrostopher who are so closely connected with her mysterious past. She wants to understand the secret behind Christopher's visit and her uncle's procrastination to narrate his own life story. She plunges to the past and many realizations occur to her. The shocking revelation that Christopher, with whom she had extramarital affair is her cousin leaves her devastated. In the process of knowing her past, she is transformed into a new being. This transformation gives her the inner strength to submit to Shaym's wish to take her back to home.

Amit Chaudhary

Amit Chaudhuri was born in Calcutta in the year of 1962. He brought up in Bombay.

Works:

His first book," A Strange and Sublime Address" (1991), a novella and a number of short stories, won the Commonwealth Writers and was short listed for the Guardian Fiction Prize.

His second book Afternoon Raag(1993)

Freedom Song (1998)

A New World (2000)

Real Time (2002)

A Strange and Sublime Address

This book contains nine stories featuring an Indian boy who spends his school holidays at his uncle's home in Calcutta. Heatwaves, thunderstorms, mealtimes, prayer-sessions, shopping expeditions and family visits create a shifting background to the shaping of people's lives. This book is mainly a colourful portrayal of life in Calcutta seen through the eyes of ten years old boy Abhi.

Afternoon Raag:

- This is a first-person narration by a student about his days at Oxford.
- Afternoon Raag` deals with the experiences and impressions of a young Indian student of English Literature at the University of Oxford. Chaudhuri recreates the state of mind of a young man coming to terms with loneliness, nostalgia and alienation in a unique way. A raag is a piece of classical Indian music, which plays around a set of specific intervals to create a particular mood.
- Afternoon Raag adopts the metaphor of Indian classical music, the Raag, to evoke the complex emotions displayed by the narrator, a young Indian student at Oxford.

Freedom Song

- It describes the life history of two interrelated middle-class Calcutta families.
- The central characters of the story Khuku and Mini usually spend their time talking about family, friends, health, and occasionally, Muslims and the Babri Masjid too. `Freedom Song` is totally about the two person`s perspective about the Hindu and Muslims. The story starts with the loud music of Muslim Prayer i.e. Azaan. They are totally disgusted and feel that the country is looking like a Muslim country. They discuss about the fact that in earlier days many temples were demolished so this is not a big deal done by Hindu nationalist party BJP. Khuku decides to vote for BJP as she supports the action of the party.

A New World

• A New World is the story of Jayojit Chatterjee, a divorced writer living in America and the visit he makes with his son Vikram to his elderly parents` home in Calcutta.

ARUN JOSHI

 Arun Joshi was born in Varanasi in the year of 1939. He attended schools in India as well as in United States.

Works:

The Last Labyrinth

The Foreigner

The Strange Case of Billy Biswas-1971

The Apprentice - 1974

The City and the River

The Last Labyrinth

It is the story of Som Bhaskar. He is a 25-year-old who inherits his father's vast industrial wealth. Som is married to Geeta who a devotional woman. But he is attracted by Anuradha also who is an alluring and mysterious woman. She is also married to some Aftab, a businessman, but Som finds her so irresistible. In the whole novel the way of getting her is described in a vivid manner. Her conduct is beyond Som's comprehension. She accepts, rejects, or flees from him without warning, and he even suspects that she has some agreement with Geeta. The situation drives Som to the brink of death from a heart attack, but he miraculously survives while Anuradha disappears without a trace. After his recovery, he is hell-bent upon finding Anuradha. His frantic pursuance to search Anuradha leads him through absurd situations. Som eventually learns that Anuradha had consecrated to sacrifice her love for him in order to save him from death at the time of his heart attack. Agnostic and proud, Som rejects this explanation and continues his vehement quest, which eventually leads him to Anuradha's haveli. In a desperate effort to again flee from him, she disappears in the last labyrinth, leaving him in doubt whether she

has committed suicide or hasbeen killed. Alone and exhausted, Som goes on addressing his thoughts to her in the form of a prayer.

The Foreigner

- The central character of the story is Sindi Oberoi and the story revolves around his loneliness and feelings of anguish and anxiety born of his estrangement from his environment, tradition and his true self.
- In this story the young hero after experiencing life and love in America comes back in Delhi. And evantually persuaded by a humble office worker that sometimes detachment lies in actually getting involved. This Surinder Oberoi is detached, almost alienated man who sees himself as a stranger wherever he lives or goes. He feels the same in every place e.g. in Kenya where he is born, in England and USA where he is a student and in India where he finally settles. The Strange Case of Billy Biswas Billy Biswas is the protagonist. Meena Chatterjee, wife of the protagonist Billy Biswas. Meena is an associate of the modern phoney society, which is totally disliked by Billy.

ASHOK KUMAR BANKER

• Ashok Kumar Banker was born on February 7, 1964 in Mumbai. He wrote in different subjects like fiction, mythology, fantasy science fiction and cross-cultural subjects etc. His first three novels were crime thrillers. It is said, as the first written crime thriller novel by an Indian novelist in English.

BADAL SIRCAR

• Badal Sircar was born in Calcutta, on July 15, 1925. Sircar made an entry into theatre with different roles as an actor, director and also as a playwright. As a playwright, he started with comedies. Badal Sircar's career in drama started with quite light and humorous plays getting written from 1956 to 1960. These plays were titled as Solution X, Ram Shyam Jadu, Baropishimaand Shanibar. Sircar wrote more than fifty plays throughout his career and widely known for developing the theatre form of his own, the 'Third Theatre' and also for establishing his theatre group 'Satabdi'.

BHABANI BHATTACHARYA

Being a novelist with a social purpose, Bhattacharya has depicted the social, economic
and political changes in India on the background of the contemporary historical events
and social conditions.

Works:

So Many Hungers! (1947) He Who Rides a Tiger (1952) A Goddess Named Gold (1960)

So Many Hungers!

- Bhabani Bhattacharya's first novel So Many Hungers! (1947) deals with poverty, hunger and exploitation of the peasants in the manmade famine of Bengal during the Second World War. The exclamatory mark with which the title ends denotes the writer's bewilderment at the multiplicity of hunger.
- The story moves around two families. The urban family of Samarendra Basu in Calcutta consists of his wife, two sons Rahoul and Kunal, Rahoul's wife Manju and father Devesh or Devata. The other, a peasant family from a small village Jharana, consisting of Mother, her husband, her daughter Kajoli, two sons and the son-in-law Kishore. These two families make the two strands of the plot. All the poor are depicted as the exploited ones but not all the rich are the exploiters. While only one member of the rich family is responsible for the exploitation of the poor, the other members on the contrary extend their helping hand to the poor.
- Devesh Basu, whom the villagers of Baruni call 'Devata', inspires them to participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement. The police arrest Devata and Kajoli's father. The villagers respond with anger andset the post office on fire. The government imposes a collective fine upon the entire village for the arson. The villagers set the rice grains to pay the fine. number of villages at the coastal area are taken into possession by the British army. The disposed ones rush to Calcutta to earn their living.

He Who Rides a Tiger

- The title of the novel He Who Rides a Tiger (1952) is borrowed from the saying "He who rides the tiger cannot dismount". Kalo, the protagonist of the novel, rides the tiger of a lie to avenge himself on the society but he finds it difficult to dismount.
- Kalo, the blacksmith lives happily with his only daughter, Chandralekha, in a small town Jharana. He falls victim to the havoc wrought by the man-made famine in Bengal.

 Leaving his daughter at Jharana in charge of her aunt he leaves for Calcutta. While traveling in the train he is caught by the Police for stealing bananas and is sentenced to three months rigorous imprisonment. Biten, another prisoner, advises him to retaliate against the society.
- No sooner is he released than he rushes to Calcutta. He is forced to become a pimp in a brothel to earn his living. He decides to call his daughter only after establishing his own smithy. Atthis juncture there comes a turning point in his life. He finds his daughter in the harlothouse protecting herself from a sexual assault of one of the customers. He saves the honour of her daughter. The miseries of his own life and sexual exploitation of his daughter make him hostile towards the society. He decides to follow the way suggested by Biten. He makes Lord Shiva emerge from the earth with the technique taught by Biten. He builds a temple with the financial aid by a number of devotees. Lekha christians her father as Mangal Adhikari. A blacksmith turns into a Brahmin. Lekha is married to Biten.

The Goddess Named Gold

- Bhattacharya's fourth novel The Goddess Named Gold (1960) is an allegory. Some critics call it a modern fable of rural India.
- The story opens with the meeting of the 'cow house five', a group consisting of five peasant women and the Seth's wife. They discuss the burning problem of their village Sonamitti. Being the only shopkeeper,Seth Shamsunder creates artificial scarcity of cloth. Women are compelled to wear rags and patched over clothes. The 'cow house

- five' take a procession of women to the shop, demanding the sale of saris on moderate rates. But the Sethdoes not pay any heed to their demands.
- Meera,the protagonist, belongs to a peasant class. She isshown rebellious by nature. She protests against the economic exploitation by the Seth, but behaves like a submissive, superstitious peasant girl before her grandfather's magic trick. Being an illiterate, rustic girl she easily believes in her grandpa's words and becomes an alchemist or Sonamai for the villagers. Due to her strong faithin her grandpa she feels she can bring happiness to the villagers with the help of the touchstone. To fulfill this dream she is carried away by the wordsof the cunning Seth.

BHARATI SUBRAHMANYA C

• The Indian writer of the nationalist period who is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil style, Bharati Subrahmanya was a son of learned Brahman. He was killed by a temple elephant in Madras.

CHETAN BHAGAT

 Chetan Bhagat is a famous Indian author who penned down novels that hit the market with great success. All of them were bestsellers since their release and have been filmed by famous Bollywood directors. Chetan Bhagat is considered a youth icon rather than as just an author.

Works:

One Night @ The Call Center

• The story revolves around six people, three men and three female to be precise working in the same group. They have sixdifferent lives altogether but all of them were interconnected. Five point someone-what not to do at

IIT

- The story is very interesting in the way that three hostel mates namely Alok, Hari and Ryan get off to a bad start in IIT they messed up the first class grades. It's sometimes hilarious to read how these 3 boys spend their 4 years inside the high walls of the Indian Institute of Technology. Alok is having his family problems, Hari is somewhat a looser and Ryan is a flamboyant personality. In spite of their varied personality they share a unique friendship and always spend their time in doing naughty things except studying. Hari has lot to share about the ragging period and many other incidents in the college. There are many happy and sad moments, which are narrated in an excellentways. They are just amazing.
- Whatever they do ultimately they end up in the problem that is the actual comedy. Sometimes Alok wants to study but the other two don't allow him to do so. Hari gets drunk before the viva and somehow manages to get caught by the professor. He also falls in love with the same professor's daughter. All of a sudden theydecide to improve their grades but as they were against to hard work in actual sense they decides to steal the papers for the exams. They eventually they were caught. To hide from the shame Alok decides to commit suicide but he can't do so. Ultimate prof. Veera helps them and they end up in doing extra assignments and labour. At the end author add some sweetness to the story as he narrated that Alok and Hari gets employed and Ryan begins his research on his much loved subject Fluid Mechanism.

3 Mistakes of My Life

• The 3 mistakes of my life is the saga of friendship. The tale of dreaming dreams, the story of chasing the dream. The story revolves round three friends, Ish, Govind and Omi. Ish, the cricket lover, Omi the son of a priest and Govind the protagonist. Govind is a Math lover and the dreamer. He dreams of floating his own business. He wants to forget all his worries, fear, tears and agony and just wants to start his own business to survive in the harsh world where dream shatters almost every now and then. The three friends start a sports shop and it works. Things seem to be a lot better. Govind experiences for the first time the taste of being the businessman. The story moves from

one event to the other. Ish finds Ali, a young cricketer with lots of talent and decides to coach him. Govind besides being the businessman and math lover still falls for Ish's sister and here on starts committing his famous "threemistakes". The political turmoil, Ayodha issue, Gujarat earthquake all contours the background of the plot whilst turning the dream of Govind, Ish and Omi into nightmare. Yet to cherish the dream, to reach the goal, to attain everything that they desired they had to face it all - religious politics, earthquake, riots and most importantly forbidden love and above all, their own mistakes which life threw as if a challenge to them.

DILIP CHITRE

• Dilip Purushottam Chitre is often described in epitaphs with titles such as 'legendary',"the rarest of rare" and "all rounder", which had sat lightly on the unfazed shoulders of the man. And when one reads the ideas and thoughts described in words that had flown out of his pen, the experience can only be described as nothing short being impeccable.

GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK

• Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak was born on 24th February, 1942 in Kolkata. She is a popular Indian literary theorist and critic.Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak came into prominence with her subsequent translation of `Derrida`s Of Grammatology`. Her major works also include the translations of renowned Bengali author Mahasweta Devi and critical analysis of American cultural studies. Her work titled "A Critique of Postcolonial Reason" that was published in the year 1999 explores the European metaphysics. She is widely known for her essay "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

Works:

Myself, I Must Remake: The Life and Poetry of W.B. Yeats (1974)

Of Grammatology (translation, with critical introduction, of Derrida's text) (1976)

The Post-Colonial Critic (1990)

Outside in the Teaching Machine (1993)

The Spivak Reader (1995)

A Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Towards a History of the Vanishing Present (1999)

Death of a Discipline (2003)

Other Asias (2005)

Imaginary Maps (translation of three stories by Mahasweta Devi) (1994)

Old Women (translation of two stories by Mahasweta Devi) (1999)

Chotti Munda and His Arrow (translation of the novel by Mahasweta Devi) (2002)

Can the Subaltern Speak?:

- Can the Subaltern Speak?" (1988) by Gayatri Spivak relates to the manner in which western cultures investigate other cultures. Spivak uses the example of the Indian Sati practice of widow suicide, however the main significance of "Can the Subaltern Speak?" is in its first part which presents the ethical problems of investigating a different culture base on "universal" concepts and frameworks.
- "Can the Subaltern Speak?" critically deals with an array of western writers starting from Marx to Foucault, Deleuze and Derrida. Spivak criticizes Foucault and Deleuze for committing 'epistemic violence'-that is projecting eurocentric knowledge on to the third world countries. The basic claim and opening statement of "Can the Subaltern Speak?" is that western academic thinking is produced in order to support western economical interests. Spivak holds that knowledge is never innocent and that it expresses the interests of its producers. For Spivak knowledge is like any other commodity that is exported from the west to the third world for financial and other types of gain.
- Spivak is wondering how can the third world subject be studied without cooperation with the colonial project. Spivak points to the fact that research is in a way always colonial, in defining the "other", the "over there" subject as the object of study and as something that knowledge should be extracted from and brought back "here". Basically we're talking about white men speaking to white men about colored men/women. When Spivak examines the validity of the western representation of the other, she proposes

that the discursive institutions which regulate writing about the other are shut off to postcolonial or feminist scrutiny.

This limitation, Spivak holds, is sue to the fact that critical thinking about the "other" tends to articulate its relation to the other with the hegemonic vocabulary. This is similar to feminist writers which abide by the patriarchic rules for academic writing.

- In the following parts of "Can the Subaltern Speak?" Spivak is criticizing different critical writers and then moves on to the example of the Indian "Sati" practice.
- Gayatri Spivak is criticizing the intellectual west's "desire for subjectivity". Spivak claims that "research" or "knowledge" have served as a prime justification for the conquest of other cultures and their enslavement, as part of the European colonial project. The western scholar authoritatively presented himself and his produced knowledge about the other culture as objective. He presented himself is without interests, and scientific, ethical and accurate. This is, for Spivak, very much not the real case for the opening statement of "Can the Subaltern Speak?" is that knowledge about the third world was always tainted with the political and economical interests of the west.
- Spivak points to the fact that the west is talking to itself, and in its own language, about the other. Like other commodities, data or raw material (ethnographical ,for example) is harvested in the third world country and taken back to the west, to be produced and sold for the benefit of the western readers and especially the western writer. Spivak wonders if under these conditions it can be possible for the west to speak about the non-west without sustaining the colonial discourse.
- Spivak is hardly impressed with western efforts to speak for the other or try to "present his own voice". She believes that the west is obsessed with preserving itself as subject, and that any discourse is eventually about the discoursing agents themselves. Spivak is opposed to the western attempt to situate itself as investigating subject that is opposed to the investigated non-western object. Spivak's answer to "Can the Subaltern Speak?" is no, they cannot, not when the western academic field is unable to relate to the other with anything other than its own paradigm.

GITA MEHTA (1943 —)

• Gita Mehta was born in 1943 in Delhi. He came off a family of freedom fighters her father Biju Patnaik was an industrialist, flying ace and the most wellknown political leader as well chief Minister of Orissa. She based her creative writing on the theme of the country's struggle for freedom. She started her career as journalist.

Works:

- In 1979 her first book Karma Cola: Marketing the Mystic East was published
- first novel-Raj (1989)
- Her famous work Snakes and Ladder (1997) is a collection of essays about India since independence.

The Raj -1989

- Published in 1991
- The protagonist of this novel is Jaya Singh, the only daughter of the Maharajah and Maharani of Balmer. Jaya Singh is the intelligent, beautiful, and compassionate daughter of the Maharajah and Maharani of Balmer. She was raised in the thousand year-old tradition of purdah by her mother and was educated exactly like her royal brother i.e. Balmer's heir. This happened according to her father's decision. She learned to play polo, hunt tiger and wild boar, and how to govern and lead. Jaya marries the jaded, westernized Maharajah of Sipur and finds herself in a history-making position. After the death

of her husband she took the regime and very successfully holds the power.

 We witness Mahatma Gandhi march to the sea, with hundreds of thousands of his countrymen, to break British laws against making salt. India's struggle for independence and partition

A River Sutra -1993

- Published in 1994.
- Thisis the third book by Gita Mehta.

- The story is interconnected with Narmada River in India
- The river is the Narmada, one of the holiest in India; and, a sutra is both a thread, and a discourse that constantly unwinds.
- This novel is a series of short stories.
- Theme is diversity within Indian society, both present and past.
- Major themes are lust, religion, desire and love.
- There are six stories: The Monk's, The Teacher's, The Executive's, The Courtesan's The Musician's, and The Minstrel's.
- The novel begins with the words of a 14th-Century Indian poet: "Listen, O brother. Man is the greatest truth. Nothing beyond."
- The story is told from the perspective of a retired government official.
- Mehta tells the story of a retired government official who resides on one of the largest and holiest rivers in India. In his working days the official was never a religious man, but now that he has a chance to relax and observe his surroundings, he is able to take in the diversity around him and start his own questioningabout the spiritual side of life. Using this frame, Mehta illustrates the official's encounters with numerous characters who, each in turn, tell their stories to the retired official. As the story proceeds he encounters many characters as for example a Jain mendicant, a Muslim music teacher, a wandering ascetic, a courtesan seeking her kidnapped daughter, a genius sitar player, and a tea plantation official who has encountered Nagas. Mehta uses each character to explore
 - different religious themes that are represented in India and weaves them all into a cohesive search for spiritual truth. India is always a country of unity in diversity and the author has successfully uses this trait.
- The Monk story begins with Ashok who is the first of many people to tell the narrator his story of love. The Jain monk is probably only thirty years old and he has already tired of a world that has offered him anything he has wanted: extreme wealth, a loving family, and the opportunity to better other people's lives through charity. The monk has decided himself to become a monk in a religion where, as other monks tell him, he will

- suffer almost constant pain. Ashok believes these sacrifices are worthwhile because in his renunciation, as the same monks tell him, he "will be free from doubt."
- In the Teacher's Story the narrator meets a man who accuses himself of being a murderer. It tells about a man called Master Mohan who now gives music lessons. His wife has always taunted him continually for his weaknesses and inability to make money. She also accuses him of the fact that he is the reason she had lost her rich inheritance. Although he leads an unhappy life, his gentle nature always ushers him to small acts of kindness. Master Mohan's father developed a great love to listen his son sing in recording studios. One day Master Mohan gets the chance to listen to a group of travelling Quawali singers from Nizamuddin, who are famous for their Sufi traditional songs. He stood spellbound to the voice of a young blind Muslim boy, Imrat. The singers have prodded him and started two musical lines "I prostrate my head to the blade of Your Sword. O, the wonder of my submission. O, the wonder of your protection." (61) Imrat's sister requests Mohan to take care of her brother for a while. Mohan's wife and children treat Imrat in a dreadful manner. He sings some beautiful devotional songs to the joy of all the people around. Mohan knows \that the singing of these songs will give him the endurance he needs to confront the indignities of his life. He grooms him in music and discovers that the boy to be a prodigy. He instructs Imrat to sing songs of Kabir, Mirabai, Khusrau, Tulasidas, Chisti and Chandidas. His singing becomes so popular and attracts the attention of a music records company. Unable to bear the rude behaviour of his wife, Master Mohan leaves the house for Imrat to continue his practice. It is Master Mohan's wife, who wants to make some money out of the Imrat, accepts the offer and receives five thousand rupees for a programme. The boy is forced to sing and his singing fills the hall with ecstasy and mystic raptures. Whenthe great Sahib rises, Master Mohan thinks the Sahib is going to dance to the music of the boy. The gruesome incidence the death of the boy drives the Master to the verge of madness. He comes to the banks of the Narmada in search of peace. He does not get peace because the story leaves him with many questions unanswered. Tariq Mia's explanation is that he does not know answer and it is a story about the human heart. The bureaucrat questions himself whether police catch him or not and why the

- Sahib kills the boy. Unable to come to a conclusion, Master Mohan commits suicide on his way back.
- The Executive's story speaks about Nitin Bose, a young executive, works in a tea company in Calcutta. He is a well-educated orthodox and committed to duty. Though his companions have dreadful predictions, he opts for the tea estates as he could feel the monotonous of Calcutta and begins to live a self-disciplined life until a young tribal woman, Rima, arrives while he is asleep. He falls in love with her. Although he avoids women from him, he likes her and experiences her body. The relation between Nitin and Rima is immoral so that he is afraid of the regulations of the society because according to the society his act is a sin which is not excused by the people. Therefore he buried his immoral act in his mind and the effect of his suppression resulted in his utter madness. Afraid of society's regulations he cannot admit his immoral act to anybody else so he confesses it in his diary. Diary is one of the means of confession through which one can get mental relief. Nitin Bose after writing his diary gets mental relief and is cured from amnesia. The story reflects the Indian psyche and tradition in which these kinds of acts are not allowed and if someone did it unconsciously then he is afraid to confess it. Nitin Bose as belongs to the same tradition suppresses his desire and wants to hide the truth from people. The writer, before telling the story, describes the myth of Kama, God of Love which is very helpful to create a suitable atmosphere.
- The Courtesan's Story is a tale of the love of flesh recounted by the courtesan's mother and herself. The Courtesan represents the particular group of courtesans which is neglected by the society. The courtesans are not considered as human beings but they are used for entertainment only. The courtesan's daughter got a chance to perform at a large political gathering. Her tender voice soothed the crowd into silence. The happiness was shattered as her daughter was kidnapped by a bandit of Vindhyas, Rahul Singh, who has a notorious standing for robbing, kidnaps her because he thinks that she has been his wife in so many lives before that one and keeps her in captivity in acave and forces her to yield, but she refuses to surrender to him. Rahul Singh tells her that she has been his wife in many births before this one, but she does not believe him. He endures her hatred and insults. But one night, when he touches her, she realizes that he

- is speaking truth. She spends with him happily for a few days. She too falls in love with him and became pregnant. He was so much in love with her that he became reformed but died trying to steal something for her from the bazaar.
- The Musician's Story describes an ugly female musician, who learns to perfect her singing all her life.
- Tariq Mia tells The Minstrel's Story to understand the bureaucrat about the Naga
 Babas. It is about the Naga Baba, who rescued a girl of eight years old from the clutches
 of a prostitute and who later became a minstrel.

GITHA HARIHARAN (1954 –)

• Githa Hariharan is one of the most prolific woman writers of India. She was born in Coimbatore in 1954. She was brought up in Bombay andManila and got her education in these two places besides the U.S.A. She is a journalist by profession and based in New Delhi. Her first book, The Thousand Faces of Night won the Commonwealth Prize for the best first novel. Her other works include The Art of Dying (a collection of stories), The Ghosts of Vasu Master, When Dreams Travel (both novels) A Southern Harvest and In Times of Siege.

Works:

• Githa Hariharan published her first novel The Thousand Faces of Night in 1992 and was awarded the Commonwealth writer's prize in 1993. This novel was followed by The Ghost of Vasu Master (1994). Her third novel When Dreams Travel appeared in 1999 and it was quickly followed by In Times of Siege (2003). Her latest publication is Fugitive Histories which appeared in 2009. Besides novels, Githa hariharan has also authored a collection of short stories, The Art of Dying (1993), and books of short stories for children, The Winnin Team which came out in 2004. A Southern Harvest (1993) is a collection of short stories from south India translated by Githa Hariharan.

The Ghosts of Vasu Master – 1994

- The novel is told in short chapters, alternating between events in the present.
 - Vasu Master feels quite uneasy after retirement. His farewell present from his students was a notebook, and the other things related to jotting down observations, memories, and thoughts about teaching. He also continues to teach a bit, becoming a tutor. He doesn't have many students, however, and eventually he is only left with one that is the most complicated and intractable case, Mani. The boy is twelve when he comes to Vasu Master, but he was not up to the mark. He doesn't speak, either, and has been through numerous schools and doctors, without anyone being able to draw him out. Vasu Master tries to change Mani and eventually finds at least one thing that seems to keep him entertained and interested. And this thing was stories. Vasu Master himself wasn't brought up on proper stories but he tries a lot with his childhood experience and finds them useful for himself too. Vasu master also tries to live in present and bring the past back in his life. His wife who dies in earlier years, he brings back her in memory and thus tries to understand the present. The Ghosts of Vasu Master is concerned with well being on all levels i.e. the soul, the mind, and the body. Vasu Master's physical ailments get some attention, while some want him to follow the path to enlightenment, there is one morecharacter and he is Vasu Master's father, a doctor of the very wise and understanding sort, who shows a variety of ways of healing. Vasu Master's efforts to teach Mani take the broadest meaning of teach`. He tries to teach him in all aspect like as psychologist and also as educator.

The Thousand Faces of Night

- The novel is woven around three generations of women Devi, Sita and Mayamma.
- The first novel The Thousand Faces of Night describes the setup of a central south Indian Brahmin family. Devi, the central character returns to Madras from America to live with her mother, Sita. Initially, she is confronted by some difficulties in making adjustment with day-today realities.

• Devi being a young educated girl with her "american experience" struggles to cope with her husband Mahesh, who is busy with his business tours most of the time. This is when Devi feels alienated in "her own "home. She searches for an identity and tries to free herself from the bondage of marriage. Her emotional and mental incompatibility with Mahesh brings her close to Baba. In this second part of the novel, she comes closer to Baba and he takes up the role of Devi's grandmother with stories "less spectacular" and defining the limits. Through Devi, Hariharan shows how woman survives in male dominated society, facing all sorts of discrimination but surviving with her inner strength.

When Dreams Travel

• The novel is a retelling of the old story of Shahrzad and her sister Dunyasad. They are married to two brothers, the sultan Shaharyar and Shahzaman, both of whom were earlier cuckolded by their wives. To prevent this from happening again, the sultanmarries a virgin each night, and then beheads her in the morning. This grisly practice continues until Shahrzad, the Wazir's daughter, manages to keep death at bay by telling him stories for a thousand and one nights. Early in the story Shahrzad dies mysteriously and much of the book concerns Dunyazad's efforts to find out how and why. The truth is revealed only in the last chapter's surprise ending. The deaths of Shahrzad and Shahzaman and the wazir by no means preclude their frequent reappearances, either in dream sequences or in incidents from the past.

JIM CORBETT

• Jim Corbett is a popular name in India and even today he is one of the widely read authors in the wildlife genre. Jim Corbett was born on 25th July 1875, in British India. The original name of Jim Corbett is Edward James. Jim Corbett is still remembered as one of the great wildlife conservationists of India. He played significant role to establish India's first national park that is Corbett National Park.

Works:

Tree Tops:

• The story is about the forest and about the treetop that is situated there at the jungle. `Tree tops` is a story written by Jim Corbett, which is based on a real treetop. Now this is called as tree top hotel. The treetop was built to accommodate 100 visitors near to a big water body where thewild animals including tiger, buffaloes, and elephants come to quench their thrust. In this book the description of treetop is given in a nice way that anyone can feel it in front of his or her eyes. The balcony is at least 30 feet above the pool, and from

here anyone can see the remains of the old Tree Tops on the other side. It was burned down by the mau mau in 1954. It was built on a giant ficus tree and accommodated five or six people one time. In this place in the month of February, 1952 princess Elizabeth arrived with her husband to spend the night, and Corbett was invited to join them.

Man-eaters of Kumaon – 1993

- Corbett gives the reason of why this particular tiger became a man-eater, often remarking that it was a result of a gunshot wound that disabled the tiger to hunt it's natural prey. It was Corbett who called tiger `a big-hearted gentleman`.
- Kumaon hills in the Himalayan foothills are clearly depicted in the story.

The Man Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag

- The story of man-eater of Rudraprayag tells the tale of a tiger which stays at the place called Rudraprayag. Corbett ultimately kills the tiger. Here the tiger is the central character and the story revolves around the triumphant killing of the tiger.
- This particular book is about one leopard, which terrorized a large region for many years and claimed about 420 lives as well.
- There is an unforgettable chapter in the book titled `Terror` which narrates very vividly about the village nightlife.

Jungle Lore

- Lore means traditionally transmitted stories and so jungle lore means the stories of the jungle.
- Jungle Lore by Jim Corbett is a sort of autobiography.
- The story concentrates on the minute information about jungles, animals, classification of species. It is also related to hunting story. The best thing about the novel apart from its length is that this book is informative as well as educational.

My India

- In `My India` Corbett talks about the people of the country in an excellent manner.
- This book deals with the country as he said my India. He always felt India as his own country and he believes in that way only.

KAMALA MARKANDAYA (1924 –2004)

• Kamala Markandaya, a popular Indian journalist and novelist. Kamala Purnaiya was born in a small town in Mysore in the year of 1924. Markandaya attended the University of Madras, beginning in 1940, where she studied history. From 1940 to 1947, she worked as a journalist and also published short stories in Indian newspapers. The works of Kamala Markandaya feature the modern traditional and spiritual values of Indian societies. The novels of Kamala Markandaya are popular for boldly depicting the cultural and traditional clashes of different societies.

Works:

Nectar in a Sieve (1954)

Some Inner Fury (1955)

A Silence of Desire (1960)

"Possession" (1963)

"A Handful of Rice" (1966)

"The Coffer Dams" (1969)

"The Nowhere Man" (1972)
"Two Virgins" (1973)
"The Golden Honeycomb" (1977)
"Pleasure City" (1982)

Nectar in a Sieve- 1954

- The title "Nectar in a sieve" has an allusion to the famous poem by Coleridge "Work without hope". The 13-14 lines of the poem "work without hope" ("Work without hope draws nectar in a sieve, and hope without an object cannot live.")
- Hope stands as a very important attribute of the lives of the character thus aptly befitting the title.
- It is a touching account of the life of an Indian peasant woman, Rukmani, her struggle for survival and her abiding love for her husband.
- This novel depicted the difficult life of an Indian peasant. It was written in a narrative style and wonderfully depicted the clashes between the urban and rural societies of India.
 - Rukmani married Nathan, a tenant farmer whom she had never met, as a child bride. Even though Rukmani was ignorant of the simplest of tasks, Nathan never uttered a single cross word or gave an impatient look. He looked at her as if nobody had discovered her beauty. He never asserted his rights to prohibit her from reading and writing. Though Nathan was illiterate he always shows respect towards her literate wife. Misfortune seemed to have a tight foothold in Rukmani and Nathan. The monsoon flooded the rice paddies where Rukmani worked side by side with Nathan to wrest a living for a household of eight. No sooner had the monsoon tapered off than a drought devastated the harvest. Hope and fear acted like twin forces that tugged at them in one direction and another. Poverty-stricken Rukmani saw her daughter Ira become a prostitute, her 4-year-old son Kuti died from hunger, her teenage son Raja caught stealing and beaten to death, heroldest sons Thambi and Arjun set off to Ceylon to work in a tea plantation.

And yet, Rukmani survived. Ira, who exchanged her body for Kuti's milk and food, had
lost her reason and given up her sanity rather than faced the truth. Far beyond its
political context, the novel is appealing to modern readers for its sensitive and moving
portrayal of the strength of a woman struggling with forces beyond her control.

Some Inner Fury – 1955

- Some Inner Fury is a semi-autobiographical story.
- This is the story of a young woman in love with an Englishman. The duration was the riotous time of 1940s when India was fighting for independence.
- In this creation she probed the east-west conflict through the dilemma of Mira, who was in love with an Englishman.

KHUSHWANT SINGH

• Khushwant Singh is a senior prominent Indian novelist and journalist. He was born on 2 February 1915 at Hadali in British India that is now a part of Punjab in Pakistan. A significant post-colonial writer in the English language, Khushwant Singh is known for his clear-cut secularism, humor and a deep passion for poetry. He was a great storywriter, historian, political writer, essayist biographer, translator novelist and journalist. He has been founder-editor of Yojna, and editor of The Illustrated Weekly of India, The National Herald and The Hindustan Times. The Mark of Vishnu and Other Stories is the first book written in 1950 comprises mostly ironic tales about faith and religion. This selection includes ten of his best, bearing testimony to the author's remarkable range and his ability to create unforgettable characters out of everyday lives.

Works:

Train to Pakistan, 1956

The Voice of God and Other Stories, 1957

I Shall Not Hear the Nightingale, 1959

Ghadar 1915: India's first armed revolution, 1966

Black Jasmine, 1971

Tragedy of Punjab, 1984

Delhi: A Novel, 1990

We Indians, 1993

Women and Men in My Life, 1995

Uncertain Liaisons; Sex, Strife and Togetherness in Urban India, 1995

Declaring Love in Four Languages, by Khushwant Singh and Sharda Kaushik, 1997

The Company of Women, 1999

Truth, Love and a Little Malice (an autobiography), 2002

With Malice towards One and All The End of India, 2003

Burial at the Sea, 2004

Paradise and Other Stories, 2004

Death at My Doorstep, 2005

Why I Supported the Emergency: Essays and Profiles, 2009

The Sunset Club, 2010 The Portrait of a Lady (Short Story)

Delhi: A Novel

• Khushwant Singh claims it took him almost twenty years to complete the novel Delhi and dedicated it to his son Rahul Singh and Niloufer Billimoria.

- It accounts the history of New Delhi from the eyes of an old Sikh guide named Mr. Singh. His passionate romance with Bhagmati who is a hermaphrodite and a representation of Delhi is beautifully paralleled. The story progresses with chapters divided in narrations by poets, sultans, soldiers, white memsahibs, etc. The story is told from the viewpoints of various characters, with different styles.
- Delhi, the capital of India, was completely destructed and then reconstructed number
 of times as it turned to be a city of culture, calamity, conceit, capability, poets, saints
 and politicians. His protagonist is not any handsome rich dude but a bawdy, old,
 reprobate Sikh journalist.
- The narrator guides his acquaintances through the ruins of the past that lay strewn all over the historic city tombs, memorials, Durgahs and monuments. The story begins with one of the Mughal emperors, Ghias Uddin Balban and spans from six to seven

hundred years and ends with the assassination of Indira Gandhi, leading to the massacre of Sikhs.

I Shall Not Hear the Nightingale -1961

- It is a story of a Sikh family in the days before India's independence.
- The story is set at the backdrop of 1942.
- Buta Singh is the father in the story. He is the head of the family and is a magistrate who works for the British, and after years of loyal service to the British Raj is expecting to be honored with a title in the King's Birthday Honours List. The son, Sher Singh is a hot-blooded young revolutionary, but emotionally still a child. He has joined a band of terrorists and comrades and in order to acquire the leadership has hatched a plan to disrupt arms supplies traffic on road and rail through bombing, and all this rebellion is undetected by any member of the family. Hell breaks loose when a ghastly murder of the village headman is reported and Sher Singh is arrested. All this sends an earthquake through the

foundations of Buta Singh's house.

Train to Pakistan (Mano Majra) -1956

- It is a partition novel.
- Also historical Novel
- There is an interesting fusion of sex, humour, pain, agony and violence in this novel.
- Mano Majra, the maiden name of the novel, was an imaginative peaceful abode of communal harmony that witnessed a dark history of hatred and religious segregation.
 Its draft was completed in three months.
- Train to Pakistan opens in the fictional village Mano Majra and describes how the entire village gets involved in the carnage during the partition.
- Khushwant Singh has divided the novel into four parts and it is in the fourth part named 'Karma', that he emphasizes the philosophy of 'Karma', that is, action, as described in The Bhagavad Gita. In this section, the story reaches its catastrophic dramatic end with

- Juggut Singh sacrificing his life to save the lives of his girlfriend Nooran and other Muslim refugees.
- The Partition of India in 1947 marked a season of bloodshed that stunned and horrified those living through the nightmare. Entire families were forced to abandon their land for resettlement to Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India.
 - It was a horrible experience for all the human beings who were present there. Travelers clogged the roads on carts, on foot, but mostly on trains, where they rested precariously on the roofs, clung to the sides, wherever grasping fingers could find purchase. Muslim turned against Hindu, Hindu against Muslim, in their frantic effort to escape the encroaching massacre. But the violence followed the refugees. Almost ten million people were assigned for relocation and by the end of this bloody chapter nearly a million were murdered. Women were raped before the pained eyes of their husbands, entire families robbed, dismembered, murdered and thrown aside like garbage until the streets were cluttered with human massacre. The situation cannot be explained in words. The scenes from that era is so humiliating that till now it can bring tears to anyone's eye. The trains kept running. Those trains were used to carry the passengers including Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and quasi-Christian. There had been rumors of the arrival of the silent `ghost trains` that moved quietly along the tracks, grinding slowly to a halt at the end of the line, filled with slaughtered refugees. When the first ghost train came to Mano Majra the villagers were stunned. Abandoning chores, they gathered on rooftops to watch in silent fascination. With the second train, they were ordered to participate in burying the dead before the approaching monsoons made burial impossible. But reality struck fear into their simple hearts when all the Muslims of Mano Majra were ordered to evacuate immediately, deprived of property other than what they could carry. The remaining Hindus and Sikhs were ordered to prepare for an attack on the next train to Pakistan, with few weapons other than clubs and spears. The soldiers controlled the arms supply and would begin the attack with a volley of shots. When the people realized that this particular train would be carrying their own former friends and neighbors, they too were caught, helpless in the iron fist of history, save one disreputable dacoit whose wife sat among her fellow refugees. The dacoit was

Hindu and his wife was Muslim. The story builds impressive steam as it staggers toward destiny, begging for the relief of action.

MAHADEVI VARMA

She is a well-known Hindi poet of the Chhayavaad generation, the times when every
poet used to incorporate romanticism in their poetry. She is more often called the
Modern Meera. She won the Jnanpith award in the year 1982.

MANIL SURI

Manil Suri, the mathematician turned author become famous for his so far only novel,
 The Death of Vishnu (2002)

MAHESH DATTANI

• Mahesh Dattani, was born in Bangalore on November 1958, is a prolific playwright and is regarded as the first Indian English playwright to win the Sahitya Akademi Award for his play, Final Solutions and Other Plays in 1998. His very first play Where There's a Will deals with money as the central theme of the play. Mahesh Dattani is a sensitive playwright who writes about issues like gender bias, social discrimination of the girl child, etc.

Works:

Where there's a Will

Tara - 1990

Bravely Fought the Queen

On a Muggy Night in Mumbai

Dance like a Man

Thirty Days in September

Seven Steps around the Fire

Final Solutions -1993

Where There's a Will

• This is a play about Hasmukh Mehta, one of the business tycoons in the city. Having been an obedient son to his father all through his life, he expects the same from his son Ajit. He suspects his daughter in law, Preeti. He is unhappy with his wife Sonal. His disbelief in his family members and his unhappy sex life makes him to find the "right person" outside the family. Kiran Jhaveri, a marketing executive in his company. He entrusts all his property to Hasmukh Mehta charitable trust and makes Kiran the trustee before he dies. This shocking news is unfolded when Kiran enters Mehta house with Hasmukh's will. The family members are taken aback by the bitter decision of Hasmukh Mehta. Hasmukh's decision of managing the trust for 25 years by Kiran Jhaveri until Ajit turns 48 leaves the family to show the true colours about one another. But this plan of Hasmukh" s tries to bring the family members together.

Dance Like a Man

• Patriarchal authority has been brought out effectively through this novel. The Bharatanatyam dance couple Jairaj and Ratna come under the pressure of patriarchy and Jairaj is worst hit by it. Jairaj could not becomesuccessful dancer because his father Amritlal Parekh didn't allow him to pursue dance as his career. Jairaj himself admits this fact while conversing with Vishwas. Jairaj sees himself as a failure partly because of Amritlal's autocracy and partly due to Ratna's ambition. Amritlal Parekh who is a representative of the society of nineteen thirties and forties. He is freedom fighter and a reformist, but he curtails the freedom of his son who wanted to become a Bharatanatyam dancer. Jairaj suffers both as a dancer and human being.

Tara: (1990)

• Major characters are Tara and Chandan

- Tara is the daughter of an educated higher middle class family in Banglore. The story of the play is about the twins who are born with three legs and blood supply to the third leg is from the baby girl's body. Only one of the twins could have two legs, and the other had to survive with only one leg. It is decided to fix the third leg on to the male baby's body so as to make male baby complete. This decision was not on the basis of medical ground but due to gender discrimination in our society.
- Tara is a story of Siamese twins—one male and the other female. The play dramatizes how a woman becomes perpetrator of the male chauvinistic ideas forgetting that her decision to prefer a male child to female one may ruin the latter's life. Having three legs, the Siamese twins, Tara and Chandan who were conjoined at birth, had to go through a surgical operation to get separated. Against the doctor's opinion that the third leg would survive on the girl child, Bharati, the mother, agrees to her father in conniving with the doctor to give the third leg to the girl child. The doctor who is supposed to be the god for the patient forgets his all moral duties just for the sake of a few acre land in the prime of the city and attaches the third leg to the girl child which goes rotten with the passage of time and both, the boy child and the girl child become freaks.
- The death of Tara has a more powerful impact than her existence. Just as the death of the Star gives way to the Black Hole.
- The handicap also symbolizes the predicament of girls in Indian families who are made
 to forsake their chances of getting educated as the edification of the boy becomes a
 priority.

Bravely Fought the Queen:

• It throws light ont the home confined identity and exploitation of women at the hands of not only men but also women and their resistance. The play also exposes issue of extramarital relationship and touches upon the issue of homosexuality. Set in the world of consumerism, the play depicts Alka, Dolly and Baa as women whose lives are defined within the four walls of the houses. Revolving around the Trivedi family which consists of Jiten and NitinTrivedi, Baa, Dolly and Alka, the play depicts the exploitation of women in the family. Indian society considers women as uncivilized,

rude, and ill-mannered needing to be polished. The process of the refinement of their actions and their behaviour horrifies our eyes violence is the tool which is used for the socialization of the women. Alka's present condition is the result of this civilizing process which also creates a rift between Dolly and Alka who are managed by their brother Praful. This play, like Tara, also depicts

women as the perpetrator of patriarchy. Dolly suffers in the hands of her mother-in-law who provokes her son to beat her. Jiten and Nitin gratify their sexual desires with market girls. The class-conflict also constitutes the theme of the play. Sridhar is humiliated by his masters Jiten and Nitin who forces him not only to follow their eccentric views about campaign which ignores women as consumer but also to work as a pimp just to manage a whore for Jiten. The issue of homosexuality has touched upon in the play. Nitin has homosexual relationship with Praful. Emotions and desires of women of the family have no significance for the male member of the family and they suffer due to their husband's

degraded morality. In the end of the play Alka and Dolly both rebels against the male dominance and their husband's realize their mistakes. Bonsai in the play symbolizes the limited freedom of women.

Text with Technology

On a Muggy Night in Mumbai

• This discusses the plight of the sexually marginalized people—homosexuals and lesbians and the effects of homosexual relationship on human ties. In the play, Kamlesh loves Prakash who fails to face the social oddities as a homosexual and turns into a heterosexual. It breeds in Kamlesh a perennial anguish. In trying to suppress his feelings for Prakash, Kamlesh becomes miserable, week and helpless and, the only way to get rid of his obsession, is to be in Sharad's company. The play reveals double identity of men who live their private lives of homosexuality in the images of heterosexuals. Sharad challenges Ed who has the mask of heterosexuality and considers heterosexuals as a real man Bunny and Prakash/Ed enjoy homosexuality under mask of heterosexuality. Bunny, who is a bisexual, is a hypocrite. He claims to be a perfect husband because he loves his wife more than any heterosexual man does; his wife

boasts of his work to the neighbours as she has no problem with him; and his children who love him are popular in school. But his confession about his homosexuality reveals dissatisfaction in his life. The play witnesses the power of society due to which homosexuals turned into heterosexuals. But the play also highlights women as victim of males' hypocrisy. Kiran, Kamlesh's sister, after her bitter realization in her first marriage, finds some hope in Ed butthe revelation of his being a homosexual shatter her dream of future life and she is filled with anguish and pain.

Thirty Days in September

The story revolves around Mala and Shanta, the play reveals the betrayal in blood relationship in a country like India where even to think of such relationships is beyond imagination. Mala, sexually abused by her maternal uncle, at the age of six has to suffer continuous sexual molestation which leads her to the arms of any man whom she comes in contact with. She fails to marry Deepak because she always realizes her uncle presence with her. In spite of his all attempts Deepak fails to know the truth behind Mala's erratic behaviour but in fit of realization of Deepak's love, she reveals her past life to himb. And with his help, she becomes successful to fight against her exploitation by refusing her maternal uncle's gift of house. She holds her mother responsible for her plight. But in end of the play Mala comes to know that her mother also has been the prey of the same fate. Shanta does not dare to reveal the truth because she was financially weak and society does not permit to hear such relationships.

Seven Steps around the Fire

- Seven Steps around the Firedepicts the plight of the eunuchs in the Indian society shedding light on the love and betrayal in human relationship.
- Throwing light on plight of eunuchs, Dattani depicts that their position is better than women as they are free to give vent to their desires in their domain. Uma, a research scholar in Sociology working on the plight of the eunuchs, has no identity of her own as she is always addressed as a wife of the Superintendent of Police and daughter-in-law of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, and the daughter of the Vice-Chancellor of

Bangalore University. When she visits the cell where Anarkali is imprisoned for the case study she is overwhelmed perceiving the brutality the eunuchs are meted out in the prison. Munswamy, her bodyguard addressed Anarkali with pronouns like it, they which indicates that the eunuchs in the society are not treated as human beings instead as things. He suggests her to leave the case as there are lots of cases dealing with such issues as murder, rape etc. Suresh, her husband, also hates them and addresses them as castrated degenerated men. The eunuchs are discriminated and hated in the society because of their inability to produce children. But Suresh is also infertile. He does not go to the doctor, who declares Uma medically fit for mothering a child, just for count sperm as it is against his male libido and will uncover his true self. At Subbu's wedding with the help of the eunuchs who during their singing and dancing show him the photograph consisting of Subbu and Kamala in wedding dress Uma becomes successful to get the real culprit behindKamala's murder. She is revealed that it is the Minister who got Kamala burnt to death because of his false pride and prestige which was in danger as his son, Subbu had married a eunuch, Kamala. In an utter longing for Kamal's love, Subbu also shoots himself with Suresh's pistol. But Suresh for the sake of his promotion as a Commissioner of Police hushes up the story as an incident and does not report it in the register. And thus, the eunuchs' voices remain unheard.

Final Solutions

• In this play particularly the issue of communal harmony is raised and what takes the play to a different level is that the playwright tries to cater a solution to the problem by bringing the followers of the two religions

MANJU KAPUR

• Manju Kapur is a professor of English at the prestigious Miranda House in Delhi. Her first novel, Difficult Daughters, received the Commonwealth Award. The book is set during India's independence struggle and is partially based on the life and experiences of the author's own mother. Her other novel A Married Woman is a seductive story of love, set at a time of political and religious upheaval within the country. Narrated with

sympathy and intelligence, it is the story of an artist whose canvas challenges the constraints of middle-class existence.

Awards:

• Difficult Daughters won the Common wealth writer prize for the best book.

Works:

Difficult Daughters (1998)

A Married Woman(2002)

Home (2006)

The Immigrant (2008).

Difficult Daughters - 1998

- Difficult Daughters is the story of a freedom struggle. While India fights for freedom from the British Raj, Virmati fights for the freedom to live life on her terms.
- Difficult Daughters is a story of a daughter's journey back into her mother's painful past.
- Difficult Daughters is a story of three generations of women: Ida, the narrator, who is a divorcee. Virmati, her mother, who marries an already married professor for love, and Kasturi, her grandmother, who come to terms with a difficult daughter, Virmati.
- Difficult Daughters is set at the time of partition in Amritsar and Lahore.
- Difficult Daughters begins with a daughter going back to Amritsar carrying her
 mother's ashes to meet her maternal family. The narrative then alternates between the
 past and the present with the mother and daughter speaking to each other through places
 and events.
- Virmati is the protagonist of the novel. She is a young Punjabi girlfrom a very conservative family in Amritsar, falls in love with a married professor. Prof. Harish Chandra is a Professor at the Arya Sabha College. Virmati was deeply enlightened by the Professor and considered him noble for his concern towards woman's education. They both were in love with each other, but the path to love never runs smooth. The

social barricades and moral hurdles label their relationship as 'illicit'. Virmati's mother was adamant and would not allow her to have her ways. Talks of marriage filled the air and everybody in the house could think of nothing else but Virmati's impending marriage. Virmati remained passive and silent, and every word fell on a deaf ear. Things began to get out of control and Virmati contemplates suicide. She made a futile attempt at drowning. She was locked in the godown but still remained silent and stubborn. The next few months passed by in great pain and loneliness for both Virmati and Harish. They communicated through letters, exchanging every minute detail of things happening. Finally, it was decided, although reluctantly, that Virmati would go to Lahore for further studies. Virmati, as her name suggests was not only brave, but also stubborn. The two persons who greatly influenced Virmati were Shakuntala (her cousin) and Swarnalata (her room partner).

- Virmati's daughter Ida, who belongs to the post independence generation, is strong and clearheaded. She breaks up her marriage as she is denied maternity by her husband. The forced abortion is also the termination of her marriage. Ida by severing the marriage bond frees herself from male domination and power and also from conventional social structures which bind women. She has that strength which Virmati lacks. Ida wants liberty and doesn't want to compromise as did her mother.
- Ida utters angrily at the end of the novel:—"This book weaves a connection between my mother and me, each word-brick in a mansion I made with my head and my heart. Now live in it, Mama and leave me be. Do not haunt me anymore.".

A Married Woman – 2002

- This is the second novel.
- Astha is the protagonist in the novel.
- A Married Woman deals with women's issues in the present context. It is an honest and seductive story of love, passion and attachment set at the time of political and religious turmoil in India. Driven by a powerful physical relationship with a

much younger woman, the main character of the novel risks losing the acquisitions of her conventional marriage and safe family. The novel raises the controversial issue of homosexual relationship in a challenging way.

• Manju Kapur frankly depicts the love affair between two women, but less attention has been paid to the historical and political context in which that relationship develops.

Home - 2006

• Nisha is the central character.

The Immigrant –

- The Immigrant is story of two immigrants, Nina and Ananda.
- Nina teaches English literature at Miranda House. She was not
 married till the age of 30. Ananda, who lives in Canada, wants to marry an Indian girl,
 and marries Nina. Nina goes to Canada as an immigrant and her journey of life starts in
 a totally new environment. At the end of the novel, she becomes a new woman, totally
 different from what she was before her marriage in India.
- Nina said she loved The Second Sex, but she couldn't identify with much of it.

MANJULA PADMANABHAN(1953 —)

• She is an author, playwright and artist. Her books include "Hot Death, Cold Soup" (1996) a collection of short stories and "Getting There" (1999) a travel memoir. "Harvest", her fifth play, won first prize in the 1997 Onassis Prize (The foundation has its headquarters in Greece) for theatre. "Kleptomania" (2004), a collection of short stories, was published in 2004. She has illustrated 23 books for children including, most her own two novels for children, "Mouse Attack" and "Mouse Invaders".

MANOHAR MALAGAONKAR

- Manohar Malagaonkar was born in 1913 in a royal family. He was educated at Bombay University. He served The Maratha Light infantry as an officer. He was a big game hunter, a civil servant as well as a mine owner and a farmer too.
- Manohar Malagaonkar`s works are as follows: "A Teller of Tales", "Distant Drum", "Combat of Shadows", "The Princes", "A Bend in the Ganges", "The Devil`s Wind"` "The Sea Hawk: Life and Battles of Kanhoji Angrey", "Chatrapatis of Kolhapur", "Spy in Amber", "Shalimar", "The Garland Keepers", "Bandicoot Run", "Cactus Country", "A Toast in Warm Wine", "In Uniform", "Bombay Beware", "Rumble-Tumble" and "Inside Goa.

MUKUL KESAVAN

- His first book Looking Through Glass appeared in 1994. It became a best-seller and received several critical literary acclaims.
- Kesavan's cricket based Men in White was published by Penguin India in 2007.

NAYANTARA SAHGAL

• Nayantara Sahgal was born in 1927 and is an Indian writer in English. Her fiction deals with India's elite responding to the crises engendered by political change. She was the first female Indo-Asian writer to receive wide recognition. Her novels try to highlight the independent existence of women and their efforts to thwart attempts to isolate them from the centre-stage of human existence.

Awards:

- Sahitya Akademi Award in 1986
- Commonwealth Writers Award in 1987

Works:

Her first book Prison and Chocolate Cake was published in 1954.

A Time to Be Happy - 1963.

This Time of Morning(1965)

Storm in Chandigarh (1969)

The Day in Shadow (1971)

"Indira Gandhi: Her Road to Power" (1982) and "A Situation in New Delhi" (1989) were her two political writings. Her two novels were published in the US- Mistaken Identity in 1988 and Rich Like Us in 1985.

NAMITA GOKHALE

• Namita Gokhale is a well renowned writer of Indian literature. She was born in the year 1956 in Lucknow, India. Namita Gokhale has penned down a total of five novels in English. She has also done some non-fictional work in English literature. She has established her reputation as one of India's greatest feminist writers. Her interest in Indian mythology is well known. She felt indebted to the great poet Kalidasa.

Works:

Paro: Dreams of Passion (1984)

Gods, Graves and Grandmother (1994)

Mountain Echoes: Reminiscence of Kumaoni Women (1994)

The Book of Shadows (1999)

The Book of Shiva (2000)

Love Them, Loathe Them (2004)

Present Tense, Living on the Edge (2004)

Shakuntala: The Play of Memory (2005)

A Himalayan Love Story (1996)

The Puffin Mahabharata (2009)

Shakuntala: The Play of Memory

- This story is based on the story of the famous play Abhijnana Shakuntalam written by Kalidas. In this novel Namita Gokhale has presented the story of a girl named Shakuntala who remembered her past life. The writer has belief in rebirth and the Hindu mythology.
- The novel opens with the picture of Kashi, the city of Shiva. The narrator is Shakuntala who remembers her first sight of Kashi. She begins to dream of her previous birth. In her dreams she sees many images and begins to think of the purpose of life. She remembers the story of Shakuntala. After sometime Shakuntala was married to Srijan. Srijan knew her since she was a child. Shakuntala was his third wife. His other wives were dead and had not given him any children. The married life of Shakuntala was very decent and Srijan was very courteous to her. But she was not satisfied and she had her own vision of freedom. She leads a happy life. Later, Shakuntala came to Kashi and there she surrenders to a world of pleasure, travelling in the complete freedom from rules and bonds that she has always desired. Now she was all alone, no one's wife or mistress or sister. She listened The Puranas from the mouth of a Brahmin. She saw different sights and great monks and worshippers there. At that time she remembers Bhikkuni's words and planned to go to a monastery, a Buddhist Sangha and to follow the path of Srijan's mother.
- Namita Gokhale raised the question of the equality of woman with man. Shakuntala
 has the longing to travel like man, but she is helpless. She wants to get religious
 knowledge like her brother. She keeps her opinions to herself because she knows that
 scriptures are forbidden to women. Namita Gokhale is indebted to Buddha's principles.
 She asserts the influence of Buddha upon Shakuntala.
- The book is mainly centered around Shakuntala who has her own vision of freedom. She is endowed with great courage and zeal. Since childhood she wants to know about Dharma and scriptures but she never told her opinions to her mother because the scriptures are forbidden to women. Her curiosity can be seen when she used to hear the

religious texts narrated by the tutorof Guresvara. She used to discuss great philosophical facts with her brother but she never felt satisfied.

The Book of Shadows

- Rachita Tiwari is the protagonist.
- It narrates the story of an English lecturer, Rachita.
- Rachita gets acid thrown at her face in this novel.

Nissim Ezekiel (1924-2004)

- Nissim Ezekiel was a Jewish Indian poet actor, playwright, editor and art-critic.
- His family migrated to India from Israel.
- He was a fundamental figure in post-colonial India's literary history specially for Indian writing in English
- He got Sahitya Akademy Award in 1983 for his poetry collection Letter-Day Psalms.
- Ezekiel belonged to Mumbai's Marathi speaking Jewish community known as 'Bene Israel'.
- Ezekiel's first book "The Bad Day" appeared in 1925. He published another volume of poem The Deadly Man in 1960
- He co-founded the literary monthly Jumpo in 1961.
- He became art critic of The Names of India (1964-66) and edited Poetry India (1966-67).
- The Exact Name, his fifth book of poetry was published in 1965.
- In 1969, his "The Damn Plays" published.
- He translated the poetry of Jawaharlal Nehru from English to Marathi in 1976 in collaboration with Vrinda Nabar and co-edited a fiction and poetry anthology.
- His poem" The Night of the Scorpion" is used as Study material in Indian and Colombian schools.
- He was honoured with Padma Sri award in 1988
- He addressed the "Questions of time" in his poetry.

Important Works

Enterprise (It is similar to TS Eliot's Journey of Magi)

Time to Change (1952)

Sixty Nine Poems (1953)

The Discovery of India (1956)

The Third (1959)

The Unfinished Man (1960)

The Exact Name (1965); It contains 20 Poems.

Hymns In Darkness

The Patriot

Letter Day Psalms

How the English Lesson Ended

The Railway Clerk

Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T.S

Poems

Island

The Night of the Scorpion Text with Technology

In the country cottage

Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher (It is included in the volume "The Exact Name")

- The title is reminiscent of Shakespeare's The lunatic, The lover and The poet, in his "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
- Opening lines: "to force the pace and never to be still is not the way of those who study birds or women. The best poets wait for words".
- Plays By Ezekiel

Nalini: A Comedy in Three Acts

Marriage Poem : A One Act Tragic Comedy

Sleep Walkers: An Indo-American Farce

The Night of the Scorpion

- This poem of Ezekiel is included in AQA anthology
- It starts in a house at night where it is raining and a scorpion in order to take some shelter comes to the house.
- This poem is about how a scorpion stung the poet's mother and how he escaped and a mother's love for her children.
- The speaker watches helplessly while his mother was stung by the scorpion.
- The speaker's father who was skeptic and a rationalist, tried to save his wife by pouring a little paraffin upon the bitten toe and put a match to it.
- After 20 hours, the mother is OK, and says that she is glad that she was stung and not her children, displaying her overwhelming love and motherly affection for them.

A Morning Walk

- In this poem, Ezekiel talks about a "barbaric city" sick with slums and deprived of seasons/ blessed

 Text with Technology
- with rains/ its hawkers, beggars, ironlunged/ procession led by frantic drums, and this city is Bombay.

Enterprise

• Famous line: "Home is a place where we have to gather grace".

NIRAD. C. CHAUDHURI

• He devoted his life to study India's relationship with Britain. Chaudhuri gained critical acclaim and was one of the most successful writers of Indian origin, in English. His remarkable Bengali prose pieces were "Atmoghaati Bangali" (Suicidal Bengali) and "Bangali Jivone Ramani" (Women in Bengali Life). His other famous literary works

are Continent of Circe, Three Horsemen in the New Apocalypse and Autobiography of an Unknown Indian(his own). "Thy Hand, Great Anarch" is his autobiographical work. His friend the editor, historian and novelist Khushwant Singh commented as "The wogs took the bait and having read only dedication sent up howls of protest".

Awards:

Sahitya Akademi award in 1975

Works:

The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian – 1951

A Passage to England (1959)

The Continent of Circe (1965)

The Intellectual in India (1967)

To Live or Not to Live (1971)

Culture in the Vanity Bag (1976)

Clive of India (1975)

Hinduism: A Religion to Live by (1979)

Thy Hand, Great Anarch! is an autobiographical sequel to The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian

Three Horsemen of the New Apocalypse (1997)

OMPRAKASH VALMIKI

• He is a prominent figure among Hindi Dalit writers. He is aforerunner among the writers who laid the foundation for Dalit literature in Hindi. Among his many published

works so far, Joothan: A Dalit's Life, his autobiography has been the focus of critical appreciation and debate. He was born on 30th June 1950 at Barla District, Muzaffarnagar, UP to a low class Dalit family. He was the only person of his family who had ever gone to school. The country had become independent, when in July 1956 his father put him in the village primary school. Those were the times when Dalit children were not allowed to study in schools. He could remember all those teachers of his school who never addressed him by name, but by his caste.

Joothan: A Dalit's Life (1997)

- It is an autobiographical account of Omprakash Valmiki's life as a Dalit.
- Joothan: A Dalit's Life by Omprakash Valmiki is one such work of Dalit literature first published in Hindi in 1997 and translated into English by Arun Prabha Mukherjee in 2003.
- It begins by a detailed description of the poor living surroundings of the Chuhra community, where poverty reigns supreme. Ramachandra Guha is a prominent Indian writer who has written on different topics such as social, political, historical, and environmental, also on the history of cricket. Besides this, he is a well-known columnist who writes for The Telegraph, The Hindu and The Hindustan Times and is also an Indian historian.

RAMANUJAN A K

- Attipat Krishnaswami Ramanujan was born in 1929 in Mysore in the Indian state of Karnataka. He was born to a Tamil family. He came to the U.S in 1959 where he remained until his death in July 13, 1993. He received his BA in English Literature and MA in literature from University of Mysore.
- In his cultural essay "Is There an Indian Way of Thinking?" he established the notion "context-sensitive" as opposed to "context-free". These are the terms from linguistics.

To him "context-sensitive" is an appropriate term of other`s view and reaction towards inconsistency, hypocrisy, tolerance and mimicry of Indian tendency. In the context he cites the example of Said`s Orientalism. "Context-free thinking" while gives rise to universal testaments of law such as in the Judeo-Christian tradition, `context-sensitive` thinking on the other hand gives rise to more complicated sets of standards such as the laws of `Manu`.

Works:

Speaking of Siva, 1973

Hymns for the Drowning, 1981

Poems of Love 1985

Folktales from India, Oral Tales from Twenty Indian Languages, 1991

"Is There an Indian Way of Thinking 1990

A Flowering Tree and Other Oral Tales from India, 1997

The Striders – 1966

RAMA MEHTA

- Rama Mehta, one of the prominent Indian women writers in English. She is well known for her novel Inside the Haveli.
- Rama Mehta won the Sahitya Academy Award for her novel Inside the Haveli.

Inside the Haveli - 1977

- Geeta is a female protagonist of the novel. She was born and brought up in Bombay.
- Ajay, Geeta's husband, supports her efforts
- Inside the Haveli depicts the story of Geeta caught in a conflict between tradition and momernity. At the beginning of the novel Geeta is not willing to accept the culture of

the haveli. In the due course of the time she gets attached with her family members but she cannot accept the purdah system. Her mind changes and she thinks about the proposal of Vir Singh. Though she cannot change the purdah system she gets success in bringing reformation in the haveli by educating Sita and maid servants in the haveli. Thus the novel focuses on the themes of Geeta's surrender and compromise.

- Haveli stands for tradition and convention. The winds of modernity blow into Haveli, when Geetha gets married to Ajay, the only heir of a tradition bound family. In the beginning, Geetha was tossed between the two opposing forces of tradition and modernity. She is fascinated by the grand and gorgeous life styles followed inside the haveli.
- Geetha finds the atmosphere of Haveli oppressive and suffocating not only because of the rigid enforcement of customs and conventions but also because of the overwhelming love and protective care and patronage of the patriarchs of Haveli. The concept of purdah was unknown to her before marriage. But after marriage, she is forced to wearpurdah and keep her face covered always, even when there are no men in the vicinity of Haveli.
- Geetha, in spite of being educated, has no identity of her own in the world of veiled women. She is almost hidden and invisible within the purdah. Most of the time, she struggles hard to breathe inside the purdah and feels like lifting it.
- Education is the first strategic weapon that Geetha takes up for improving the plight of women in the havelies.
- She takes over the voice of tradition by the end. Geeta changes tradition and her vision as well.

RUSKIN BOND

- Ruskin Bond is an eminent contemporary Indian writer of British descent. He
 prolifically authored inspiring children's books and was awarded the Sahitya Akademi
 Award to honor his work of literature.
- Born on May 19, 1934, in Kasauli, India, he was the son of Edith Clarke and Aubrey Bond. His father served in the Royal Air Force and frequently moved from places to

places along with his son. When he was eight, his parents separated and his mother left him. She married to a Punjabi-Hindu. Bond had a complicated relationship with his mother, who was rarely there to offer him affection and they eventually grew distant. His father's undivided attention helped him grow. He felt loved and secure but his tragic departure from his life left him lonely and broken. Following the sudden demise of his father, he moved to Dehradun where his grandmother raised him. He received his early education from Bishop Cotton School in Shimla. During his school years he won several writing competitions, including the Hailey Literature Prize and the Irwin Divinity Prize. In 1952, he completed his graduation and moved to England and stayed at his aunt's house for four years.

- The first twenty years of his life groomed him to be a good writer as it developed his personality in such a way. Despite his suffering and lonely childhood, Bond developed an optimistic outlook on life. He chose the path of becoming an earnest writer that his father wished him to follow. Therefore, he found solace in reading books that habit was also inculcated in him by his father. Some of his favorite reads include T. E. Lawrence, Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë and Rudyard Kipling.
- At the age of 17 in London, he began to write his first novel, The Room on the Roof. The novel charts the life of an orphaned Anglo-Indian teenager. He runs away to live with his friends as he escapes the tyranny of his strict guardian. The book has a strong autobiographical element as it's based on his actual experiences living in a small rented room on the roof in Dehradun. It was not published until he was twenty-one. He was awarded John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial prize for his first novel. Its success gave him an impetus to write its sequel Vagrants in the Valley.
- Subsequently, he returned to India and worked as a journalist in Delhi and Dehradun for a few years. Later, he relocated to a town in the Himalayan foothills, Mussoorie, where he pursued freelance writing since 1963. His essays and articles were published in numerous magazines, such as The Pioneer, The Leader, The Tribune and The Telegraph. Till now he has written over three hundred short stories, essays and novels and over thirty children's books. Additionally, he penned two autobiographical volumes; Scenes from a Writer's Life and The Lamp is Lit; Leaves from a Journal. The

- first one details his formative years in India and the second one is based on journal entries, essay collection and episodes about his years making it as a freelance writer.
- Some of other notable works of Ruskin Bond include Blue Umbrella, A Flight of Pigeons and Funny Side Up. His works have also been adapted for television and film. A BBC TV-series is based on his debut novel, short story "Susanna's Seven Husbands" was adapted into a film as 7 Khoon Maaf and film Junoon is inspired by his A Flight of Pigeons.

Works

Collections / anthologies:

White Mice

A Prospect of Flower

Garland of Memories

frogs in the fountain

Ghost Stories from the Raj

Funny Side UP

Rain in the Mountains: Notes from the Himalayas

Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra

Dust on the Mountains

A Season of Ghosts

Tigers Forever

A Town Called Dehra

At school with Ruskin Bond

An Island of Trees

The Night Train at Deoli and Other stories

A Face in the Dark and Other Hauntings

Potpourri

The Adventures of Rusty

Crazy times with Uncle Ken

The Death Of Trees

Tales and Legends from India

Time stops at Shamli

A Tiger In The House

Four Feathers

School Days

Ranji's Wonderful Bat

The Tiger In The tunnel

The Hidden Pool

Mr. Oliver's Diary

The Parrot Who Wouldn't Talk

The Ruskin Bond Children's Omnibus

Rusty, the Boy from the Hills

The Monkey Trouble

Ruskin Bond's Book of Nature

Tigers For Dinner: Tall Tales By Jim Corbett's Khansama

The Rupa Book of Haunted Houses

The Very best of Ruskin Bond -- The Writer on the Hill

The Rupa Book of Eerie Stories

The Rupa Book of Ruskin Bond's Himalayan Tales

The Penguin Book of Indian Ghost Stories

The Penguin Book of Indian Railway Stories

Face in the Dark and Other Haunting Stories (Collection of Bond's ghost stories)

Friends in Small Places – Ruskin Bond's Unforgettable People

A Crow For All The Seasons

Hip-Hop Nature Boy and Other Poems

A Book of Simple Living

Love Among the Bookshelves

The Eyes of an Eagle

Hanuman to the Rescue

Kite Maker

Henry - The Chameleon

Great Stories For Children

Panther's Moon and Other Stories

Rusty and the Leopard

The Little Book of Life

ENGLISH

A Little Book of Happiness

A Handful of Nuts

The Last Truck Ride

Falling In Love Again

No Man Is an Island

Uncles, Aunts & Elephants

Novels

With Love From The Hills

The Room on the Roof

Vagrants in the Valley

Scenes from a Writer's Life

Rusty Runs Away

A Flight of Pigeons

Landour Days – A writers Journal

The Sensualist

The Road To The Bazaar

The Panther's Moon

Once Upon A Monsoon Time

The India I Love

The Kashmiri Storyteller

ENGLISH

Delhi is Not Far

Animal Stories

Funny Side Up

Angry River

Roads To Mussoorie

Strangers in the Night

All Roads Lead To Ganga

Tales of Fosterganj

Maharani

Secrets

Leopard on the Mountain

Grandfather's Private Zoo

The Blue Umbrella

Too Much Trouble

When The Tiger Was King

Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra

Children's fiction

The Cherry Tree

Ranji's Wonderful Bat

SHASHI DESHPANDE

- Shashi Deshpande is a well known name in the field of Indian literature. She was born in Dharwad in Karnataka as the daughter of the renowned Kannada dramatist as well as a great Sanskrit scholar Sriranga. She pursued her education in Dharwad, Bombay and Bangalore. Her novels are mainly based on women lives and their problems perticularly in the Indian context.
- Her stories were published in magazines like "Femina", "Eve's Weekly", etc. "Legacy" her first collection of short stories was published in 1978, followed by her first novel, "The Dark Holds No Terrors" in 1980. She is a winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award for the novel, "That Long Silence." In 1996 her famous novel A Matter of Timewas published and this is her first work to be published in USA. The The Binding Vine was published in 2002.

Works:

The Dark holds no Terror-1980

If I Die Today – 1982

Come Up and Be Dead – 1983

Roots and Shadows – 1983

That Long Silence – 1989

The Matter of time – 1996

The Binding Vine -2002

Small Remedies – 200

Moving On-2004

In the Country of Deceit – 2008

Shadow Play – 2013

Come Up and Be Dead

• The story deals with the suicide of a school girl in an exclusive school. The Head Mistress is unable to deal with the situation and specially when it is followed by rumors pointing at her brother. Two more deaths follow, making the school a place of fear and suspicion. After an attempted murder, Devayani, the Head Mistress cousin and housekeeper, glimpses a conspiracy behind it all. The story is full of suspense with lots of variety in thoughts.

The Dark Holds No Terrors

- The Dark Holds No Terror" has been translated into German and Russian languages.
- Shashi Deshpande narrates the story in the flash back technique sequence.
- Sarita is the central character.
- Sarita is a successful doctor during the daytime; and at might a terrified and trapped animal in the hands of her husband, Manohar who is an English teacher in a small college.
- The central character of the story wanted to come out of the patriarchical society. The darkness, the nothingness, the blackness therefore is no more a terror to the protagonist as she tries desperately to find herself.
- This is a story of a girl finding her inner self. Long time back, Sarita still remembers her mother's bitter words uttered when as a little girl she was unable to save her younger brother from drowning. Now, her mother is dead and Sarita returns to the family home, seemingly to take care of her father. But as a matter of fact she wants to escape the nightmarish brutality her husband imposes on her every night. In the lull of her old father's company, Sarita wants to forget all her grief.
- She explains how her husband turns cruel when he realizes his career is going nowhere and that his wife has overtaken him professionally. In his case a sort of male chauvinism worked out. As she struggles with her emotions and anxieties, Sarita gradually realizes that there is more to life than dependency on marriage, parents and

- other such institutions. And subsequently she resolves to use her newfound truths to make a better life for herself.
- This novel rejects the traditional concept that the sole purpose of a wife's existence is to please her husband. It reveals a woman's capacity to asset her own rights and individuality and become fully aware of her potential as a human being.
- Sarita, in this novelvery boldly confronts reality and realizesthat the dark no long holds any terror to her.

Roots and shadows

- Roots and shadows has won the Thirumathi Rangamal prize for the best Indian novel of 1982-83.
- Indu, the protagonist is caught up in a conflict between their family and professional roles, between individual aspiration and social demands. Indu, the journalist, is torn between self—expression and social stigmas

If I Die Today

- It is a detective fiction.
- The narrator is a young college lecturer who is married to a doctor. They live on the campus of a big medical college and hospital. The story gets a twist on the arrival of Guru, a terminal cancer patient. After his coming the lives of the doctors and their families get disturbed. Old secrets are revealed, two people murdered, but the tensions in the families is resolved after the culprit is unmasked. One of the memorable characters is Mriga, a 14-year-old girl. Her father, Dr. Kulkarni, appears modern and westernized, yet he is seized by the Hindu desire for a son and heir, and never forgives Mriga for not being a son. Her mother being a weak person never lives according to her own wish. She is a sad, suppressed creature, too weak to give Mriga the support and love. And evantually Mriga grew up without a well balanced brought up. The story again concentrates on the patriarchical society in a very delicate way.

That Long Silence

- Jaya, who lives with her husband Mohan and two children Rahul and Rati.
- It is the story of Jaya, the housewife who is seen always engaged in searching her own identity.
- The story entirely revolves around jaya her married life and her role as a dutiful wife. She plays the role of an affectionate mother, dutiful to her in-laws and her relatives. It gives a simple enchanting scenes solely expressed by the author. According to the author husbands don't give attention to wives emotions, likes and dislikes. Throughout the story she is engaged in searching her identity as an individual.

Small Remedies:

- Published in 2000
- Madhu is the protagonist
- Madhu was a writer. She lost her son in Ayodhya Babri Masjid bombing in 1992. To be out from this pain, she travels to a town to write about Savitribai, a woman who decided to live with her Muslim husband. While writing about Savitribai and living in Bhavanipur, she searches for the true meaning of her life.

SHOBHA DE

• Shobha De is a prolific writer born in Maharashtra and brought up in Mumbai, India. She is a columnist and novelist. She began her career as a journalist. She took psychology subject in her graduation course, which has helped her a lot when she started her career in writing. She is known as "Jackie Collins of India"

Works:

Socialite Evenings -1989

Starry Nights-1989

Sisters - 1992

www.teachinns.com

Shooting from the Hip – 1994

Small Betrayals – 1995

Second Thoughts – 1996

Surviving Men – 1998

Speedpost – 1999

Spouse- The Truth about Marriage

Sandhya's Secret – 2009

Shetji – 2012

Shobhaa: Never a Dull De –2013

Small Betrayals – 2014

Socialite Evenings:

- The story is set at the backdrop of Mumbai high society.
- This is all about the lives of bored housewives of rich families whose husbands remain busy with their work and wives choose the option of extra marital affair. Their husbands are often seeing their wives as matter of respectability rather than their life partners.
- Karuna, the central character of this story is bored with her life with husband and now
 she want to get rid of her boredom by writing a memoir. Her memoirs become
 successful and she achieves a lot of fame and pride in her new venture. She become a
 socialite and uses this prominence to get a job of advertising copywriter or a creator of
 a television channel.
- Anjali is Karuna's friend

Starry nights:

- Published in 1991
- The novel portrays the story of Aasha Rani and Akshay that is based on a real life love story of two pairs of film stars.
- This is the story of a high-class society.
- Portrays the dark corners of Hindi film Industry.
- The central character in starry nights is Asha rani.
- Akhshay Arorais Asha Rani's lover and abandons her after
- Sasha is the daughter of Asha Rani whom she brings back to India to from New Zealand make her a prosperous film Star.
 - Asha Rani is a dark sweet girl from Chennai. She tries hard to become a film star. Her mother (amma) prompts her to be in the film world. When she was fifteen years she has to sleep with Kishen bhai, one film producer to get the chance in film. He sponsors one film for her and also helps her to get the appropriate persons to get the roles. In the process Kishenbhai falls in love with Asha Rani but it is too late as she already gets engaged with Akhshay Arora who is a famous bollywood star rather sex symbol. Asha Rani sends her mother back to Chennai. In later days Akshay gets bored with Asha and as he was married returns back to his wife. The worst part is the actor reveals in one of the leading magazine that Asha is a pornographic actress and he doesn't want to do any role with her. Eventually she gets attached to Sheth Amirchand, a Member of Parliament and starts working under his control. After some days she goes to Chennai to do an art film. But her love for Akshay is still there so she tries to rekindle it. But gets frustrated after knowing that his love for her is only because of her high status. She attempts suicide but failed to do so. In the process she marries a New Zealander named Jay and has a child with him. Eventually Akshay gets AIDS because of his lifestyle. Asha returned to New Zealand and finally after many incidents decides to come back to India and make Sasha, Asha Rani's daughter a prospering film star.

Sisters:

- The story is about the two sisters Alisha and Mallika.
- They are the daughters of big time businessman Hiralal who dies at the beginning of the story. Out of the two sisters one is legitimate and the other one is illegitimate.
- The story revolves around the bad world of business in Bombay.
- The story is full of suspense in some parts.

Second Thoughts:

- Maya is the central character.
- Maya is eager to escape her dull, middle class home in Calcutta for Mumbai.
- She moves to Mumbai after marriage to Ranjan.
- Maya wanted to be an ideal wife but, she discovers that she has been trapped herself.
- She experiences loneliness in Mumbai She strikes up a friendship with Nikhil, leading to love and betrayal.

UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE

• Upamanyu Chatterjee, best remembered for his debut novel 'English, August: An Indian Story' is one of the powerful and emerging voices amongst India's post colonial literary stalwarts. His novels are written in a humorous style and are intended to go beyond the basic concept of comedy.

Works:

English, August: An Indian Story 1988)

The Last Burden' (1993)

The Mammaries of the Welfare State (2000)

Weight Loss (2006)

Way to Go (2010)

The Mammaries of the Welfare State (2000)

• It is a sequel to English, August: An Indian Story. Upamanyu Chatterjee problematizes Agastya Sen's alienation by making him an alienated hero. Agastya Sen considers himself as misfit and wasting his life on the whole, he remains forced by the unalterable realities of life and forces himself to stay in Madna. He hardly compromises but rather regrets and is never content on any matter concerning his stay, job, place, people, food etc. The protagonist Agastya Sen is a young civil servant. He is posted to Madna where he experiences kitsch in all its forms like relics of the British Empire, temples, monsoons, Gandhi, savants and many more. In his confusion he staggers towards the Hindu belief in the virtues of renunciation and an uncertain, traumatic, self-knowledge. He is a character who is self-sufficient and self-sustaining.

The Last Burden

- Jamun is the protagonist.
- Jamun is a young man, who has no work. His father, Shyamanand, is old and his mother, Urmila, is on her deathbed. As the novel opens the families are gathering for the inevitable parting. This is an amazing book by the author unfolding different truth of life as the story proceeds and gets its pace.

Way to Go

- The novel Way to Go is a sequel to The Last Burden.
- The novel is featured on the search of the nursing father Shymananda who is eighty fiveyears old, half paralysed and had disappeared. At this instant, his long time solitary friend, Dr. Mukherjee has committed suicide and Jamun is trying very hard to tackle the situation. Jamun's brother Burfi, whohad long severed ties with his father, is only interested in investing money by the sale of his father's property. Jamun is entangled under the obsession of sexual relationship with the prostitute, Kasibai who serves as a servant for him for many years. Jamun, is also the biological father of Kasturi's child, who had been his former lover. The novel focuses predominantly on the relationship

between a father and son. It also deals with perils of old age, agonies, despairs, inevitability of degeneration and death.

Weight Loss

• The novel portrays the life of Bhola, his youth and adulthood.

VIKRAM CHANDRA:

• Vikram Chandra was born in 1961 in New Delhi. The prominent author completed most of his secondary education at Mayo College, a boarding school in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Works:

• Red Earth and Pouring Rain is the first novel. A collection of short stories, Love and Longing in Bombay(1997), his second book, consists of five long stories narrated by a retired Bombay civil servant. It won the 1997 Commonwealth Writers Prize. His recent book is Sacred Games (2006).

Red Earth and Pouring Rain

- The autobiography of James Skinner, a legendary nineteenth century Anglo-Indian soldier was the inspiration for this novel.
- It was published in 1995.
- It won the 1996 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book
- Sanjay is the main protagonist.
- The main story revolves around the time from early colonial India to modern America.

Love and Longing in Bombay

- It is a unique collection of five lengthy stories for which he won the Commonwealth Writers` Prize for Best Book.
- This novel is set against the backdrop of a smoky Bombay bar known as the Fisherman's Rest. This contains five stories that are narrated by Subramaniam who is a retired civil Servant.

VIKAS SWARUP

- He became famous by his debut novel, Q and A. Six Suspects
- Swarup's second novel Six Suspects, published by Transworld, was released on 28 July 2008 and has been translated into more than 30 languages. The US edition was published by Minotaur Books in 2009. It was optioned for a film by the BBC and Starfield productions and John Hodge, who has been commissioned to write the screenplay.

The Accidental Apprentice

 Swarup's third novel is The Accidental Apprentice, published by Simon & Schuster (UK) in 2013.

Other works

• Swarup's short story "A Great Event" was published in The Children's Hours: Stories of Childhood, an anthology of stories about childhood to support Save the Children and raise awareness for its fight to end violence against children.

VIJAY TENDULKAR

• Vijay Tendulkar made his place as a Marathi writer. Vijay Tendulkar is the most prolific and controversial dramatist among the Post-Independence Indian playwrights. Vijay Tendulkar, one of India's most influential playwrights, was born on 1928. His prolific writing over a period of five decades includes thirty full-length plays, twenty-three one act plays, eleven children's dramas, four collections of short stories, two novels and five volumes of literary essays and social criticism. Tendulkar stated his dramatic career with his well-known play Silence! The Court is in Session (1967). Arundhati Benerjee attributes, "Vijay Tendulkar has been in the vanguard of not just Marathi but Indian theatre almost forty years".

www.teachinns.com

Works:

Silence! Court is in the Session (1967)

Ghashiram Kotwal (1972)

"Sakharam Binder" (1972).

His Fifth Woman" (1972)

The Vultures (1970)

Kamala (1981)

Kanyadan (1983)

Encounter in Umbugland

A Friend's Story' (2001)

"The Cyclist" (2002)

Silence! Court is in the Session (1967)

- Leela Benare arrives at a meeting hall in a small Indian village where she and a handful of colleagues will perform a Living Courtroom for the villagers. Benare arrives early with a villager, Samant, who helps her unlock the building, and chats with her as they wait for the rest of the troop to arrive. Benare, unbeknownst to her colleagues and to the audience, is unmarried and newly pregnant. She has also been fired from her job as a school teacher, as her bosses worried her pregnancy was a sign of immorality, which she would pass on to the children.
- Sukhatme, Rokde, Ponkshe, Karnik, Mr. Kashikar, and Mrs. Kashikar arrive at the meeting hall. Two members of the troop, Professor Damle and Mr. Rawte, were unable to make it to the performance. Although longtime collaborators, each member of the group is constantly making jabs at the others, trying to assert his or her authority.

Sakharam Binder – 1972

- Sakharam Binder, the protagonist, thinks he has the system by the tail and he can disregard the culture & societal values as long as he is truthful. That system is the de facto enslavement of women in postcolonial India, despite the promises of democracy and modernity. Sakharam, a bookbinder, picks up other men's discarded women—castoff wives who would otherwise be homeless, destitute or murdered with impunity, and takes them in as domestic servants and sex partners.
- He rules his home like a tin-pot tyrant, yet each woman is told that she is free to leave whenever she likes. He will even give her a sari, 50 rupees and a ticket to wherever she wants to go. Everything good and proper, where Sakharam Binder is concerned, he says. He's no husband to forget common decency. What he does not anticipate are the moral and emotional complications of this arrangement, which prove heartbreakingly ruinous to everyone involved.
- Over the decades, the role of Sakharam has been performed by many actors including Nilu Phule, Sayaji Shinde, Rajiv Nema, Sanjiva Sahai and Jitendra Ghete.

Text with Technology

Ghashiram Kotwal (1972)

- The play begins with an invocation to lord Ganesha. Then the Brahmins of Pune introduce themselves and we can see the morally corrupt state of affairs in Pune. Nana Phadnavis who is the Diwan (Chief Secretary) of Pune is also corrupt and visits the lavani dancer. Ghashiram is working with the lavani dancer. Ghashiram being a Brahmin goes to collect alms at the Peshwa's festival the next day. However he is ill-treated there and is charged with pick-pocketing and imprisoned for the offence. He then decides to take revenge. So the play continues on to reach the next part of this play.
- Ghashiram barters his own daughter to get the post of Kotwal (police chief) of Pune from Nana. Having got the post he begins to enforce strict rules in the city. He starts asking for permits for everything and starts throwing people in jail for the smallest offences. In the meantime, Ghashiram's daughter becomes pregnant by Nana, and dies

during childbirth. The situation goes out of hand when a few brahmins visitors to the city are put in the jail, and die from suffocation due inadequate ventilation in their custody. The Brahmin of Pune then complain to the Peshwa. The Peshwa summons Nana who orders Ghashiram to be killed in the most inhumane way possible.

The Vultures (1972)

- It was published in 1971. The play is focussed round the unorganised family of Hari Pitale who cheats his own brother in business. His sons Ramakant and Umakant and daughter Manik are greedy, ego-centric, cruel and wayward. They have no morality of family and personal relationship. They even make conspiracy to kill each other. Hari Pitale realizes that his family is no better than the vultures.
- The play has the theme of sex, violence and sensationalism. The play depicts the avarice of Ramakant and Umakant, the gross sensuality of their sister Manik, and the devilish nature of her father. The intrinsic evil inherent in human nature is witnessed when the father is beaten up by his two sons for mere sake of material gain, in the forcible abortion of Manik's child, and in the repeated attempt in creating hatred in the family. Ramakant and Umakant are as cruel as vultures.

Kamala (1981)

- It was inspired by a real life incident-the Indian Express expose by Ashwin Sarin, who actually bought a girl from the market of rural area and presented at a press conference.
- of a woman as a slave in the family. The play delineates women as objects of commodity which can be purchased, bartered and sold. Jaisingh Jadhav, a young journalist working as an associate editor in English language daily, buys a woman named Kamala for Rs 250 in Luhardagga Bazaar in Bihar in order to expose this racket. In spite of severe resistance from Sarita, his wife; Jain, his friend who mocks his idea of purchasing a woman dubbing marriage itself as an act of buying as it enslaves a

woman; and Kaka Saheb, his uncle, Jaisingh resolves that Kamala would stay in the house fordestitute women. At a night, a brief conversation between Kamala and Sarita develops a better understanding between them and she becomes aware of her position in the family. Sarita arranges a press conference to tell everyone about the predicament of women in the contemporary Indian society. She confesses Kamala's help to comprehend the master-slave relationship. A determination to live on her own comes to her and any argument put forward by Kakasaheb fails to repress her fury against male domination. Sarita emerges a woman who fights against her exploitation though the right of equality is denied to her. The influence of state power also finds place in the play. When Jaisingh Jadav becomes famous for his write-up on the plight of Adivasi, he is intimated that the chief editor has dismissed him for the sake of the wishes of some state minister holding portfolio of significance. Thus, Tendulkar has shed light on the conflict between power and violence in different walks of life and also highlighted the exercise of power and violence on women.

Kanyadan (1983)

- It depicts the life of a Dalit boy who marries a girl from the higher section of society.
- Jyothi, a young woman, is the principal character in this play. She is the daughter of NathDevalkar and Seva. They belong to urban middle class Brahmin family. Nath is an MLA and Seva, who is a social worker, is alwaysbusy in social service. Jyothi has one brother who is studying Msc. Jyothi takes a decision to marry ArunAthavale, a Dalith young man who writes poetry. She has met him in the socialists' study group. He is poor but eloquent. Jyothi informs her parents and brother that she has decided to marry Arun. Her father agrees at once because his dream is casteless society and for that he has been working. Seva is shocked. Seva speaks about possible consequences. Jyoti dismisses her mother's fears by saying that she can manage. Seva' character proves that inspite of modern thoughts she thinks like a traditional mother who takes caste, background, attitude, character, economical position of the bridegroom. Seva and her son oppose at first but they also agree for the marriage. Jyoti gets married to

Arun. But later Arun comes home every night taking alcohol and beats Jyothi as illiterates do in the backward society. Unable to bear this torture Jyothi comes her maternal home from Arun not to return to him.

Encounter in Umbugland

- It is a 'Political Allegory' was produced in 1974.
- The play opens with celebrations organised on the 60thanniversary of the coronation of King Vichitravirya. On the occasion the king delivers a speech expressing concern about his successor to the throne. The king prefers to become a hermit after surrendering power as he is old and has been advised rest. The king died. After the death of the king, there was a political crisis in the state because there was no consensus among the five ministers on the issue of the succession to the crown. Finally they made a resolution to give the responsibility of the state to the Princess Vijaya who was week, feeble and ignorant. They wanted to make her a puppet queen.
- Princess Vijaya is very fond of her attendant Prannarayan, an eunch. She appoints him as her chief advisor. From him, she has learnt the ways and tricks of politics. Instead of being a puppet in the hands of ministers, she made a direct interaction with people. This attempt of Vijaya created confusion and discontent among the ministers because it increased her reputation in the public. Cabinet ministers tried to arrange a rebellion against her but they have no guts. Eventually, the ministers comprehend that she is "a born dictator", thereby surrounding meekly to her authority. The play ends with the grand reception awaiting the queen due to the royal victory she scores over her cabinet ministers.

His Fifth Woman (1972)

- This is the only play by the author that is written originally in English.
- It is a prequel to Tendulkar's play "Sakharam Binder" that was published in 1972.

• The man giving shelter to the destitute women is called Sakharam Binder, a man in his forties and these helpless women are projected as the live-in mistresses of Sakharam who is a bachelor. The title leaves sufficient scope of thought: four have preceded her and several may follow. The play portrays two friends Sakharam and Dawood in conversation with each other sitting near the mistress of one of them, fifth woman lying on her death bed, a destitute picked up from the streets. Sakharam provides food and exploits her physically. Dawood, Sakharam's friend has sympathetic attitude towards destitute women and so he wants the proper burial to the mistress of Sakharam.

The Cyclist (2002)

- Last play
- The play analyses three journeys: an actual 'global journey' by the Protagonist, a 'historical journey' of the bicycle about its different phases of Manufacturer and a 'psychic journey' of the Cyclist submerging into his sub-consciousness. The central character, an enthusiastic youth, sets off on an itinerary around the world on his bicycle. Specific names of places and locations are kept hidden, the idea conveyed being that the young man endeavours escaping from his present location, liking forward to visiting distant lands, touring to exotic places enabling him to meet alarge number and a different variety of people en route. Here the 'Cycle' symbolizes progress in spite of the various obstacles encountered on the way.

Unit - 3: Indian Writing in English: Diasporic Authors

ARAVIND ADIGA

Aravind Adiga is an Indian-Australian writer and journalist. Being a person with flawless language and great writing skill, it is no wonder that Aravind Adiga bagged Britain's most prestigious literary award - The Man Booker Award for his book The White Tiger in 2008. He is the fourth Indian-born author to win the prize, after Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai. (V. S. Naipaul, another winner, is of Indian origin, but was not born in India.

Works:

The White Tiger: A Novel- 2008

Between the Assassinations – 2008

Last Man in Tower – 2011

The White Tiger: A Novel

Text with Technology

- It represents a darkly witty perception of India's class struggle in a globalized world as recited through a retrospective voice- over from Balram Halwai, the protagonist.
- The White Tiger is the story of Balram Halwai's life as a self-declared "self-made entrepreneur": a rickshaw driver's son who skillfully climbs India's social ladder to become a chauffer and later a successful businessman. Balram recounts his life story in a letter to visiting Chinese official Premier Wen Jiabao, with the goal of educating the premier about entrepreneurship in India.
- Balram writes from his luxurious office in the city of Bangalore, but the story begins in
 his rural ancestral village of Laxmangahr. Throughout his childhood, Balram's destitute
 family lives at the mercy of four cruel, exploitative landlords, referred to as "The
 Animals": The Raven, The Stork, The Buffalo, and The Wild Boar. Despite the difficult
 life he is born into, Balram excels in school. His academic potential and personal

- integrity distinguish him from his classmates, bringing him to the attention of a visiting school inspector who nicknames him "the White Tiger," after the most rare and intelligent creature in the jungle.
- Balram's parents recognize his potential and want him to complete his education, but his grandmother Kusum removes him from school early on so that he can work to support the family. Balram is determined to continue his education however he can. When he and his brother Kishan begin working in a teashop in nearby Dhanbad, Balram neglects his duties and spends his days listening to customers' conversations. He overhears one customer speaking wistfully about the high earnings and easy life that India's private chauffeurs enjoy, and begs his grandmother to send him to driving school. Kusum agrees, but Balram must promise to send home his wages once he finds a job.
- His training complete, Balram knocks on the doors of Dhanbad's rich families, offering his services. By a stroke of luck, he arrives at the mansion of the Stork (one of Laxmangahr's animal landlords) one day after the Stork's son, Mr. Ashok, returns from America with his wife Pinky Madam. The family hires Balram to become Ashok's driver. In reality, Balram is more of a general servant to the family, while another servant, Ram Persad, has the privilege of driving them.
- Balram learns that the Stork's family fortune comes from illegally selling coal out of government mines. They bribe ministers to turn a blind eye to their fraudulent business and allow the family to avoid paying income tax. Unfortunately, the family recently had a disagreement with the region's ruling politician, referred to as the Great Socialist. The family dispatches Ashok and Pinky to Delhi, where Ashok will distribute more bribes to make amends. When Balram learns that the couple will need a driver in Delhi, he schemes to have Ram Persad dismissed, and goes in his place.
- Once in Delhi, Balram witnesses Pinky and Ashok's marriage rapidly fall apart. Pinky returns to the US and leaves her husband after she kills a young child in a drunken, hit-and-run accident. In her absence, Ashok goes out to bars and clubs, hiring a prostitute one night, and reconnecting with a former lover on another. Observing his master's gradual corruption and driving him through Dehli's seedier districts, Balram becomes

disillusioned and resentful. Although Ashok is a relatively kind master, Balram realizes that whatever generosity Ashok has shown him is only a fraction of what he can afford. Ashok has no real interest in helping Balram achieve a better life, or in changing the status quo.

- Balram plans to murder Ashok and escape with the bag of the money that he carries around the city to bribe politicians. In addition to the risk of being caught, Balram must contend with the logic of "the Rooster Coop": the system of oppression in which India's poor, including Balram himself, are trapped. Balram knows that if he kills Ashok, Ashok's family will murder all his own relatives in Laxmangahr in retaliation. Balram is also held back by the arrival in Delhi of his young cousin Dharam, who Kusum sends from Dhanbad with the demand that Balram help raise him.
- Balram finally resolves to proceed with the murder, using a weapon he has fashioned out of a broken liquor bottle. One day as he drives Ashok to deliver a particularly large bribe, Balram pretends that there is a mechanical problem with the car. He pulls over, convinces Ashok to kneel down and examine the wheel, then brings the broken bottle down on Ashok's head. After killing his master, he returns to Ashok's apartment, collects Dharam, and escapes with his young cousin to Bangalore.
- Once Balram regains his nerves in Bangalore enough not to fear immediate capture, he begins wandering the city and listening to conversations in cafes –just as he did in the teashop in Dhanbad—to plan his next move. He soon learns that Bangalore's business world revolves around outsourcing, and that many large technology companies work on a nocturnal schedule. Balram creates a taxi company called White Tiger Drivers to bring call center workers home safely at night, and the venture is an enormous success.
- By the time he sits down to tell his story, Balram is a wealthy man who keeps to himself, still fearful that one day his crime will be discovered. However, he concludes his letter to Wen Jiabao claiming that even if he is found out, he will never regret his crime: it was worth committing simply because it enabled him to experience life as a free man rather than as a servant.

AMITAV GHOSH

Amitav Ghosh was born in 1956. He is a Bengali author as well as a literary critic in the field of English language. Ghosh was born in Kolkata and was educated at The Doon School, St. Stephen's College, Delhi Delhi University; and the University of Oxford as well. He has acknowledged the lasting influence of Rabindranath TAGORE and the Bengali literary tradition in his own writing. His first novel, The Circle of Reason (1986). This and his next novel, Shadow Lines (1988), are about the seamlessness of geographical boundaries, and much of the plot of Shadow Lines hinges on the question of national identity. The main character suffers from a sudden identity crisis after he is thrown into a situation where he must decide which country (India or Bangladesh) is his, which culture defines him, and which place he can ultimately call his own. This novel won Ghosh India's prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 1990. Many of Ghosh's novels have been the result of years spent in different countries while conducting field research for his college degrees. In an Antique Land (1993), for instance, comes out of his research in 1980 while living in a small village in Egypt. The Glass Palace (2000), tells the story of an orphaned Indian boy, developed alongside the story of the royal family's exile in India after the British invasion of the kingdom of Mandalay (Burma) in 1885. Ghosh refused the Commonwealth Writers Prize for this novel in 2001 in protest against being classified as a "commonwealth" writer. Accepting the award, he said in his letter to the Commonwealth Foundation, would have placed "contemporary writing not within the realities of the present day...but rather within a disputed aspect of the past." His works reflect the elements of universal humanity. The cross-cultural references heAwards: He has won several awards. Some of the awards are Prix Medicis Etranger for The Circle of Reason (1986), the Sahitya Akademi Award for The Shadow Lines (1988), the Arthur C. Clarke Prize for science fiction for The Calcutta Chromosome (1996), the Pushcart Prize for his essay, "The March of the Novel through History: My Father's Bookcase".

Works:

The Circle of Reason, The Shadow

Lines, In An Antique Land, Dancing in

Cambodia, The Calcutta Chromosome,

The Glass Palace

The Shadow Lines:

- While in London in the early 1980s, the unnamed narrator recounts a series of stories
 and memories to his cousin Ila and his uncle Robi. The stories and memories belong to
 the narrator; his uncle Tridib; and his grandmother, Tha'mma. The memories begin in
 the early twentieth century when Tridib's grandfather, Mr. Justice Chandrashekhar
 Datta-Chaudhuri, befriends Lionel Tresawsen at séances in London.
- Tha'mma was born in 1902 in Dhaka, British India. As a young girl, Tha'mma's father and her uncle, Jethamoshai, begin feuding, so they split their huge communal house in half with a wall. The two sides of the family stop speaking to each other, and Tha'mma tells her younger sister, Mayadebi, that Jethamoshai's family lives in "the upside-down house," where they do everything upside down and backwards. After Tha'mma and Mayadebi marry (Mayadebi marries the Shaheb, Justice Datta-Chaudhuri's son), they lose contact with Jethamoshai. Tha'mma follows her husband as he works on the railroad until he dies in 1936. At this point, her son, the narrator's father, is still a child. Tha'mma becomes a teacher and refuses to accept help of any sort from her family. Though Tha'mma had been very interested in the terrorist movements against British rule in her youth, when the Partition happens in 1947, it means little to her. However, she never returns to Dhaka since it becomes the capital of the Muslim country East Pakistan.
- The Shaheb is a wealthy diplomat, and in 1939, he ends up needing a special medical operation that can't be performed in India. Mrs. Price, Lionel Tresawson's daughter, invites the Shaheb and his family to live with her in London so that he can receive

medical attention there. Tridib, who is nine years old, accompanies his father, while his older brother, Jatin, stays in school in India. Tridib loves London and is fascinated by Alan Tresawsen, Mrs. Price's brother, and his friends Dan, Mike, and Francesca. In the time leading up to World War II and the early days of the Blitz, Tridib spends his days exploring bombsites and listening to Snipe, Mrs. Price's husband, tell stories. In 1940, a bomb hits Alan's house on Brick Lane, killing him and Dan. Later that year, Tridib's family returns to India.

- Over the next decade, Mayadebi and the Shaheb have a third son, Robi. The narrator's father marries the narrator's mother, who soon gives birth to a son, the narrator. Jatin marries a woman affectionately known as Queen Victoria, and the couple has a daughter named Ila, who is the narrator's age. Mrs. Price, whose daughter May was an infant when Tridib was in London, has a son named Nick. Ila's parents are wealthy, and she spends her childhood traveling around the world for her father's work. The narrator, on the other hand, never gets far outside of Calcutta. Instead, he spends his time listening to Tridib tell stories about London and other faraway lands. Tridib teaches the narrator to use his imagination and explains that the world in one's imagination can be just as real as the outside world. Ila doesn't understand this—she sees too much of the world to understand how one's imagination can be anywhere as good.
- For a time, Ila's family lives with the Prices in London. When she's eight, her family visits Calcutta for a festival. The narrator convinces Tha'mma to allow his family to accompany Ila's to their family home in Raibajar. When they meet Ila's family in Gole Park, the narrator's mother is shocked that the narrator, who spent weeks asking after Ila, is too shy to talk to her. The narrator feels as though his mother betrayed him by making it clear that he needs Ila more than Ila will ever need him. Regardless, the family piles into the Shaheb's two cars and drive for hours. When they reach the massive house, Ila leads the narrator into a half-underground storage room, which stores a massive table that Tridib's grandfather shipped back from London. Ila decides that they're going to play a game called Houses, which she plays with Nick in London. She informs the narrator of who Nick is, and the narrator understands that Nick is his competition for Ila's affection. Ila draws a map in the dust of Mrs. Price's house and adds a room for

Magda, her doll, who is the baby for the purposes of the game. When everything is set, Ila tells the narrator what "happened" to Magda at school that day: the ugly school bully chased the beautiful blonde Magda home, yelling slurs at her—but Nick Price saved her from being beaten up. When Ila starts to cry, the narrator is angry and doesn't understand why she's crying. Finally, Tridib walks in with the children and listens to the narrator tell Ila's story. He encourages the narrator to not call Ila dumb for crying like the story is real, and he insists that everyone lives in stories.

- In 1959, Tridib and May, who is nineteen at the time, begin writing to each other. They exchange photos after a year. In 1963, Tridib sends May a very long letter recalling an experience he had as a boy in London, when he watched two strangers have sex in a bombed cinema. He tells May that he wants to meet her like those strangers did—as strangers in a ruin. May is flustered, but she makes plans to visit Tridib in India. Around the same time, Tha'mma, who is retired and has time on her hands for the first time in her life, receives word that her uncle Jethamoshai, who is in his nineties, still lives in the family home in Dhaka. She believes that it's her duty to bring Jethamoshai home to India. Not long after this comes to light, the Shaheb receives a job posting in Dhaka, and he, Mayadebi, and Robi move there. Finally, Mayadebi invites Tha'mma to visit, and they make plans to try to save their uncle from the growing unrest in the Muslimmajority city. May makes plans to travel to Calcutta and then to Dhaka with Tha'mma. Tridib decides to accompany them to Dhaka.
- The narrator joins Tridib and his father to pick May up from the train station. Over the next few days, the narrator accompanies Tridib and May as they drive around and see the sights. He shows her the table in Raibajar, and she tells him that Ila was a victim of bullying, but Nick never saved her. When they visit the Victoria Memorial, May becomes suddenly emotional. Tridib tells her that it's their ruin, which puzzles the narrator. He understands that there's a relationship between May and Tridib that he won't understand. Not long after that, on January 4, 1964, Tridib, May, and Tha'mma leave for Dhaka.

- A few days later, the narrator experiences a harrowing bus ride home from school as the driver tries to protect the dozen boys from the angry mobs in the streets. Meanwhile, in Dhaka, the Shaheb warns Mayadebi and Tha'mma that trouble is brewing there, but Tha'mma insists on seeing Jethamoshai anyway. Thirteen-year-old Robi is excited to see "trouble" and goes with them to the old house in Dhaka. There, a Muslim mechanic named Saifuddin greets them and explains that a rickshaw driver named Khalil cares for Jethamoshai. When Khalil arrives, he leads his guests into the house. Jethamoshai doesn't recognize his nieces, but he tells Tridib that he's waiting for his family to return so that he can take them to court and gain full ownership of the house. The driver races to the door and says that there's trouble, and they have to leave. Khalil agrees to drive Jethamoshai in his rickshaw to Mayadebi's house. When they're in the car, they turn a corner and come face to face with a mob. It surrounds the car and breaks the windshield. When the mob descends on the rickshaw, Tha'mma tells the driver to go, but May gets out to try to save Jethamoshai. Tridib follows her, but Tridib, Jethamoshai, and Khalil are all brutally murdered by the mob. The narrator's parents tell him later that Tridib died in an accident. The following year, Tha'mma gives her beloved gold chain away to fund the war with Pakistan and appears crazy to the narrator. His mother explains that Tha'mma hasn't been the same since "they" killed Tridib.
- In college, the narrator continues to both love IIa and find her frustrating, as she never understands why he is so insistent on remembering Tridib's stories or their own childhood antics. Once, during a summer holiday, she convinces the narrator and Robi to go with her to a nightclub. Robi doesn't want to go, but at the club, he forbids IIa from dancing with another man. She screams at them that she lives in London so she can be free of this kind of oppression. The narrator tells this story to Tha'mma on her deathbed, and it makes her extremely angry: she doesn't think IIa's kind of freedom is real. In her anger, Tha'mma writes a letter to the dean of the narrator's school the day before she dies, telling the dean that the narrator visits prostitutes and should therefore be expelled.
- After seeing a lecture in Delhi, the narrator realizes that although he never connected the events as a child, the riot he experienced in Calcutta and the riot that killed Tridib

in Dhaka was part of the same political uproar. As he studies Tridib's atlas, the narrator discovers that borders are meaningless and actually helped create the climate that brought on the riots in the first place. The narrator goes on to pursue an advanced degree in London. At one point, Ila takes Robi and the narrator to visit Mrs. Price and introduces them to Nick. The narrator shows off the power of Tridib's stories by leading his friends around London and through Mrs. Price's house based off of the mental maps Tridib created for him. Ila, Robi, and the narrator have dinner at an Indian restaurant afterwards, and Robi admits that he has a recurring nightmare about the riot in Dhaka in which he can never keep Tridib from getting out of the car. The narrator also reconnects with May, who plays oboe in an orchestra. They spend Christmas with Mrs. Price, and May suggests that Nick is lying about leaving his job in Kuwait: she believes he embezzled money. There's a blizzard that night, so Ila and the narrator stay at Mrs. Price's house in the cellar. Ila undresses in front of the narrator, not realizing his feelings for her, but she spends the night with Nick.

Back in London a few years later, Ila marries Nick. At their party, the narrator gets very drunk and May offers to take him home and put him to bed. The narrator assaults May but feels horrible about it in the morning. She takes him with her while she collects money for her "worthy causes," and on a break, she talks about her relationship with Tridib. As the narrator prepares to return home a few months later, Ila confides in him that Nick is cheating on her, though she refuses to leave him. The night before the narrator leaves, he has dinner with May. At dinner, May tells the narrator about the riots and asks if he thinks that she killed Tridib. May tells him that she used to think she did, but she knows now that Tridib sacrificed himself and knew he was going to die. She asks the narrator to stay the night and he accepts, glad to finally understand the mystery of Tridib's death.

The Circle of Reason

- The book is divided into three sections namely `Satwa`, which means Reason, `Rajas`, which means Passion, and `Tamas`, which means Death.
- The central character of the story is an eight-year-old boy, Alu.

• This novel chronicles the adventures of Alu, a young master weaver who is wrongly suspected of being a terrorist. He was chased from Bengal to Bombay and on through the Persian Gulf to North Africa by a bird-watching police inspector.

ANITA DESAI:

Anita Desai is an Indian novelist born on 24 June 1937. She is popularly known as a
novelist, short story writer, screenwriter as well as a children's writer. She was born on
24th June 1937 at Mussoorie. She considers Clear Light of Day (1980) her most
autobiographical work. Desai published her first novel, Cry, the Peacock, in 1963.

Awards:

- She received a Sahitya Academy Award in 1978 for her novel Fire on the Mountain.
- Three books of Anita Desai have been short listed for the Booker Prize: Clear Light of Day (1980), In Custody (1984) and Fasting, Feasting (1999). She won the British Guardian Prize for The Village by the Sea.
- Padma Bhushan 2014

Works:

Text with Technology

Cry, the Peacock-1963

Voices in the City – 1965Bye-bye Blackbird-1971

The Peacock Garden – 1974

Where Shall We Go This Summer – 1975

Cat on a Houseboat – 1976

Fire on the Mountain – 1977

Games at Twilight – 1978

Clear Light of Day- 1980

The Village by the Sea - 1952

In Custody – 1984

Baumgartner's Bombay – 1988

Journey to Ithaka – 1995

Fasting, Feasting – 1999

The Zigzag Way – 2004

The Artist of Disappearance –2011

She examined the nature of pilgrimage to India in her "Journey to Ithaca" in 1995.

Cry, The peacock – 1963

• Anita Desai`s Cry, the peacock has been considered as "the first step in the direction of psychological fiction in Indian writing in English". Maya is the protagonist and Gautama is her husband. Maya was grown up with love and care of her parents and soon married to Gautama. The marriage was not fruitful and she turned into be an insane.

Voices of the City – 1965

 This is a story of three siblings Amla, Nirode and Monisha and their ways of life in Kolkata.

Bye-bye Blackbird – 1971

- The background of the story is set in England.
- The novel clearly explores the feelings and sufferings of the Indians at that place.
- The book is divided into three parts: Arrival, Discovery and Recognition, and Departure.
- 'Blackbird' used in the title is none other than the immigrant, whom London says goodbye.

- Desai highlights the physical and psychological problems of Indian immigrants and explores the adjustment difficulties that they face in England.
- Bye-Bye Black Bird explores the lives of the outsiders seeking to forge a new identity in an alien society.
- Dev arrives in England for higher studies. He stays with Adit Sen and his English wife, Sarah. Dev gives up the idea of studying and starts looking for a job. Unable to find any, he thinks of returning to India. But it is well settled Adit who decides to leave London. Meanwhile, Dev manages to find a job and stays back. In this novel the common problem of England `Racism` has shown widely.
- He hates being called a `Wog`, as Indians are humiliated in public and private places.
 England is said to be full of Asians, but Dev`s visit to countryside changes his attitude towards England.

Fire on the Mountain – 1977

- The story sets at the backdrop of the Simla hills.
- Nanda Kaul, an elderly lady, decides to live a secluded life in Carignano in Kausali. She spends all her life in the care of others, her three daughters and her husband. She never gets time to feel for herself. Her own choice, her own world was gone somewhere. One day Nanda receives a letter from her daughter Asha asking her to takecare of her great-granddaughter Raka, a feeling of anger, disappointment and loathing arises in her. She is just not bothered about the worldly matters. Raka comes in Nanda's life and things starts changing in different way.

The Zigzag Way: 2004

• The novel is about an American academic and writer who goes with his girlfriend to Mexico and rediscovers his passion for fiction writing.

Fasting, Feasting: 1999

- It was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for fiction in 1999.
- The novel is in two parts.

- The first part is set in India and is focused on the life of Uma who is the overworked daughter of her parents. Finally she is made to leave school and serve her parents.
- The story focuses on the life of the unmarried and main character, Uma, a spinster, the family's older daughter with, Arun, the boy and baby of the family.
- Ramu-Bhai a travelling bon voyeur who tries to show Uma a good time. He is banished by her parents.
- Mira Masi tells Uma all the tales of Krishna and takes her to the ashram allowing her to escape her mother's domination for a time.
- Uma's parents attempt to marry her off on two occasions; on the first occasion the chosen man fell for Uma's younger sister, Aruna. On the second occasion a marriage took place but it turns out the Uma's new husband already has a wife.
- Anamika's (Uma's cousin), fails to please her husband by providing children. Eventually, she dies by burning.
- In Part 2, Arun is introduced in America and is unable to adjust to a culture different from his own. He finds himself lost.
- Two cultures are explored in this text, the Indian and the American.

Where Shall We Go This Summer-1975 with Technology

- Sita, the female protagonist of the story.
- Sita feels the frustration of the suffocative four walls is seen taking refuge from her marriage at the utopian land of a magic island. Pregnant with her fifth child, Sita therefore desperately takes refuge from the mundane realities of her marriage to theisland, which happens to be the homestead of her deceased father. The catastrophe of the story lies where Sita is seen perturbed with the very idea of bringing another child, as it is indeed something more than what she can handle. She physically escapes to the island and hopes to remain pregnant forever with the baby.

In Custody – 1984

- It was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1984.
- Deven Sharma- he is a Hindi professor in Mirpore.

- Murad- a friend of Deven who owns a publishing house in Delhi.
- Nur- a famous Urdu poet who laments the loss of a beautiful language (Urdu), and thereby a culture.
- Jain is a shop owner who gives Deven a second hand tape recorder and sends his nephew Chintu with him to assist.
- In Custody (1984), a novel by Indian-American author Anita Desai set in Delhi, India, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. The book deals with the search for meaning in life.
 Traditionally, Persian and Urdu poets are engaged in the mystical life and meditating on God. Set in contemporary India, In Custody explores themes of identity and language using Urdu poetry.
- Deven Sharma, the main character of the novel, turns to Urdu poetry as an escape from his ordinary daily life. Deven lifts his spirits through poetry. In his life, Deven feels that he has given up any ambitions he had and has settled. He once had a strong desire to write poetry. He put that aside in order to support his wife. The couple has settled into a loveless union in which they subtly let each other know their dissatisfaction with each other. Further frustrating Deven is the fact that although his first language, the one he is enamored with, is Urdu, he makes his living teaching Hindi literature. This field does not hold any interest for him, and he has no particular talent for it. While wallowing in his own sense of failure, Deven receives an opportunity to revive the elements of his life that once inspired him.
- Deven is asked to interview an elderly Urdu poet of great renown Nur Shahjehanabadi. At first, Deven is nervous about rekindling his early in life dreams. He finds, however, that the pull is too strong to avoid. Deven's father enjoyed Nur's poetry and often recited the poet's lines. Deven still reads Nur's work. Deven visits the poet in the uppermost room of a tall house. As he climbs the stairs, it is as though he is symbolically rising above his present situation in life and climbing to reacquire his past. Although Deven might find an inner majesty in this, the surroundings are anything but. The place is rundown and strewed with trash. The poet is in a room surrounded by fighting, squalor, and drunkenness.

- Deven is turned off by the conditions and feels as if he would like to run. This impulse is not lost on the famous poet who refers to it in a later interview with Deven. He offers lines from poetry that Deven has not heard before, including a reference to, "This sifting and selecting from the debris of our lives?" For any uncertainties he may hold, Deven is true to his devotion to poetry as art. Nur exploits this as it serves him; Deven does not lose his reverence for the aged bard.
- Deven's conflicted nature reflects the setting of the novel—a post-partition India containing the old and the new, the East and the West. Deven lives in the town of Mirpore. Between Delhi and Mirpore billboards litter the landscape, advertising "modern" things. Women entering arranged marriages think of the modern conveniences they aspire to. Even the college where Deven is employed represents a juxtaposition of new and old. The popular Hindi department is held in high regard while the Urdu department has one employee and barely exists

The Village by the Sea: an Indian family story –

- The novel follows the life of a small family forced to live in poverty. The parents are unable to take care of their four children—the mother is sick with an unknown illness and the father is given to drink and dissolution—so the oldest two, Lila and Hari, assume the roles of adults in the house. Lila takes care of her mother and takes care of the house while her brother works in the fields in order to financially sustain his family.
- The family ended up in this situation after Lila, Hari, Kamal, and Belu's father was tricked into believing that if he paid a large sum of money, someone would find him a job in Goa. The man ran away with the money and the father stopped working and started drinking excessively, which put a strain on the family.
- Hari begins to think about better ways in which he could help his family, and believes
 their prospects might get better when he hears that a factory will be built in their village.
 All of Hari's friends are excited, but Hari tries to have a more realistic view on whether
 he will find work in the factory.
- Their situation changes a bit when the de Silva family comes into the village. They are a rich family who vacation at their seaside home several times a year, and they always

employ the children. Lila and Hari start helping them and become their servants. After finding out about their situation, Mr. de Silva offers Hari a job in Bombay as a car washer.

- At first, Hari is suspicious of his offer but then analyzes his situation and reaches the conclusion that Lila will never be able to find a good husband without money and that it is now his responsibility to provide for his family.
- The factory man begins to cause a stir when he tells Hari and other villagers about the major changes the fertilizer factory will bring: jobs for skilled people, land set aside for houses for the thousands who will flood in, the removal of rice and other crops, etc. This causes consternation among the villagers and soon a protest begins to form. A group of men led by the charismatic Adarkar decides to go to Bombay to speak with the government.
- Hari is roused by the words of Adarkar and decides to go to Bombay to stand up for his
 people. He does not tell his sisters.
- When he arrives in Bombay, he is stunned by the city—its buildings, its crowds, the smells and noises, the cars. He listens to Adarkar and other speakers but quickly realizes he has no role to play. All of a sudden he is aware of his impetuosity in coming here and he feels very alone. He remembers Mr. de Silva's offer and manages to find the residence, but the rude servant tells him the de Silvas are not in town. A kindly watchman tells him he will take him to his friend Jagu.
- Jagu agrees to let Hari work in his restaurant so Hari sends home a postcard letting his sisters know where he is and that he is going to bring his earnings to them. Life is hard for Hari in Bombay but he works hard. While working for Jagu, Hari meets Mr. Panwallah who takes Hari under his wing and starts to teach him how to make watches and how to repair them.
- During the time Hari is in Bombay, Lila finds succor from the de Silva family. When they come for their vacation, Lila works for them. She asks Mr. de Silva to take her mother to the hospital when she hears he is driving that way, and he immediately agrees and says he will take care of everything. When Lila's father hears of this, he yells at her in a drunken rage, but he goes to the hospital and remains at his wife's side. He also

- gives up drinking and is much more subdued. Lila visits every week, and her mother improves more and more.
- The de Silvas depart, but another guest stays in the home—a venerable political leader studying birds that, coincidentally, Hari heard speak in Bombay. He is quiet and kindly and pays the girls well.
- Monsoon season is hard for both Hari in Bombay and the villagers by the sea. When Hari hears on the radio that fishing boats out of Alibagh were lost in a storm, he decides he must return home. He knows he belongs with his family by the sea. He decides to go at Diwali, and continues to learn the watchmaking trade from Mr. Panwallah in the interim.
- Hari returns and has an emotional reunion with his sisters. He is stunned to hear of his
 mother's improvement and his father's sobriety. He tells Lila that he has decided to
 start a small business raising animals while thinking that he will open his own watch
 shop in the future; both business options are good for when the factory crowds come.
- Hari visits his mother in the hospital and is thrilled to see that the years of illness have fallen away. His father also seems pleased to see him in his own gruff way. Hari and his father are able to take Mother home for Diwali.
- The celebrations are delightful and heartwarming for the family. Hari slips away for a moment during the preparations to see the man at the Mon Repos. He talks with him briefly about bird watching and suddenly realizes that he is Sayyid Ali, the impassioned speaker from Bombay. Ali is kindly like Mr. Panwallah but expresses sadness about the changes coming to Alibagh. Hari tells him what he is doing and Ali perks up, admiring Hari's will to adapt.
- The novel ends with the family contentedly celebrating, grateful for the positive changes in their lives.

Clear Light Of Day

 Anita Desai's Clear Light of Day is a 1980 novel focusing on the tensions and complex relationships among family members living in Old Delhi, India. The novel begins when the main characters are adults and progresses backwards in time to their childhoods,

- with a final section returning to their adult lives. Exploring themes of family, forgiveness, and the roles of women, Clear Light of Day offers insight into the everyday lives and struggles of an Indian family.
- The novel is structured in four parts. As adults, the Das family's children have grown apart. In the opening chapter, Tara Das and her husband Bakul go back to Old Delhi, a trip they make from Washington every three years. Bakul is the Indian ambassador to the US, but often away from his wife, leaving her lonely and dispirited. They stay with Tara's sister Bimla, or Bim, who still lives at the family home. Bim teaches history and cares for their brother, Baba, who is intellectually disabled and spends every day listening to music on a gramophone.
- The sisters discuss their brother Raja, whose daughter is getting married soon. Bim and Raja were once close but are now estranged. Bim is angry that Raja never became a poet, as he once dreamed of, but instead married their landlord's daughter and settled for wealth and complacency. She shows Tara a letter he wrote to her about not raising the rent on the family home, which she believes is condescending. Bim has never forgiven Raja for this letter and is resolved not to go to the wedding.
- Indian Empire was divided into India and Pakistan in 1947. Three major provinces, Assam, Bengal, and the Punjab, were divided according to either Muslim or Hindu majorities. Over 14 million people were displaced among religious lines. Tensions between Hindus and Muslims ran high, often breaking into violence.
- In 1947, Raja and Bim are still close. His interest in the Urdu language attracts the attention of their Muslim landlord, Hyder Ali Saheb. Hyder invites Raja over to browse his collection of Urdu poetry. Raja is grateful and comes to admire Hyder Ali. He chooses to study Urdu, rather than Hindi, as his primary language in school, and wants to attend an Islamic college. However, Raja's father convinces him to attend a Hindu college instead.
- The children are orphaned when their mother dies from an illness and their father dies in an accident. However, they are largely unaffected because their parents often went

- out to nightclubs instead of staying home to care for them. Their Aunt Mira steps in to take care of them, but she begins drinking heavily to deal with her stress.
- Raja falls ill with tuberculosis, and Bim tends to him selflessly. Tara spends much of
 her time with another set of neighbors, the Misras. There, she meets Bakul and falls in
 love immediately, though Bim warns her against Bakul, finding him too arrogant. Bim
 goes on several dates with the doctor, but she thinks he is boring. Tara ignores Bim's
 advice, marries Bakul, and leaves the city.
- Aunt Mira dies from her alcoholism. After this, Raja, recovered from tuberculosis, finally leaves to join Hyder Ali, who has escaped the rising religious tension in Old Delhi for Hyderabad. Bim and Baba are left alone.
- Part three goes back several more years into their childhoods. The older three siblings await the birth of their younger brother, Baba. When his parents realize he is disabled, they call on Aunt Mira to live with them and help care for the baby and their other children. Aunt Mira was widowedat a young age and has few other options than to act as unpaid help for her relatives. Since the Das parents show little interest in raising their children, Aunt Mira becomes close with them instead.
- Young Bim is the head of her class in school, and she is close with poetry-loving Raja.

 The two often tease Tara and exclude her from their fun. They ridicule her for wanting only to become a mother someday: Bim and Raja say they will grow up to be "heroes."

 Tara withdraws from her family and begins spending time with the more welcoming Misras.
- The fourth section returns to the present day. Tara confronts Bim over her broken relationship with Raja. She also learns that Bim is struggling to make ends meet. Bim is angry at Raja because she was left alone to take care of Baba. Her anger builds until she yells at Baba in a rage. Baba does not respond to her anger, and her rage fades. She realizes that the love between family can cover all wrongs. Bim goes with the Misras to a concert and observes the strong bond the Misra family shares. Tara leaves for the wedding, and Bim asks her to bring Raja back with her for a visit to Old Delhi. She is ready to forgive him.

• Clear Light of Day shares autobiographical details with Desais' life-- it is set during her own coming-of-age and in the same neighborhood where she grew up. The novel drew admiration for its depiction of India and familial relationships, with reviewer Karen Ray writing that its spirit "reaches to the very heart of India and of humanity." It was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize.

BHARATI MUKHERJEE

Bharati Mukherjee was born on 27th July, 1940 in Calcutta. She began writing books along with her husband, writer Clark Blaise, whom she married in 1963. They together produced two books, Days and Nights in Calcutta in 1977 and The Sorrow and the Terror: The Haunting Legacy of the Air India Tragedy in 1987. She deals with the themes of the Asian immigrants in North America, and the change taking pace in South Asian Women in a new World.

Works:

The Tiger's Daughter – 1972

Wife

Jasmine

The Holder of the World

Leave it To Me

`Darkness` by Bharati Mukherjee is a collection of twelve short stories about the difficulties that Indian immigrants have in adjusting to life in Canada and the United States.

The Tiger's Daughter – 1972

- An autobiographical story
- The central character of this fiction is Tara and the story revolves around her.
- The protagonist having an Indian origin educated at Vassar College, New York.

Jasmine:

- Jasmine is the central character of the novel.
- woman who leaves India for the U.S. after her husband's murder. In her path she faces many problems including rape and eventually returned to the position of a health professional through a series of jobs. Here in this context the unity between the First and Third world is shown to be in the treatment of women as subordinate in both countries. The story expanded as a story of a young widow suddenly widowed at seventeen. She uproots herself from her life in India and re-roots herself in search of a new life and the image of America as well. It is a story of dislocation and relocation as the protagonist continually sheds lives to move into other roles, moving further westward. The author in some parts of this novel shows some agony to the third world as she shows that Jasmine needs to travel to America to make something significant in her life. And in the third world she faced only despair and loss.

Leave It to Me:

- It is the story of a child born in California.
- An unwanted female child is dropped like a hot brick at the nearest orphanage, where she is called Faustine. The child was later adopted by an Italian-American family, and christened as Debby DiMartino. Despite the love and affection of her foster family, Debby grows up with the awareness of being different, the feeling that she is an unwanted obstacle in a world that hurls on towards its mysterious destinations. The feeling is sometimes haunting when everyone is surrounded but someone is feeling alone. At the conclusion she comes to as she sets out in search of her past, her origins, and the unknown "bio-parents" who had callously abandoned her. As the story progresses with jerks and shocks in a picaresque fashion, bringing together a variety of characters who may or may not help the protagonist in her search for her "bio-mom." The story mainly revolves around that girl but at the same time takes some of the important aspect of life in a beautiful manner.

Wife

- The novel centers on the character Dimple, who grows, matures, rebels, kills and finally dies in this novel.
- Dimple marries a person chose by her father and moves to New York.
- At the end, she becomes frustrated and out of fear and personal instability she ultimately murders her husband and eventually commits suicide.
- Mukherjee deals with the complications that come from being thrown between two worlds and the strength and courage it takes to survive and in the end live.

CHITRA BANNERJEE DIVAKARUNI

She deals with the immigrant experience, an important issue in the contemporary world. Arranged Marriage is a collection of short stories, about women from India caught between two worlds. The protagonist of The Mistress of Spices, Tilo, provides spices, not only for cooking, but also for the homesickness and alienation of the Indian immigrant clients d frequenting her shop.

G V DESANI

- Born in 1909 of Indian parents in Nairobi, Kenya, Govindas Vishnoodas Dasani spent his childhood in Sind, now part of Pakistan. Known as a child prodigy, between his 7th and 12th year, he managed to run away from home twice and was expelled from school at 13 as unteachable. At the third attempt to escape, he reached England. Not yet 18, and a minor, at the personal recommendation of the then Deputy Leader of the Labor Party in the British House of Commons, George Lansbury, he was admitted as a reader in the library of the British Museum.
- At 19, he was one of the foreign correspondents serving newspapers from London. At
 25, he was a correspondent of the Times of India, Reuters and the Associated Press.

About that time, he was sponsored by the then Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, one of the great railway systems of India, as Lecturer on the antiquities of Rajputana, Ajmer and Delhi. A special circular, issued by the Director of Education, Delhi, stresses the great value of his lectures. Somewhere along the way he became G.V. Desani.

- During World War II, Mr. Desani was back in Britain. Waiving their strict academic requirements, the Imperial Institute, the Council for Adult Education in the British Armed Forces, the London County Council, the Wiltshire County Council, and the Royal Empire Society, accepted him as a lecturer and teacher.
- One of the few speakers who could fill to overflowing an auditorium of the size of the New Picture House, Edinburgh, or the New Savoy, Glasgow, his public meetings throughout the war, were sponsored by the British Ministry of Information.
- His lectures in the Crane Theatre, Liverpool, the White Rock Pavilion, Brighton, the Geography Hall, Manchester, the Town Hall, Southampton, the Pump Room, Bath, the Great Western Docks, Plymouth, the Carnegie Library, Ayr, the Central Library, Manchester, were widely publicized by the Ministry and his audiences varied from businessmen, to teachers, to munitions workers. Some talks were relayed to thousands at a time including army, navy, air force and civil defense personnel, hospitals, resettlement units, prisons and American servicemen stationed in Britain.
- Recalling his sensational rise as an orator in Britain, Anthony Burgess writes that Mr.
 Desani demonstrated to the British, "... in live speech the vitality of the British rhetorical tradition, brilliant in Burke and Macaulay, decadent in Churchill, now dead."
- During the war years, Mr. Desani wrote and broadcast regularly for the B.B.C. The organ of the B.B.C., the Listener, welcomed him as "... a broadcasting discovery ... a voice singular in its beauty." Among the centers of learning, the New College, Oxford, the Rhodes House, Oxford, the Trinity, Cambridge, and the Psychologisch Laboratorium of the University of Amsterdam, invited him to read learned and specialized papers.
- It was, however, the publication in Britain in 1948 of his experimental novel, All About H. Hatterr, that attracted the widest attention on both sides of the Atlantic and in India.

- T.S. Eliot said of it, "... In all my experience, I have not met with anything quite like it. It is amazing that anyone should be able to sustain a piece of work in this style and tempo at such length."
- All About H. Hatterr broke all publicity records for a book published that year (Writer, London). The tone of the reviewers was of surprise and awe (Newsweek, 1951). In the United States, too, it earned the highest critical acclaim. Orville Prescott, in his Book of the Week review, in The New York Times, said of it, "... To describe a rainbow to a child born blind would not be much more difficult than to describe the unique character of All About H. Hatterr ... as startling as a unicorn in the hall bedroom. Reading it issues dizzy spells, spots before the eyes, consternation, and even thought."
- Saul Bellow, in The New York Times, chose it for his Book of the Year selection (1952), (calling it) the book "I love." No writer in the late forties, or since, has been compared to so many literary greats, both Eastern and Western, or more honored by his fellow writers.
- Mr. Desani's Hali, an unclassifiable poetic work, which followed his All About H. Hatterr, after five years, was introduced by T.S. Eliot and E.M. Forster. Eliot described its imagery as "... often terrifyingly effective," and Forster wrote, "... It keeps evoking heights above the 'summitcity' of normal achievement," ('summitcity' "where the highest aspirations reach"). The work was greeted by a chorus of distinguished praise regardless of its size (about 50 pp.).
- After his return to India in 1952, Mr. Desani spent nearly fourteen years in seclusion. He practiced mantra yoga, and other methods of Hindu and Buddhist mental culture, under guidance of teachers, traveling as far as Japan for specialized practice. At the invitation of the then Burmese Government (1960), he spent a year in a monastery practicing vipassana meditation, for some three months, reducing his sleep to two hours in 24. It was in Burma that he studied the obscure Theravada Buddhist text, the Abhidhamma, under a Burmese traditional teacher of the doctrine.
- Requested by the Burmese Foreign Office, the Ministry of Religion, Government of Burma, chose Mr. Desani as the most authoritative speaker on yoga and Buddhist meditation techniques, to address a specially-invited audience of the Diplomatic Corps

- in Rangoon. Justice U Chan Htoon, the then Judge of the Supreme Court of Burma and the President of the World Federation of Buddhists (later held under house arrest by the government), presided over the meeting.
- Mr. Desani, as an acknowledged teacher of these highly specialized techniques, has addressed the most distinguished audiences. The Indian Consular Services have provided him facilities to address select audiences in Karachi (Pakistan), Jakarta (Embassy of India), Tokyo (Embassy of India), as far as Sydney, Australia. The External Services of All India Radio, over the years, have provided him with a worldwide audience.
- From 1962-67, as a special contributor to the Illustrated Weekly of India (The Times of India group), Mr. Desani published approximately 170,000 words of fiction, contemporary comment, criticism, book reviews and before leaving for the United States, for a year and a half wrote an unsigned weekly page ("Very High and Very Low"). Mr. Desani, until coming to the States, was one of the most widely read and influential journalists in India.
- Some of his material was requested for publication in Britain and the States by, among others, the TransAtlantic Review and the Noble Savage, edited by Saul Bellow.
- Mr. Desani's work, it is obvious, can be divided as purely creative and as a contribution to international understanding. No less an authority than Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, then Ambassador of India to the U.S.S.R., and Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions in the University of Oxford, and later President of India and among the distinguished Westerners, Prof. Edmond Blunden, Oxford, Lord Butler, the Minister of Education in Britain, Prof. Vincent Harlow, Oxford, Sir Harry Lindsay, Lord Sorensen, Prof. E.L. Stahl, Oxford, Mr. R.J. Cruikshank have spoken warmly of that aspect of Mr. Desani's work. The Marquess of Zetland, then President of the Royal Asiatic Society, and formerly Secretary of State for India and Burma, as far back as 1951, referred to him as, "... a bridge between East and West."

All About H. Hatterr (1948)

• It is a novel by G. V. Desani chronicling the adventures of an Anglo-Malay man in search of wisdom and enlightenment. "As far back as in 1951," Desani later wrote, "I said H. Hatterr was a portrait of a man, the common vulgar species, found everywhere, both in the East and in the West".

HARI KUNZRU (1969 –)

He is a young author of English and Kashmiri descent, who shot into fame with his novels The Impressionist and Transmission.

JHUMPA LAHIRI

Jhumpa Lahiri is a famous Indian American author of Bengali origin. Jhumpa Lahiri became the first Asian to win the Pulitzer Prize when she won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for her book "Interpreter of Maladies". Jhumpa Lahiri belongs to the second generation of Indian immigrant writers in United States. Lahiri concerns her writing with the consciousness of the need for regaining roots in the tradition of India.

Text with Technolog

Awards:

Pulitzer Prize for Interpreter of Maladies in 2000.

The Lowland was published, which was longlisted for the Man Booker prize.

Works:

Short Story Collections

"Interpreter of Maladies" – 1999

"Unaccustomed Earth" (2008)

Novels -

The Namesake- 2003

The Lowland

Interpreter of Maladies

- It is the collection of nine distinct stories revolves around the first and second-generation Indian immigrants and the idea of otherness among the country.
- The Das family is in India on vacation, and Mr. Das has hired Mr. Kapasi to drive them to visit the Sun Temple. The family sits in the car, which is stopped near a tea stall. Mr. and Mrs. Das are arguing about who should take their daughter, Tina, to the bathroom, and Mrs. Das ultimately takes her. Ronny, their son, darts out of the car to look at a goat. Mr. Das, who closely resembles Ronny, reprimands him but does nothing to stop him, even when he says he wants to give the goat a piece of gum. Mr. Das tells Bobby, the younger of their two sons, to go look after Ronny. When Bobby refuses, Mr. Das does nothing to enforce his order.
- Mr. Das tells Mr. Kapasi that both he and his wife were born and raised in the United States. Mr. Das also reveals that their parents now live in India and that the Das family visits them every few years. Tina comes back to the car, clutching a doll with shorn hair. Mr. Das asks Tina where her mother is, using Mrs. Das's first name, Mina. Mr. Kapasi notices that Mr. Das uses his wife's first name, and he thinks it is an unusual way to speak to a child. While Mrs. Das buys some puffed rice from a nearby vendor, Mr. Das tells Mr. Kapasi that he is a middle-school teacher in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Mr. Kapasi reveals that he has been a tour guide for five years.
- The group sets off. Tina plays with the locks in the back of the car, and Mrs. Das does not stop her. Mrs. Das sits in the car silently and eats her snack without offering any to anyone else. Along the road, they see monkeys, which Mr. Kapasi says are common in the area. Mr. Das has him stop the car so he can take a picture of a starving peasant. Mr. and Mrs. Das quarrel because Mr. Das has not gotten them a tour guide whose car has air-conditioning. Mr. Kapasi observes that Mr. and Mrs. Das are more like siblings to their children than parents.
- Mr. Kapasi tells the Dases about his other job as an interpreter in a doctor's office. Mrs.
 Das remarks that his job is romantic and asks him to tell her about some of his patients.

However, Mr. Kapasi views his job as a failure. At one time, he had been a scholar of many languages, and now he remains fluent only in English. He took the interpreting job as a way to pay the medical bills when his eldest son contracted typhoid and died at age seven. He kept the job because the pay was better than his previous teaching job, but it reminds his wife of their son's death. Mr. Kapasi's marriage was arranged by his parents, and he and his wife have nothing in common. Mr. Kapasi, seduced by Mrs. Das's description of his job as "romantic," begins fantasizing about Mrs. Das.

- When they stop for lunch, Mrs. Das insists that Mr. Kapasi sit with them. He does, and Mr. Das takes their picture together. Mrs. Das gets Mr. Kapasi's address so that she can send him a copy of the picture, and Mr. Kapasi begins to daydream about how they will have a great correspondence that will, in a way, finally fulfill his dreams of being a diplomat between countries. He imagines the witty things he will write to her and how she will reveal the unhappiness of her marriage.
- At the temple, Mrs. Das talks with Mr. Kapasi as they stare at friezes of women in erotic poses. Mr. Kapasi admires her legs and continues to dream about their letters. Dreading taking the Dases back to their hotel, he suggests that they go see a nearby monastery, and they agree. When they arrive, the place is swarming with monkeys. Mr. Kapasi tells the children and Mr. Das that the monkeys are not dangerous as long as they are not fed.
- Mrs. Das stays in the car because her legs are tired. She sits in the front seat next to Mr. Kapasi and confesses to him that her younger son, Bobby, is the product of an affair she had eight years ago. She slept with a friend of Mr. Das's who came to visit while she was a lonely housewife, and she has never told anyone about it. She tells Mr. Kapasi because he is an interpreter of maladies and she believes he can help her. Mr. Kapasi's crush on her begins to evaporate. Mrs. Das reveals that she no longer loves her husband, whom she has known since she was a young child, and that she has destructive impulses toward her children and life. She asks Mr. Kapasi to suggest some remedy for her pain. Mr. Kapasi, insulted, asks her whether it isn't really just guilt she feels. Mrs. Das gets out of the car and joins her family. As she walks, she drops a trail of puffed rice.

• Meanwhile, the children and Mr. Das have been playing with the monkeys. When Mrs. Das rejoins them, Bobby is missing. They find him surrounded by monkeys that have become crazed from Mrs. Das's puffed rice and are hitting Bobby on the legs with a stick he had given them. Mr. Das accidentally takes a picture in his nervousness, and Mrs. Das screams for Mr. Kapasi to do something. Mr. Kapasi chases off the monkeys and carries Bobby back to his family. Mrs. Das puts a bandage on Bobby's knee. Then she reaches into her handbag to get a hairbrush to straighten his hair, and the paper with Mr. Kapasi's address on it flutters away.

The Namesake - 2003

- The novel is a narrative about the assimilation of an Indian Bengali Family from Calcutta, the Ganguli's, into America, over thirty years (from 1968-2000); the cultural dilemmas experienced by them and their American born children in different ways, the spatial, cultural and emotional dislocations suffered by them in their effort tosettle "home" in the new land. The book spans more than thirty years in the life of a fictional family, the Gangulis. The book is all about the generation and cultural gap as when the parents, each born in Calcutta immigrated to the United States as young adults. Their children, Gogol and Sonia, grow up in the United States. Both the parents were from calcutta and their children brought up in US so there are huge differences between the childen and their parents. One of the major themes of the book is Gogol's persistent mixed feelings over his identity, by the fact that Gogol is the last name of a noted Russian author. This is also a novel about exile and its discontents, a novel that is as affecting in its Chekhovian exploration of fathers and sons, parents and children, as it is resonant in its exploration of what is acquired and lost by immigrants and their children in pursuit of the American Dream.
- Towards the second-half of 'The Namesake' Gogol celebrates his twenty seventh birthday at his girlfriend Maxine's parents Lake house in New Hampshire without his parents.

Unaccustomed Earth - 2008

- The eight sensitive stories of her second short stories collection Unaccustomed Earth (2008), evokes the anxiety, excitement and transformation felt by Bengali immigrants and their American Children.
- The story is about Ruma and Romi and their father, who retired from his pharmaceutical company after his wife's death. Ruma lives in Seattle with her workaholic white husband Adam and byracial son Akash. When the story starts we come to know that her single father is about to visit their home for the first time and Ruma is distressed by the possibility that he might decide to live with them permanently. But she also knows that her father needs no care and at the end of the story, she realizes that he is not accustomed to her world, he likes to live it on his own. Her father, who, like most of the book's male characters, is strikingly, multidimensional, has his own worries. Her father came to visit her and was affectionate to her son but he thinks that he does not belong here.

The Lowland

- Brothers Subhash and Udayan Mitra are growing up in Calcutta in the 1960s. Their neighborhood, Tollygunge, is full of refugees whose lives were displaced by the 1947 Partition of India, but the boys themselves live in a modest, middle-class home which sits on the edge of a stretch of land occupied by two ponds. Between the two ponds there is a lowland, which floods in the rainy season.
- The boys are one year apart in age, and inseparable. The older, more reserved Subhash often finds himself roped into trouble by his younger, more impulsive brother Udayan. As the boys enter their collegiate years and attend separate local universities, they begin to drift apart for the first time in their lives. Udayan falls in with a group of radicals associated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)—a splinter group of the Communist Party of India with ties to the burgeoning Naxalite movement, a violent uprising originally started by poor sharecroppers in the West Bengal village of Naxalbari. Amid the violence and unrest, Udayan devotes his days and nights to CPI(ML) activities, while Subhash decides to pursue a Ph.D. in America. Udayan begs

- Subhash not to leave India, but Subhash feels the distance between himself and his brother is already too wide to bridge.
- In America, Subhash attends university in Rhode Island, at which he is one of the only Indian students. His feelings of isolation increase when a letter from Udayan arrives saying he has gone against their parents' wishes for an arranged marriage and chosen to marry a woman named Gauri for love. Subhash, who had been proud of himself for taking a bold new step in moving to America, feels "defeated by Udayan all over again." Throughout his second year of graduate school, Subhash fields frequent letters from Udayan asking when Subhash is going to come home and allow their parents to arrange a marriage for him. The letters almost never mention Naxalbari or any radical politics at all, and Subhash is relieved that his brother has settled down. Subhash becomes involved with a young, married white woman named Holly; though he knows the relationship is not tenable in the long-term, he is heartbroken when Holly ends their affair. At the end of summer, a letter arrives from Calcutta, telling Subhash that Udayan has been killed and urging him to come home as soon as he can.
- Subhash returns to Calcutta to find it completely changed by the violence of the Naxalites. Subhash realizes that his brother had never given up his radical politics and was likely killed by police. Subhash's parents are so sidelined by their grief that they barely notice Subhash's presence, and will not answer any of his questions about Udayan's death. The only one who holds the answers Subhash seeks is Udayan's widow, Gauri—who is pregnant with her late husband's child. Gauri is being isolated by Subhash's parents in a combination of ritual mourning custom and their desire to edge her out of the house so that they can raise Udayan's child alone.
- Gauri reveals what happened the night of Udayan's death: she and her mother-in-law came back from holiday shopping to find policemen swarming the house. The policemen held Gauri and her in-laws at gunpoint and directed them to the flooded lowland, where Udayan was hiding. After coaxing him out by threatening to kill members of his family, the police put Udayan into a van and let the rest of the Mitras go. The family retreated into the house and, from their terrace, watched as the police

- executed Udayan, point-blank, in the middle of the field beyond the lowland. The police took Udayan's body and never returned it.
- Subhash is so perturbed by both the details of his brother's death and his parents' cruel mistreatment of Gauri that he is unable to sleep for days. After a group of investigators come to the house to question Gauri about the activities of the local CPI(ML), Subhash realizes that in order to keep Gauri safe, he must marry her himself and take her back to America. Gauri reluctantly agrees, though she warns Subhash that Udayan would never have wanted such an arrangement.
- Gauri arrives in Boston, five months pregnant. As she adjusts to life with Subhash, she struggles with feelings of isolation and a desire to pursue her education. She rips up her saris, cuts off her hair, and begins attending philosophy lectures at the college. After the birth of "their" daughter, Bela, Gauri's feelings of isolation and displacement do not abate. She and Subhash embark on a sexual relationship, but even this release of tension does not allow Gauri to feel any peace. Gauri takes a philosophy class and does so well in it that her teacher recommends she eventually pursue a doctorate. As Gauri becomes more dedicated to her studies, her relationship with the young Bela grows more and more contentious. When she is at last admitted to a doctoral program in Boston, when Bela is in first grade, Subhash becomes resentful of Gauri's desire to escape their home, their marriage, and now their child.
- Subhash's father dies, and he takes Bela—now twelve—on a six-week trip to Calcutta. Subhash's mother Bijoli, her mind addled by old age, spends her days caring for a cement post in the lowland that marks the spot where Udayan died. After the trip, Bela and Subhash return to Providence to find that Gauri has left. She has written Subhash a note in Bengali, informing him that she has taken a teaching job in California and is leaving Bela to Subhash.
- As Subhash and Bela begin adjusting to life without Gauri, Bela becomes withdrawn
 and loses weight. When a guidance counselor calls to report that Bela is distracted in
 school, Subhash begins taking her to see a therapist. As the months go by, and Bela
 enters eighth grade, she begins making friends and participating in school activities.

- The summer Bela graduates from high school, Subhash receives a letter telling him that his mother has had a stroke—he returns to India without Bela, and Bijoli dies.
- After Subhash returns to Rhode Island, he brings Bela to college in the Midwest. As the years go by, she follows in Subhash's footsteps by studying environmental sciences. After graduation, however, Bela takes up an itinerant existence, travelling across the country and working on different farms. She returns home only a couple of times a year to visit. Every time Subhash sees Bela, he is surprised by how politically-minded and, in some ways, radical she has become, and worries that Udayan has reclaimed Bela from beyond the grave.
- Meanwhile, on the West Coast, Gauri lives an isolated but successful life. She has published three books and has a tenured teaching job at a university in Southern California. She regrets having betrayed Bela but is too grateful for her freedom to dwell much on what she has done to her family. Subhash, now a man of sixty, lives a similarly isolated existence. At the funeral of a friend from graduate school, he meets a woman named Elise Silva—a widow and former high school teacher of Bela's who now runs the local historical society. She and Subhash begin seeing each other.
- Bela is in her early thirties, and living in Brooklyn with a cooperative of artists, nomads, and radicals. She knows that her itinerant life is due to the influence of Gauri's abandonment, but shows no signs of wanting to live any other way. One June, Bela returns to Rhode Island for a visit, and reveals that she is pregnant. She has no relationship with the child's father, and instead wants to raise it on her own in Rhode Island, in the house she grew up in. Subhash is moved to tell Bela, at last, the truth of her parentage. Bela reacts poorly, at first, but after a trip to the coast to stay with a friend, she returns home and tells Subhash that knowing the truth does not change the fact that Subhash is her only father. If anything, she says, she loves him more, knowing now all he has done for her.
- Back in California, Gauri reluctantly agrees to be interviewed by a former student for a book he is writing on the Naxalite movement. The interview brings up painful memories, and the lingering fear that she will be implicated for her tangential involvement, through Udayan, in the movement. One day, Gauri receives a letter from

Subhash, asking her to sign some papers finalizing a divorce between them. Rattled, Gauri retreats into her memories of the early 1970s. Back then, she helped Udayan deliver letters on behalf of the CPI(ML) and was instrumental in the killing of a prominent policeman—Gauri tracked the man's schedule and reported back to Udayan the times when he was off-duty and unarmed so that Udayan's group could murder him. To this day, Gauri is haunted by the things she did.

- A few weeks after receiving Subhash's letter, unable to compose a sufficient written response, she decides to stop in Providence on the way to a conference in London, to hand Subhash the papers in person and apologize for her actions. When Gauri rings the doorbell of her old house, however, it is Bela who answers. Subhash is not home, and so Gauri sits with Bela and her four-year-old daughter, Meghna, attempting to make small-talk and find out the details of their lives. Bela is enraged by her mother's presence and refuses to answer any of her questions. She berates Gauri for leaving, telling her that she is "nothing." Gauri leaves and flies to Calcutta instead of London, determined to confront her past. She visits the lowland, which has been filled in and built up—condominiums now stand on the site of Udayan's execution. Gauri considers committing suicide by throwing herself off the balcony of her room in a local guesthouse, but ultimately loses her will to die, and returns to California.
- Subhash and Elise, now married, go on a honeymoon to Ireland. Visiting a circle of stones in the countryside, and seeing the flooding all around them, Subhash is reminded of the lowland. The narrative flashes back to the evening of Udayan's death, revisiting his last moments from his own perspective. Udayan struggles to hide from the police underwater in the flooded lowland but cannot hold his breath long enough. He worries, in his final moments underwater, that his dedication to the revolution has helped no one, and instead had sown only violence and discord. As the police march Udayan across the field beyond the lowland, he knows he will die. He recalls meeting Gauri for a date one afternoon in front of a movie theater, and as the police's bullets rip through him, his last thoughts are of the sunlight on her hair.

KIRAN DESAI

Kiran Desai was born on 3rd September, 1971. Kiran Desai was born in New Delhi, India, and lived there until she was 14. Then she went to England with her mother and finally she moved to the United States. She took her early education in Massachusetts. Then she studied creative writing at Bennington College, Hollins University and Columbia University. She is an Indian author because she is a citizen of India and a Permanent Resident of the United States. Her mother is also a famous writer Anita Desai.

Works:

Her first novel Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard was published in 1998.

Her second book The "Inheritance of Loss" published in 2006 has won the 2006 Booker Prize.

Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard -1998

- It is set in the Indian village of Shahkot in Punjab.
- Sampath Chawla is the protagonist.
- Kulfi is Sampath's mother.
- The story depicts the exploits of a young man, Sampath Chawla, trying to avoid the responsibilities of adult life. He gets fired from the post office for reading other peoples' mails. He goes to guava orchard after he feels fed up in life. He jumps up a tree and decides to stay there. The people including his family starts believing that he has extraordinary powers and he is termed as god's messenger.

Inheritance of Loss: 2006

- Won 2006 Man Booker Prize
- Biju and Sai are the major characters
- Mutt, a dog appears in the novel
- The novel tells the story about the journey of Biju, an illegal immigrant in the US who is trying to make a new life and Sai, an Aglicised Indian girl living with her grandfather in India.

• The Gorkhaland movement is used as a historic backdrop of the novel.

VIKRAM SETH

Vikram Seth was born on June 20, 1952 at Kolkata. His father, Prem, was an employee of the Bata India Limited shoe company who migrated to post-Partition India from West Punjab in Pakistan. Vikram Seth is better known as an Indian poet, novelist, travel writer, author, children's writer, biographer and also memoirist. He is often compared with Salman Rushdie and Amitabh Ghosh.

Awards:

Sahitya Akademi Award for The Golden Gate in 1988Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best Book) for A Suitable Boy In 1994Padma Shri in Literature & Education in 2007

Works:

The Golden Gate 1986

A Suitable Boy - 1993

An Equal Music - 1999

"Mappings" (1980) was Seth's first volume of poetry

A Suitable Girl

The Golden Gate: A Novel in Verse –1986

- A satirical romance
- a novel in verse composed of 590 Onegin stanzas
- It was inspired by Charles Johnston's translation of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin.
- John Brown is the protagonist.
- Set in San Francisco and is centred on the relationship of two professionals.

A Suitable Boy:

- A Suitable Boy (1993) is a novel by Indian author and Stanford economist Vikram Seth. Over 1,400 pages in length, it is a family saga. Critics praised A Suitable Boy for its probing, panoramic look into India's cultural norms, as well as its combination of satire and romance. Seth received an exceedingly rare 1.1-million-dollar advance for the novel, a fact that caused a sensation in the Indian press. The novel took more than a decade to complete. Due to its length, social scrutiny, and realistic style, A Suitable Boy is often compared to George Eliot's Middlemarch (1871).
- A Suitable Boy's themes include the political in the personal, prejudice and forgiveness, conflict amidst social groups and families, changing racial norms, unexpected violence, and inter-generational connectedness. The novel is set in the early 1950s. This was an eventful period for India, as the country won full independence from England in 1947 and resolved several massive Hindu-Muslim conflicts that resulted in the new country of Pakistan being established.
- Set in Brahmpur, India (a fictional town), A Suitable Boy concerns the fortunes and trials of four elite families over the course of 18 months: the Mehras, the Kapoors, the Chatterjis and the Khans (the last being the only Muslim family of the group). It especially focuses on the plight of 19-year-old Lata Mehra, a talented student at the local Brahmpur University. Throughout the saga, Lata must decide if she is willing to marry the young Muslim man (Kabir Durrani) she loves, and thus defy (and possibly ostracize herself from) her stern, wealthy Hindu mother, Mrs. Rupa Mehra. While arranged marriages have been the norm across India for dozens of generations, in the more secular and tolerant society led by Jawaharlal Nehru (the first Prime Minister of India), Lata is starting to feel that she can choose for herself who her husband should be.
- Lata recently saw her sister, Savita, marry an up-and-coming professor at the local university. His name is Pran Kapoor, and Rupa Mehra blessed the marriage only because Pran comes from a well-respected and wealthy family. Privately, Lata questions whether the two will ever be truly happy, as they were forced into a marriage without ever getting to know one another. She knows that Kabir, the Muslim man she

loves, isn't "a suitable boy" according to her mother, and that the two will never be allowed to wed; still, she can't stop feeling a great passion for Kabir. He is incredibly handsome and kind, and he has inherited great intelligence from his father, who is a highly accomplished (if socially graceless) mathematician at the university. Better still, Kabir is also a star on the university cricket team. Lata's older brother, Arun, is married to Meenakshi, the daughter of a prosperous Muslim family, but Lata is all too aware that she is not afforded the same privileges as a man; for a woman to choose to marry across religious lines is unprecedented.

- One day, one of Rupa's spies reports to her that Kabir and Lata have been walking around Brahmpur University in public. Rupa is scandalized at this news—if word got out that her daughter consorted with Muslims, no prominent Hindu family would want to talk with her. To keep Lata away from Kabir, Rupa hastily plans a trip to Calcutta, which is hundreds of miles southeast of Brahmpur.
- In Calcutta, Rupa Mehra sets her daughter up with various Hindu boys whom she deems worthy of their caste. But all of the boys Lata's mother digs up are absolute duds. One has been so conditioned by British imperialism that he refers to his hometown of Kanpur with an English accent. Another has such tiny eyes and such bad table manners that Lata hardly considers him to be a civilized human. Not all of them are awful. Amit Chatterji, a well-known poet and writer, gets along well with the worldly and cultured Lata, but is probably gay. Rupa would love it if Lata married Amit: his father is a prominent judge and his mother a polished socialite. Lata is also set up with Haresh, a Hindu man who really likes her and whom she deems to be tolerable but slightly boring. He owns a thriving shoe company.
- In the background of Lata's marital decision is the foreground for the rest of the world: politics. There is great controversy throughout the country when a Mosque is to be built near a Hindu holy site. After several riots, the project is abandoned. Various family members are also caught up in different political happenings, including the movement for equal rights for "untouchables," country-wide protests for academic freedom, and the ending of the Zamindar system (a system that favored Indian aristocrats). Within

- the Kapoor family, the main conflict is that the youngest son, Maan Kapoor, has fallen in love with an infamous prostitute named Saeeda Bai.
- As the saga concludes, Lata Mehra finally makes her decision: she will not marry Kabir.
 Instead, she marries another "suitable boy"—someone who is good enough, but not someone she's in love with: Haresh
- Khuswant Singh hailed the novel by commenting, "I lived through that period and I couldn't find a flaw. It really is an authentic picture of Nehru's India"
- The longest novel in English ever written having 1349 pages.
- A sequel, to be called A Suitable Girl, is due for publication in 2016.

An Equal Music – 1999

- An Equal Music which revolves around London and Vienna. Michael Holmes is the protagonist of An Equal Music and he is second violinist with the Maggiore Quartet.
 - The novel is based on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice that has haunted music lovers through ages. Michael Holme, the narrator and main protagonist, is a violinist based in London. He is in his late thirties and earns his income as the second violinist in the groups by teaching a number of unwilling students. Ten years ago, as a student of the Swedish maestro Carl Kall at Musikhochschule in Vienna, he was in love with a young pianist, Julia, the daughter of an Oxford don and an Australian mother. It is well known that art and music are absorbed without effort or explanation. They become lovers and together with a cellist, Maria, they set up a trio and perform music. That time Michael is badly insulted by his professor's apparent impatience with his style of playing. Julia too supports the professor so betrayed by Julia, broken down physically, Michael flees Vienna and Julia. He flies to London and lives like a fugitive. After two months, he enrolls himself in music and manages to locate a recording of Beethoven: Opus 104 in a dusty drawer of a music shop in London. While returning home, he looks up to find Julia sitting five feet away in another bus. His impertinent cries do not reach Julia who is separated by twin sheets of window glass. Michael goes off the bus chasing her in crowded streets in a taxi only to find her gone and he has left the precious record

- in the cab. Once again, Julia makes her appearance at a concert by the Maggiore at Wigmore Hall.
- Towards the end, Michael learns to his immense shock that Julia has become deaf. She is acting from auto immune disease that has affected her hearing. A musician going deaf in a novel about music is a great idea. Seth weaves the novel in a realistic web of musicians, agents, critics, concert halls, rehearsals, details about music and musical instruments. Love and music are the two operating themes in the novel which run simultaneously and sometimes merge with each other, yielding a perfect equilibrium. It is remarkable to note that Seth's marvellous senseof place which entails the ability to conjure up visual spaces through aural cues. London is represented by the songs of robins in winter and blackbirds in summer. Vienna is conjured up by the sound of Vivaldi. The description of London parks, Venice and Vienna convey the mercurial moods of love and of music as is possible in words. The delicate love between Michael and Julia is bathed in the glow of musical reference to Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Bach virtually all great musicians of music because their love has their music which is a metaphor for their love. Seth reiterates his own philosophy of family through music like string trio, quartet etc.

NAIPAUL V S

Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul popularly known as V. S. Naipaul was born on 17th august 1932. He is considered as the leading novelist of the English-speaking Caribbean, winner of the Nobel Prize in literature in 2001.

Awards:

In 1971, he became the first Person of Indian origin to win a Booker Prize for his book In a Free State.

Nobel Prize for Literature - 2001

www.teachinns.com

ENGLISH

Works:

A House for Mr Biswas (1961)

A Bend in the River (1979)

A Way in the World (1994)

An Area of Darkness (1964).

The Enigma of Arrival

The Mystic Masseur

Miguel Street

In A Free State

Guerrillas

The Loss of El Dorado

Among The Believers

India: A wounded Civilization

A turn in the South

India: A Million Mutinies Now

A House for Mr Biswas – 1961

• A House for Mr Biswas follows the titular character from his unlucky birth in rural Trinidad, through his repeated displacement, unsatisfying marriage to Shama Tulsi, lackluster parenthood, and financial missteps in his quest for a house, to his death in the city of Port of Spain at the age of 46. Throughout his life, the romantic and insatiable Mr Biswas, who is prone to pride, disappointment, irrational optimism, and despair, dreams of finding financial stability and a house for his family. When he finally buys the house he always wanted, it turns out to be a scam—the house is ill-constructed and

- nearly uninhabitable, and Mr Biswas is unable to pay his mortgage. His health declines, he gets laid off from the Sentinel, and he dies in a heart attack.
- In the prologue, Mr Biswas's tale begins where it ends, with his firing, debt, and beautiful but crumbling house, which he bought after one nighttime visit that strategically hid its flaws. Still, it was a much better place to die than the Tulsis' house full of relatives. Although Mr Biswas passed away with little more than the mortgaged house, at least he didn't die "as one had been born, unnecessary and unaccommodated."
- Mohun Biswas (based on V. S. Naipaul's father, Seepersad Naipaul) is born in rural Trinidad and Tobago to Hindu Indian parents and his father is a Brahmin. His birth was considered inauspicious as he is born "in the wrong way" and with an extra finger. A pundit prophesies that the newborn child "will be a lecher and a spendthrift. Possibly a liar as well", and that he will "eat up his mother and father". The pundit advises that the boy be kept "away from trees and water. Particularly water". A few years later, Mohun leads a neighbour's calf, which he is tending, to a stream. The boy, who has never seen water "in its natural form", becomes distracted and allows the calf to wander off. Mohun then hides in fear of punishment. His father, believing his son to be in the water, drowns in an attempt to save him, thus in part fulfilling the pandit's prophecy. This leads to the dissolution of the family. Mohun's sister is sent to live with a wealthy aunt and uncle, Tara and Ajodha. Mohun, his mother, and two older brothers go to live with other relatives.
- The boy is withdrawn prematurely from school and apprenticed to a pundit, but is cast out on bad terms. Ajodha then puts him in the care of his alcoholic and abusive brother Bhandat, an arrangement which also ends badly. Finally, the young Mr Biswas decides to make his own fortune. He encounters a friend from his school days who helps him get into the business of sign-writing. While on the job, Mr Biswas attempts to romance a client's daughter but his advances are misinterpreted as a wedding proposal. He is drawn into a marriage which he does not have the nerve to stop and becomes a member of the Tulsi household.
- Mr Biswas becomes very unhappy with his wife Shama (based on Droapatie Naipaul)
 and her overbearing family. The Tulsis (based on the Capildeo family), and the big

decaying Hanuman House (based on Anand Bhavan aka The Lion House) where they live, represent the communal way of life which is traditional throughout Asia. Mr Biswas is offered a place in this cosmos, a subordinate place to be sure, but a place that is guaranteed and from which advancement is possible. But Mr Biswas wants more than being just a gharjamai. He is, by instinct, a modern man. He wants to be the author of his own life. That is an aspiration with which Tulsis cannot deal, and their decaying world conspires to drag him down. Despite his poor education, Mr Biswas becomes a journalist, has four children with Shama, and attempts several times to build a house that he can call his own, a house which will symbolize his independence. Mr Biswas' desperate struggle to acquire a house of his own can be linked to an individual's need to develop an authentic identity. He feels that only by having his own house he can overcome his feelings of rootlessness and alienation.

ROHINTON MISTRY

Rohinton Mistry is a famous Canadian writer with roots in India. He was born in Bombay. Rushdie puts in; Rohinton Mistry is a "writer from elsewhere". He always advocates for the independence of the women.

Works:

His short-story collection, "Tales from Firozsha Baag", was first published in Canada in 1987

Such a Long Journey (1991) – Commonwealth Writers Prize

A Fine Balance (1996)

Family Matters (2002),

Such a Long Journey and A Fine Balance were both short-listed in previous years for the Booker Prize for Fiction, and Family Matters was short listed for the 2002 Man Booker Prize for Fiction.

Tales from Ferozshah Baag: -

• The Tales from Faerozshah Baag is the story of the lifestyles of the inhabitants living in the apartment named Ferozshah Baag.

Such a Long Journey: 1991

- Historical fiction
- Shortlisted for Booker Prize for Fiction in 1991
- Characters: The central character of the novel is very hard-working bank clerk named Gustad Noble.
- He has Dilnavaz, his wife and three children in his family. His eldest son is Sohrab and the youngest daughter is Roshan.
- Dinshawji, Gustad's close friend and co-worker
 - The novel is set in 1971 during the time of the Indian Pakistan war. Gustad Noble is a bank clerk and a family man, a vulnerable figure whose world is still haunted by the war with China in 1962. The fate of Gustad's family is closely bound up with that of the subcontinent during a time of crisis and turmoil. The clerk's daughter's illness and his son's refusal to go to college, are events that we are encouraged to read symptomatically in Such a Long Journey. When Gustad receives a parcel and a request to launder money for an old friend, the event's ramifications are at once personal and political. Throughout the novel, the wall outside Gustad's apartment building symbolizes the larger world of Bombay and parallels some aspects of Gustad's own life. At the outset, it is used as a latrine, breeding illness in the neighborhood. Gustad tries something to come out of this problem. He persuades a sidewalk artist to paint it, and consequently he depicts scenes from all the religions of India. In this way the wall becomes a holy place. Eventually the government decides to widen the road and tear it down.

A Fine Balance: 1996

- Historical` fiction
- Shortlisted for Booker Prize for Fiction in 1996

• The novel tells the story of four characters (Maneck, Dina, Ishvar and Omprakash) and the impact of Indira Gandhi's state of emergency on them.

Family Matters" (2002)

- Shortlisted for Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2002
- Tells the story of an elderly Parsi widower living in Bombay with his step-children.
- At the centre of the book is an old man, a Parsi with Parkinson's Disease. Nariman Vakeel is a retired academic whose illnessplaces renewed strains on family relations.
- Nariman, an English professor, compares himself to King Lear at one point
- `Chateau Felicity` (Nariman`s former residence)
- `Pleasant villa`(where he is forced to move by his scheming step daughter)

RUTH PRAWER JHABVALA

• Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, Born on 7th May, 1927, is a winner of the prestigious Booker prize. This Anglo-Indian writer was born in Cologne, Germany. She enjoyed reading the works of Dickens. This writer is very popular for her insightful and witty portrayals of the lives of the people of contemporary Indian societies. Ruth Prawer Jhabvala started writing novels during the 1950's while she was staying in India.

Awards:

• She won the Booker Prize, which is the most esteemed literary award, for her novel Heat and Dust in the year 1975.

Works:

To Whom She Will (1955)

The Nature of Passion (1956)

Esmond in India (1958)

The Householder (1960),

www.teachinns.com

Get Ready for Battle (1962)

Like Birds, Like Fishes (1963)

A Backward Place (1965)

A Stronger Climate (1968)

A New Dominion (1972)

Heat and Dust (1975)

An Experience of India (1971)

How I Became a Holy Mother and other stories (1976)

In Search of Love and Beauty (1983)

Out of India (1986)

Three Continents (1987)

Poet and Dancer (1993)

Shards of Memory (1995)

East into Upper East: Plain Tales from New York and New Delhi (1998)

My Nine Lives (2004)

SALMAN RUSHDIE

• Salman Rushdie is one of the most famous Indian origin authors. He is best known for the violent backlash his book The Satanic Verses (1988) provoked in the Muslim community. Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomenei issued a fatwa against Salman Rushdie, calling for his assassination, forcing Rushdie to go underground.

www.teachinns.com

Works:

- His first novel, Grimus, was published in 1975.
- His second novel, the acclaimed Midnight's Children, was published in 1981. It won
 the Booker Prize for Fiction and in 1993; it won "Booker of Bookers" for the best novel
 for Fiction in the awards 25th history.
- His third novel, Shame (1983), was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction.
- The publication in 1988 of his fourth novel, The Satanic Verses, leads to accusations
 of blasphemy against Islam and demonstrations by Islamist groups in India and
 Pakistan.

Grimus - 1975

- Science fiction
- The story takes place in Axona in India.
- The story follows Flapping Eagle, a young Indian who receives the gift of immortality after drinking a magic fluid.
- His mother died just after some seconds he was born and as a result he was outcasted. He is not easily accepted, by the society. His sister "Bird Dog" protected him and presented him with the elixir of eternal life and after that she disappears mysteriously from the land of the Axona.
- Flapping Eagle is then exiled from his people, and wanders the world for centuries. Flapping Eagle wanders the earth for 777 years 7 months and 7 days, searching for his immortal sister, Bird Dog. Flapping Eagle explores identities till he falls through the hole in the Mediterranean Sea. He arrives in a parallel dimension at the mystical Calf Island. Here he finds people blessed with immortality yet bored with the sameness of life. However they are reluctant to give up their immortality and exist in a static community under a subtle and sinister authority. Flapping Eagle is tired with the mundane reality of immortality hence wants to get rid of the Grimus effect.

Midnight's Children

- The novel narrates key events in the history of India through the story of pickle-factory worker Saleem Sinai, one of 1001 children born as India won independence from Britain in 1947.
- Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children begins as narrator Saleem Sinai urgently tells the story of his life. Born at the exact moment of India's independence from British rule, Saleem is inescapably "handcuffed to history," and his own fate is intertwined with that of his nation. Saleem's entire body is cracking, crumbling under the stress of "too much history," and he is slowly dying, disintegrating into "(approximately) six hundred and thirty million particles of anonymous, necessarily oblivious, dust." Saleem must work fast if he is to tell his story before he dies, and he begins with his Kashmiri grandfather, Aadam Aziz.
- Aadam has just returned to Kashmir from medical school in Germany, and he is disillusioned with his traditional Indian life. One morning, while kneeling to pray, Aadam strikes his nose on the ground, and three small drops of blood escape from his nose. From that moment, he vows "never again to bow to any man or god." Soon, Tai, the old boatman, alerts Aadam to the illness of Naseem Ghani, the daughter of a local landowner. Arriving at the Ghani's, Aadam finds Naseem hidden behind a large sheet with a small hole cut in the center, and he is made to examine her through the opening. Over several years and many illnesses, Aadam and Naseem fall in love and are finally married, and the two prepare to move to Agra for Aadam's new university job.
- In Agra, Aadam and Naseem are witnesses to Mahatma Gandhi's hartal and the violence of the British military, and in the aftermath of a massacre, Aadam befriends the Hummingbird, a Pro-Indian Muslim politician who inspires optimism throughout Agra. Aadam also meets Nadir Khan, the Hummingbird's private secretary, and after the Hummingbird is murdered by assassins, Nadir takes refuge under Aadam's floorboards, much to the dismay of his wife Naseem, known in her marriage as Reverend Mother. While living under the floor, Nadir falls in love with Aadam's daughter, Mumtaz, and the two are married, spending three blissful years together underground. Ultimately, it is discovered that Nadir is impotent, and he is forced to

- divorce Mumtaz, who is left heartbroken. Mumtaz soon remarries Ahmed Sinai, who changes her name to Amina, and the two move to Bombay after she becomes pregnant.
- Ahmed and Amina buy a mansion from William Methwold, a British colonist who is preparing to return to London after India's independence, and they quickly move in, living amongst the Englishman's belongings and customs. Growing increasingly pregnant, Amina goes into labor on the eve of India's independence, along with another pregnant woman from Methwold's Estate named Vanita, the wife of a poor accordionist who entertains the residents on the estate. Both women give birth at the stroke of midnight; however, Vanita dies shortly after, leaving her infant son, Shiva. Alone with the two children of midnight, a midwife named Mary Pereira switches the nametags of the children, effectively replacing rich with poor, in her own "private act of revolution." In the days following, Mary's guilt is so severe that she offers her services to Amina Sinai as an ayah to care for her infant Saleem, and she readily accepts. Mary returns to Methwold's Estate with the Sinais, where she continues to keep her secret for several years before finally blurting it out, a victim of her own guilt.
- As Saleem grows, it is clear that he is not a normal child. He grows too quickly, he rarely blinks, and after an accident in his mother's washing chest, he begins to hear voices, made possible by his large, congested nose. The voices in Saleem's head are the voices of the other children born during the midnight hour of independence, the "metaphorical mirror of a nation," who each also happen to be endowed with different magical powers. Saleem attempts to organize the children, creating a forum for them in his mind, but their prejudices get the better of them, and they are unable to band together. Ultimately, it is Shiva who succeeds in dividing the children, and Saleem is left helpless.
- Saleem continues to grow and moves with his family to Pakistan. As civil unrest brews leading up to the Indo-Pakistani War, he is again left helpless as bombs from an airstrike kill his family. In the chaos of the bombing, Saleem is hit in the head by an airborne spittoon, causing him to forget his name and identity. Saleem is soon drafted into the Pakistani army and he witnesses unspeakable events, finally running away into the jungle to avoid further violence. When he emerges from the jungle, the war is

ending, India is victorious, and Saleem is still not sure who he is. During a celebratory parade, he runs into Parvati-the-witch, a fellow child of midnight who immediately recognizes Saleem. The two fall in love, and when Saleem is unable to father her children, Parvati puts a spell on Shiva, and he soon impregnates her. He quickly loses interest (as he always does where pregnancy is concerned), and Parvati is free to marry Saleem, who has agreed to father her unborn child.

• As Parvati goes into labor, civil unrest in India continues and Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minster, declares a state of emergency. Parvati finally gives birth to a son but, sadly, she is killed. At the same time, Saleem is kidnapped by Shiva and dragged in a van, where he is taken, along with the other children of midnight, and forcibly sterilized during Mrs. Gandhi's sterilization program. Finally, Indira Gandhi's Emergency ends, and Saleem and the other children of midnight are released from their imprisonment. Saleem soon finds his son and he moves back to Bombay, where he discovers that Mary Pereira is the owner of a local pickle factory. As Saleem finishes the telling of his story, he decides to begin telling his future, and he starts with his wedding to Padma, his companion and audience for the telling of his story. Padma and Saleem are to be married in Kashmir; however, before they are, Saleem finally succumbs to the cracks in his skin, and he crumbles into six hundred million pieces of dust.

SHASHI THAROOR

born on 9th March 1956, is a writer, journalist, columnist, human rights advocate and Indian Politician Shashi Tharoor's books have been translated into French, German, Italian, Malayalam, Marathi, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Spanish.

Awards:

His book The Great Indian Novelwon the Commonwealth Writers` Prize for the Best Book of the Year in 1991

Works:

Fiction

The Great Indian Novel (1989)

The Five Dollar Smile and Other Stories (1990)

Show Business (1992)

Riot (2001)

Non-fiction

Shadows Across the Playing Field: Sixty Years of India-Pakistan Cricket [with Shaharyar Khan] (2009)

The Elephant, the Tiger and the Cell Phone: Reflections on India in the 21st Century (2007)

Bookless in Baghdad (2005)

Nehru: The Invention of India (2003)

India: From Midnight to the Millennium (1997)

Reasons of State (1982)

Reasons of State – 1982

- This is a Political Development and also India's Foreign Policy Under Indira Ghandi.
- This book has the capability to bring tears in reader's eyes when Nehru dies in the story.

The Great Indian Novel - 1989

- A Satirical novel
- Tharoor beautifully entwined the different characters of Mahabharata in the book by different name, which befits present day politics.
- "Mahabharata"(maha "great"; Bharata "India").
- The novel has 18 "books," just as the Mahabharata has 18 books
- Tharoor shows us that 'everything old is new again'.

- Ved Vyas is the narrator
- This novel is a re-interpretation of the Mahabharata framed in India's struggle for independence, and the political consequence of colonization.

Show Business – 1992

- It is a postmodern satirical novel
- It is a fictional work that tells the story of Ashok Banjara, a Bollywood superstar. Ashok Banjara is critically injured while shooting for a film and his entire life in Bollywood flashes in front of his eyes as he lies suspended between life and death in a hospital.
- A young Ashok Banjara leaves Delhi and comes to Bombay to make his fortune and find fame in Bollywood. He achieves the bigleague with his second film Godambo that establishes him as an action star. Soon Banjara is known for playing the role of an angry young man fighting for the poor and the helpless against the establishment his very own. A successful Ashok Banjara marries Maya, a talented co-star and convinces her to stay away from films for the sake of family. Banjara makes a film, Mechanic. This film is Banjara's first flop.
- Banjara agrees to work in a mythological film called Kalki. It is on the sets of Kalki that Banjara meets his accident.