

M.A. IV Sem ...
PG-16 - Gr. 4016
Eminism in 'The Guide' [R.K. Narayan]

R.K. Narayan is considered as one of leading figures of early Indian literature in English. His full name is [Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayaneswami]

He is the one who made India accessible to the people in foreign countries - he gave unfamiliar people a window to peep into Indian culture and sensibilities. His simple and modest writing style is often compared to that of the great American author William Faulkner. Narayan came from a humble south Indian background where he was consistently encouraged to involve himself into literature. After finishing his graduation he decided to stay home and write. His work involves novels like "The Guide", "The Financial Man", "Mr. Sampath", "The Dark Room", "The English Teacher", "A Tiger for Malgudi", etc.

Altho Narayan's contribution to the Indian literature is beyond description and the way he grabbed foreign audience's attention for Indian literature is commendable too but he will always be remembered for the invention of Malgudi, a semi-urban fictional town in Southern India where most of his stories were set. Narayan won numerous accolades for his literary work:



Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan, Ac Benson Medal by the Royal Society of Literature, honorary membership of the American Academy of Arts and Literature, Padma Vibhushan, etc.

* Childhood & early life: —

* He was born in Chennai (Madurai at Madras) in 1906 in a working class South Indian family. His father Krishnaswami Iyer was a school headmaster and because his father had to be

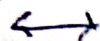
frequently transferred for his job, Narayan spent most of his childhood in the loving care of his grandmother, Parvati

* It was his grand mother who taught him arithmetic, mythology and Sanskrit. He also attended many different schools in Chennai

* His reading habit further developed when he moved to Mysore and there his father's school library offered him gems of writing from authors like - Dickens, Thomas Hardy, Woolhouse, etc.

In 1926 after complete his university exams. he joined Maharaja College of Mysore.

* In 1935, he met a beautiful girl named Rajan. She filled his life with pleasure and sweetness But unfortunately, she died after few years of her marriage, it gave him a great shock and for several years he could not write any novel. He left his world in 2001



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Feminism in 'The Guide'
Unit - 4
R. K. Narayan

His Works—R.K. Narayan started his career as a novelist in 1935 when his first novel '**Swami and Friends**' was published. The book got great fame and recognition and opened for him the gates of success. **Graham Greene** called it 'a book in ten thousand'. Then followed—**Bachelor of Arts (1936)**, **The Dark Room (1938)**, **The English Teacher (1935)** and **Mr. Sampat (1939)**. In 1952 was published the **Financial Expert** which got 'Sahitya Akadami Award' in 1960. His other famous novels are—'**Waiting for the Mahatma**', '**The Man Eater of Malgudi**', '**The Guide**' and '**The Vendor of Sweets**'.

He was awarded '**Padma Bhushan**' in 1964. As a writer, he has written about a dozen novels and about one hundred fifty one short stories. His works have been published both in England and U.S.A. and translated into several language, including Russian, Polish and Hebrew. Many of his novels and short stories have been telecast. **Malgudi Days**, the popular television serial in Hindi based on his short stories, has brought him name and fame throughout India.

R.K. Narayan's works may be divided into the following groups—

Novels of Malgudi—**Swami and Friends**, **The Bachelor of Arts**, **The Dark Room**, **The English Teacher**, **Mr. Sampath**—+**The Printer of Malgudi**, **The Financial Expert**, **Waiting for the Mahatma**, **The Man-Eater of Malgudi**, **The Vendor of Sweets**, **The Painter of Signs**, **A Tiger for Malgudi**, **Talkative Man**, **The World of Nataraj**.

Stories—**Malgudi Days**, **Dadu and other Stories**, **Cyclone and other Stories**, **A House and Two Goats**, **An Astrologer's Day and other Stories**, **Lawley Road**, **Under the Banyan Tree and other Stories**.

Retold Legends—**Gods, Demons and Others**, **The Ramayana**, **The Mahabharata**.

Memories—**My Days**.

Travel—**My Dateless Diary**, **The Emerald Route**.

Essays—**Next Sunday**, **Reluctant Guru**, **A Writer's Nightmare**, **The World of The Story-Teller**.