

Devi Ahilya Arts and Commerce (Jagdale) College

Session -2021-2022

Class-B.A 3RD Year

Paper-2(fiction)

Unit-1

Joseph Conrad

British writer

Joseph Conrad was an English novelist and short-story writer of Polish descent. He is best known for writing the novels *Lord Jim* (1900), *Nostromo* (1904), and *The Secret Agent* (1907) and for the novella *Heart of Darkness* (1902). Notable Works: “*Almayer’s Folly*” “*An Outcast of ...*

Died: August 3, 1924 (aged 66) [Canterbury](#) En...

Born: December 3, 1857 Berdychiv Ukraine

Joseph Conrad, original name Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, (born December 3, 1857, [Berdichev, Ukraine, Russian Empire](#) [now Berdychiv, Ukraine]—died [August 3, 1924, Canterbury, Kent, England](#)), English novelist and short-story writer of Polish descent, whose works include the novels *Lord Jim* (1900), *Nostromo* (1904), and *The Secret Agent* (1907) and the [short story “Heart of Darkness”](#) (1902). During his lifetime Conrad was admired for the richness of his prose and his renderings of dangerous life at [sea](#) and in exotic places. But his initial reputation as a masterful teller of colourful adventures of the sea masked his fascination with the individual when faced with nature’s invariable unconcern, man’s frequent malevolence, and his inner battles with good and evil. To Conrad, the sea meant above all the tragedy of

loneliness. A writer of complex skill and striking insight, but above all of an intensely personal vision, he has been increasingly regarded as one of the greatest English novelists.

Character List

Lord Jim

A tall, powerfully built young man with piercing blue eyes and a deep voice. On his first assignment at sea, aboard the *Patna*, Jim abandons 800 Moslem pilgrims because he thinks that the ship is going to explode momentarily. Afterward, he is terribly ashamed and unable to live a normal life because he fears that his terrible cowardice will be revealed. It is only after Jim becomes the overseer of a trading post in the far-off Malay Islands that he is able to regain his self-esteem and his sense of honor.

Marlow

A sea captain some twenty years older than Jim. When Marlow first sees Jim, on trial for desertion, he is sure that Jim has a cowardly streak in his nature. Later, however, Marlow begins to identify with Jim, and finally he becomes deeply sympathetic to the sensitive young man. Marlow's final assessment of Jim is that he is "one of us." In other words, we all have one shameful secret in our pasts.

Skipper of the *Patna*

Grossly fat and greasy ("a man cut out of a block of fat"), he embodies evil and cowardice; he is "the incarnation of everything base and vile." It is his voice which Jim hears, seemingly commanding Jim to jump, to abandon the *Patna*.

Egstrom and Blake Owners

of a ship-chandler firm, where Jim is employed as a waterclerk. Egstrom praises Jim's happy energy and honesty, and he is puzzled when he discovers that Jim fled the country because of his overwhelming guilt about the *Patna* incident.

Stein

A wealthy and respected businessman, a naturalist of distinction, and a collector of butterflies and beetles (symbols of sentimentality and romance, and of hard-shelled, unimaginative reality). It is Stein who believes that Jim should *immerse* himself in his romantic nature rather than reject it; therefore, he offers Jim a chance to rebuild his life in far-off Patusan.

Cornelius Jewel's stepfather; he has mismanaged and bungled Stein's trading operations in Patusan. The

buildings and books are in a shambles when Jim arrives to replace him. Cornelius "slinks" and "skulks" around the village, hoping to somehow reestablish himself. He knows that he has failed as a businessman and as a father, and his guilt has soured him on mankind. He foolishly believes that the villainous Brown accepts him as a trusted partner in Brown's plan to loot and destroy Patusan.

Doramin

An enormously fat native chieftain of Patusan. He offers sanctuary to Jim when Jim escapes from Rajah Allang; it is Doramin who kills Jim at the end of the story.

Dain Waris Doramin's only son;

Jim's best friend. He is the first of the Patusan people to believe in Jim's goodness and in his potential as a leader. Dain Waris becomes an innocent victim when Jim naively believes that Brown will leave Patusan peacefully.

Jewel

A white girl who has been raised in Patusan. Jim falls in love with her, and she loves Jim with both fierceness and affection. She is not as trusting of people as Jim is, and she is quick to anger when Jim is threatened. She often guards Jim's door at night. One night in particular, she leads him to a nest of assassins. Ultimately, she cannot forgive Jim for his code of honor, a code which requires his death.

Tamb' Itam Jim's devoted servant;

he saves Jim's life during the assault on Sherif Ali's stockade. It is he who carries Jim's silver ring to Dain Waris as a sign that they can trust Brown to leave Patusan peacefully.

Rajah Allang

A corrupt man who established power over the Patusan natives by force and intimidation. He extorts everything he can from the people and trades it all to foreign buyers. He is awed by Jim's charismatic hold over the natives.

Sherif Ali

A corrupt renegade who lives in the hills and makes frequent raids on the natives. Jim establishes his own sense of power and authority by destroying Sherif Ali's bastion, which hangs over the village like a buzzard's roost.

Brown

Because he once had a respectable background, he calls himself "Gentleman Brown." Now, however, he has become a pirate. By chance, he comes upriver to Patusan, hoping to raid the village for enough food and water to get his pirate crew to Madagascar.

Mr. Denver Marlow

convinces Denver to give Jim a job at his rice mill. All goes well until one of the *Patna's* crew turns up at the mill and tries to blackmail Jim. Not knowing why Jim flees the mill, Denver writes an angry letter to Marlow.

The French Lieutenant

He boards the *Patna* the morning after she is abandoned, and he remains on board until she is towed to port. The trip was disappointing, he says, because there was no wine available for dinner. Talking to Marlow, he reveals that he is cynical about the nature of bravery.

Chester

An Australian adventurer, he believes that he has found an uncharted island so rich in guano (bird droppings) that he will soon be rich beyond measure. He unsuccessfully pleads with Marlow to convince Jim that he can find a new and satisfying life for himself as an overseer on the guano island.

Briefly

To all appearances, he has led a model life as a seaman; his future seems full of promise. Briefly presides as judge at Jim's trial for deserting the *Patna*, and as the trial progresses, he so closely identifies with Jim that he begins to fear that someday he too might commit an error similar to Jim's jumping from the *Patna*. Therefore, he sets his affairs in order and commits suicide by "jumping" into the sea.

The Dane

A cross-eyed lieutenant in the Royal Siamese Navy who insults Jim while they are playing billiards. Jim tosses him into the sea

Unit-2

D.H. Lawrence

David Herbert (D.H.) Lawrence was one of the most versatile and influential writers in 20th-century literature. Best known for his novels, Lawrence was also an accomplished poet, short story writer, essayist, critic, and travel writer. The controversial themes for which he is remembered—namely, the celebration of sensuality in an over-intellectualized world—and his relationship with censors sometimes overshadow the work of a master craftsman and profound thinker.

Lawrence was born on Sept. 11, 1885 in the small coal-mining village of Eastwood, Nottinghamshire in central England. Lawrence's father, Arthur, was a miner, and the mining boom of the 1870s had taken the family around Nottinghamshire. By the time Bert (as Lawrence was known), the fourth child, was born, the family had settled in Eastwood for good. Lawrence's mother, Lydia Beardsall, an intellectually ambitious woman disillusioned with her husband's dead-end job and irresponsible drinking habits, encouraged her children to advance beyond their restrictive environment.

Sons and Lovers

by [D.H. Lawrence](#)

Paul Morel

Paul is the protagonist of the novel, and we follow his life from infancy to his early twenties. He is sensitive, temperamental, artistic (a painter), and unceasingly devoted to his mother. They are inseparable; he confides everything in her, works and paints to please her, and nurses her as she dies. Paul has ultimately unsuccessful romances with Miriam Leiver and Clara Dawes, always alternating between great love and hatred for each of them. His relationship fails with Miriam because she is too sacrificial and virginal to claim him as hers, whereas it fails with Clara because, it seems, she has never given up on her estranged husband. However, the major reason behind Paul's break-

ups is the long shadow of his mother; no woman can ever equal her in his eyes, and he can never free himself from her possession.

Gertrude Morel

Mrs. Morel is unhappily married to Walter Morel, and she redirects her attention to her children, her only passion in life. She is first obsessed with William, but his death leaves her empty and redirects her energies toward Paul. She bitterly disapproves of all the women these two sons encounter, masking her jealousy with other excuses. A natural intellectual, she also feels society has limited her opportunities as a woman, another reason she lives through Paul.

Miriam Leiver

Miriam is a virginal, religious girl who lives on a farm near the Morels, and she is Paul's first love. However, their relationship takes ages to move beyond the Platonic and into the romantic. She loves Paul deeply, but he never wants to marry her and "belong" to her, in his words. Rather, he sees her more as a sacrificial, spiritual soul mate and less as a sensual, romantic lover. Mrs. Morel, who feels threatened by Miriam's intellectuality, always reinforces his disdain for Miriam.

Clara Dawes

Clara is an older woman estranged from her husband, Baxter Dawes. Unlike the intellectual Miriam, Clara seems to represent the body. Her sensuality attracts Paul, as does her elusiveness and mysteriousness. However, she loses this elusiveness as their affair continues, and Paul feels she has always "belonged" to her husband.

Walter Morel

Morel, the coal-mining head of the family, was once a humorous, lively man, but over time he has become a cruel, selfish alcoholic. His family, especially Mrs. Morel, despises him, and Paul frequently entertains fantasies of his father's dying.

William Morel

William, Mrs. Morel's "knight," is her favorite son. But when he moves away, she disapproves of his new lifestyle and new girlfriends, especially Lily. His death plunges Mrs. Morel into grief.

Baxter Dawes

Dawes, a burly, handsome man, is estranged from his wife, Clara Dawes, because of his infidelity. He resents Paul for taking Clara, but over time the men become friends.

Annie Morel

Annie is the Morel's only daughter. She is a schoolteacher who leaves home fairly early.

Arthur Morel

Arthur, the youngest Morel son, is exceptionally handsome, but also immature. He rashly enters the military, and it takes a while until he gets out. He marries Beatrice.

Louisa Lily Denys Western

Lily, William's girlfriend, is materialistic and vain. Her condescending behavior around the Morels irritates William, and she soon forgets about him after his death.

The Leivers

The Leivers own a nearby farm that Paul and Mrs. Morel visit. They have three sons (Edgar being the eldest) and two daughters, including Miriam.

Edgar Leivers

The eldest Leiver son, Edgar and Paul become friends.

Agatha Leivers

The elder sister of Miriam, Agatha is a school-teacher who fights with Miriam for Paul's attention.

Beatrice

A friend of the Morel's who stops by and insults Miriam and flirts with Paul. She eventually marries Arthur.

Mrs. Radford

Clara's mother, with whom she lives. Clara is embarrassed by her.

Thomas Jordan

A curt, old man, Jordan employs Paul at his warehouse of surgical appliances.

Pappleworth

Paul's supervisor at Jordan's.

Fanny

A lively hunchback who works at Jordan's.

Polly

Worker at Jordan's whom Paul regularly has dinner with.

Connie

An attractive, redheaded worker at Jordan's.

Louie

Facetious worker at Jordan's.

Emma

Old, condescending worker at Jordan's.

Mr. Heaton

Clergyman who visits Mrs. Morel and becomes Paul's godfather.

Dr. Ansel

Mrs. Morel's doctor.

Jerry Purdy

Friend of Morel's.

John Field

UNIT-3

E.M FORSTER

A Passage to India

E. M. Forster Biography

Edward Morgan Forster was born in London in 1879, the son of an architect. He attended Tonbridge School, which he hated; he caricatured what he termed "public school

behavior" in several of his novels. A different atmosphere awaited him at King's College, Cambridge, which he enjoyed thoroughly.

After graduation, he began to write short stories. He lived for a time in Italy, the scene of two of his early novels: *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (1905), and *A Room with a View* (1908). Cambridge is the setting for *The Longest Journey* (1907). It was in this year that he returned to England and delivered a series of lectures at Working Men's College. His most mature work to date was to appear in 1910 with the publication of *Howards End*.

Forster then turned to literary journalism and wrote a play which was never staged. In 1911 he went to India with G. Lowes Dickinson, his mentor at King's College. During World War 1, Forster was engaged in civilian war work in Alexandria. He returned to London after the war as a journalist.

In 1921 he again went to India, to work as secretary to the Maharajah of Dewas State Senior. He had begun work on *A Passage to India* before this time, but on reading his notes in India, he was discouraged and put them aside. The book was published in 1924, having been written upon his return to England. This was his last novel. It is considered to be his *magnum opus*, and it won for the author the Femina Vie Heureuse and the James Tait Black Memorial prizes in 1925.

In 1927 Forster delivered the William George Clark lectures at Trinity College, Cambridge. Titled *Aspects of the Novel*, the lectures were published in book form the same year. Also in 1927 he became a Fellow of Cambridge.

Forster's writing after that time has been varied. A collection of short stories (*The Eternal Moment*) was published in 1928. *Abinger Harvest* (1936) is a collection of reprints of reviews and articles. During World War II he

broadcast many essays over the BBC. He has written a pageant play (*England's Pleasant Land*), a film (*Diary For Timothy*), two biographies (*Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson* in 1934 and *Marianne Thornton* in 1956), a libretto for Benjamin Britten's opera, *Billy Budd* (with Eric Crozier), and numerous essays. In 1953 he published *The Hill of Devi*, an uneven collection of letters and reminiscences of his experiences in India.

In 1960 *A Passage to India* was adapted for the stage by Santha Rama Rau. After playing in London for a year, the play opened on Broadway on January 31, 1962, and ran for 110 performances. Although Forster was "delighted" with the adaptation, most of the American critics felt the play did not measure up to the novel.

In 1946, Forster moved to King's College in Cambridge to live there as an honorary fellow. Mr. Forster's numerous awards included membership in the Order of Companions of Honour, a recognition bestowed in 1953 by Queen Elizabeth II.

Forster died on June 7, 1970.

Character List

Adela Quested A young woman newly arrived from England, expecting to be the fiancée of

Ronny Heaslop.

Mrs. Moore Adela's chaperone and Ronny Heaslop's mother, by her first marriage.

Ronny Heaslop The City Magistrate of Chandrapore.

Doctor Aziz The Moslem doctor at the Government Hospital.

Major and Mrs. Callendar A Civil Surgeon and Aziz's superior; and his wife.

Cyril Fielding The English Principal at the Government College.

Professor Godbole The Hindu colleague of Fielding's.

Hamidullah Aziz's uncle and eminent Moslem barrister.

Mahmoud Ali Pleader (attorney) in the court, and friend of Aziz.

Ram Chand, Syed Mohammed, and Mr. Haq Friends of Aziz.

Mr. Das Ronny's assistant and the Hindu judge at the trial.

Nawab Bahadur The wealthy, influential friend of Aziz.

Mr. and Mrs. McBryde The District Superintendent of Police and his wife.

Nancy Derek A guest of the McBryde's and the companion of a maharani in a native state.

Mr. and Mrs. Turton Collector, head of British officialdom and social leader of Chandrapore; and his wife.

Mr. Armitrao The lawyer from Calcutta who takes Aziz's case.

Nureddin Grandson of Nawab Bahadur.

Ralph Moore Mrs. Moore's son by her second marriage.

Stella Moore Mrs. Moore's daughter, who becomes the wife of Cyril Fielding.

Mr. and Mrs. Lesley A British official and his wife.

Karin, Ahmed, Jamila Children of Aziz.

Doctor Panna Lal Hindu colleague of Aziz.

Mohammed Latif Poor relative who lives in the house of Hamidullah.

Mr. Graysford and Mr. Sorley Missionaries who live on the outskirts of Chandrapore.

Lord and Lady Mellanby The Lieutenant Governor and his wife.

Mrs. Bhattacharya The Indian woman who invites Adela and Mrs. Moore to her house and then neglects to send a carriage for them.

Devi Ahilya Arts and Commerce (Jagdale) College

Session -2021-2022

Class-B.A 3RD Year Paper-2(fiction)

Unit-4

Biography of Raja Rao

Raja Rao was one of the most prominent writers in 20th-century India, known for his novels and short stories. The critic Ivar Ivask said his "greatest achievement [was] the perfection of the metaphysical novel."

Rao was born in Hassan (now Karnataka), South India in 1908. His family were Kannada Brahmins, and his father was a professor of the Kannada language in Hyderabad. Rao went to the University of Madras for undergraduate studies and France's Montpellier University to study literature for postgraduate. He also studied the French language at the Sorbonne.

He began publishing his first stories in magazines and journals in 1931, with his first novel, *Kanthapura*, coming out in 1938. When he returned to India the next year, he became involved in the nationalist movement. He labored alongside Jawarhal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, and sought his guru, Sri Atmananda, whom he met in Trivandrum, Kerala.

From 1966 to 1983, Rao lived in the United States and taught Indian philosophy at the University of Texas, Austin. Rao's works, all written in English, include the novels *The Serpent and the Rope* (1960), *The Cat and Shakespeare* (1965), and *The Chessmaster and His Moves* (1988), and short stories such as "A

Client" (1934), "The Cow of the Barricades" (1938), "The Policeman and the Rose" (1963), "Jupiter and Mars" (1954), and "The Writer and the Word" (1965). He won the Neustadt prize in 1988 and the Sahitya Akademi award in 1992. In 1996, he published a series of his nonfiction writing on various topics, entitled *The Meaning of India*.

In 2000, with his approval, the Samvad Undia Foundation, a nonprofit charitable trust, created the "Raja Rao Award for Literature" in order to "recognize writers and scholars who have made an out standing contribution to the Literature and Culture of the South Asian Diaspora." The award was bestowed seven times between 2000-2009, then discontinued.

Rao died at the age of 92 on July 8, 2006. He married three times, the last being in 1986, and had one son.

Moorthy

Moorthy is a young Brahmin, described as a "noble cow, quiet, generous, serene, deferent, and brahmanic" (5), who has returned to his village of Kanthapura. He is heavily inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's nationalist movement to liberate India. He is showered with love and respect by the people of Kanthapura, who decide to follow him unflinchingly. In the novel, he is referred to as the "small mountain," while Mahatma Gandhi is the "big mountain." He manages to establish the Congress Party in adherence to Gandhian values in Kanthapura. He adheres to truth, non-violence, and civil disobedience, refusing to protest his own incarceration. At the end of the novel, out of prison now, he is looking to help Gandhi and Jawarhal work toward "swaraj" (self-rule).

Bhatta

Bhatta is a wealthy landowner in Kanthapura. He exploits the villagers and has nothing to do with the Gandhian philosophy. He goes on to oppose Moorthy in establishing the Congress Party,

and is an indirect agent of the British government. During the uprising, the people burn his house down.

Patel Range Gowda

Officially, Patel Range Gowda is the Primary Executive Officer of Kanthapura village. However, he acts as the mayor of the entire village. He has a strong and formidable presence, and no decision can reach its conclusion without Range Gowda's approval. He is often referred to as the "tiger" of the village. He uses his social authority in order to assist Moorthy, and is eventually relieved of his patelship.

Rangamma

Rangamma is a "deferent, soft-voiced, gentle-gestured" (30) but strong woman who can read and write. She is a childless widow, but is well respected because of her resolution and high aspirations. She rejects Bhatta's religious dictatorship in favor of Gandhian Moorthy. She educates and leads the women of Kanthapura to form a non-violent resistance group called "Sevis," and is eventually imprisoned.

Bade Khan

Bade Khan is a heavysset, bearded Muslim policeman who has recently arrived in Kanthapura. He finds lodging in Skeffington Coffee Estate. He is an agent of the British government and is hostile towards all forms of protests. At one point, he viciously beats Moorthy when he tries to meet the coffee estate workers.

Kamalamma

Kamalamma is the sister of Rangamma. She stands in stark contrast to the values exhibited by Rangamma. She rejects her sister's conversion to the Gandhian lifestyle. The only concern on her mind is to somehow remarry her widowed daughter Ratna.

Ratna

Ratna is the fifteen-year-old daughter of Kamalamma. However, she has more in common with her Aunt Rangamma. She, too, is inspired by the Gandhian philosophy. She is very iconoclastic and independent and does not care for traditional social propriety.

She leads the Sevis after Rangamma's imprisonment, having attained a new gravitas and wisdom. At the end of the novel, after having spent some time in prison, she comes out to visit the people of Kanthapura and then heads to Bombay.

Narsamma

She is Moorthy's elderly mother, who loves her son very much but is extremely distressed to think about the trouble he is bringing to the village—especially excommunication. She eventually dies due to her distress.

Narrator

The narrator is an old widow with only sons, one of them being Seenu. We do not learn much about her as an individual, as she always speaks collectively.

Waterfall Venkamma

She is a spiteful, gossipy, and constantly aggrieved woman in the village.

Ramakrishnayya

He is the learned, elderly father of Rangamma. One evening, he trips and loses consciousness, then dies.

Jayaramacher

He is a *Harikatha*-man Moorthy brings to the village for the *Ganesh-jayanthi*. Instead of telling them about Rama or Krishna, he tells the villagers of Mahatma Gandhi. This causes a bit of trouble and he is not invited back.

Mr. Skeffington (Nephew)

The successor to control of the Skeffington Coffee Estate, he does not beat coolies like his uncle did, but takes Indian women for his own pleasures and punishes their husbands/fathers when they do not go easily.

Mr. Skeffington (Uncle)

The British owner and founder of the Estate, he is cruel to those who work for him.

Seenu

One of the narrator's sons, he becomes a Ghandi-man and works with Moorthy, teaching the Pariahs and helping with the Congress committee. He is arrested and is still in jail at the end of the novel.

Siddayya

A coolie at the Skeffington Coffee Estate, he has been there a long time and tries to let the new coolies know what they should expect here.

Rachanna

One of the most prominent Pariah men in the text, he is killed in the uprising.

Nanjama, Chinnamma, Seethama, Satamma, Ningamma, Vedamma

They are village women.

Vasudev

A Ghandi-man and comrade of Moorthy's, he helps organize the Pariahs at the Skeffington Estate.

Rangappa

He is the Temple brahmin, who is against the Gandhist movement in the village.

Seenappa

He is an advocate who loses his wife and who Bhatta sets up with Venkamma's daughter in order to win her loyalty against Moorthy and Gandhism.

Sankar

The secretary of the Karwar Congress committee, he tries to help Moorthy fight his charge, but agrees to help run the meetings in his stead. He has Rangamma come live and work with him. He is an ascetic widower who will not remarry because he loved his wife so much, but the people are generally fine with this because they respect him despite his idiosyncrasies.

Ranganna

He is a Brahmin who opens his private temple to the Pariahs. He is arrested when he gives a speech at the Congress criticizing the Swami and the British government.

Seetharamu

He is an advocate who lives in the city and will not remarry because he loved his wife so much. He provides the villagers with updates as to what is going on with Moorthy. At one point, he is thrown in prison himself, and has horrible stories to tell of its conditions.

Radhamma

She is a village woman who gives birth during the uprising.

Puttamma

She is a village woman who is raped during the uprising

UNIT-5

V.S. Naipaul

Trinidadian-British writer



V.S. Naipaul

Born:

August 17, 1932 Trinidad and Tobago

Died:

August 11, 2018 (aged 85) London England

Awards And Honors:

Nobel Prize (2001) Booker Prize (1971)

Notable Works:

"A Bend in the River" "A House for Mr. Biswas" "Beyond Belief: Islamic Excursions Among the Converted Peoples" "Guerrillas" "Half a Life" "In a Free State"

V.S. Naipaul, in full Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, (born August 17, 1932, Trinidad—died August 11, 2018, **London, England), Trinidadian writer of Indian descent known for his pessimistic novels set in developing countries. For these revelations of what**

the **Swedish Academy** called “suppressed histories,” Naipaul won the **Nobel Prize** for Literature in 2001.

Descended from Hindu Indians who had immigrated to Trinidad as indentured servants, Naipaul left Trinidad to attend the **University of Oxford** in 1950. He subsequently settled in **England**, although he traveled extensively thereafter. His earliest books (*The Mystic Masseur*, 1957; *The Suffrage of Elvira*, 1958; and *Miguel Street*, 1959) are **ironic** and satirical accounts of life in the Caribbean. His fourth **novel**, *A House for Mr. Biswas* (1961), also set in Trinidad, was a much more important work and won him major recognition. It centres on the main character’s attempt to assert his **personal identity** and establish his independence as symbolized by owning his own house. Naipaul’s subsequent novels used other national settings but continued to explore the personal and **collective** alienation experienced in new nations that were struggling to **integrate** their native and Western-colonial heritages. The three stories in *In a Free State* (1971), which won **Britain’s Booker Prize**, are set in various countries; *Guerrillas* (1975) is a despairing look at an abortive uprising on a Caribbean island; and *A Bend in the River* (1979) pessimistically examines the uncertain future of a newly independent state in Central Africa. *A Way in the World* (1994) is an essaylike novel examining how history forms individuals’ characters. Naipaul’s other novels include *The Mimic Men* (1967) and *The Enigma of Arrival* (1987).

A House for Mr Biswas Character List

Mohun Biswas

The protagonist of the story, Mohun Biswas, is an Indian born in rural Trinidad and is pronounced unlucky by the pundit at his birth due to the presence of six fingers and because he was born

in the wrong way. Mohun goes through a series of life changes as his father dies and his family moves away. He finds a number of jobs throughout his lifetime and finds a passion for writing.

Mohun likes to think of himself as a modern man with no belief in orthodox Hindu practices, but he feels greatly victimized when he is not paid any dowry for marrying. He is easily duped but, he doesn't listen to his wife's advice, out of spite for her family.

Shama

Shama is the wife of Mr. Biswas. He sees her in her family shop one day and writes her a note. Soon, he is made to marry her.

Though they have little in common and do not even really like each other, she stays with him out of duty. She comes from a family of many daughters. The daughters are usually ignored and married to prospects simply because of their caste. She is apologetic throughout the novel for the aggression of her husband.

Anand

He is the only son of Mohun and Shama. He is found to be brainy and is enrolled in exhibition classes, in which he excels. Later in the novel, Mr. Biswas grows quite fond of him.

Savi

She is the eldest child. She is naughty yet resourceful. Although she is older than Anand, she is given less importance than Anand.

Raghu

Father of Mr. Biswas, he is considered a miser. He is extremely superstitious about Mr. Biswas because he suffers a number of mishaps around him. He dies of drowning while searching for Mr. Biswas in a pond.

Bipti

Mother of Mr. Biswas, she remains a strange figure to him as he is constantly out of touch with her due to his multiple vocations. She is a weak character who always tried to please her sister, Tara.

Pundit Jairam

The pundit to whom Mr. Biswas goes for education in scriptures and rituals. A pompous and suspicious man, he makes Mr. Biswas eat a bunch of bananas as punishment for eating two of them without asking him for permission.

Tara

Bipti's sister. She's married into a rich family but is childless; she takes care of Bipti and her children after Raghu's death.

Ajodha

Tara's husband. He is shrewd and a good person. He is obsessed with keeping one's body fit.

Mrs. Tulsi

The head of the Tulsi family, she is a widow with 2 sons and 14 daughters. She places importance on her sons and marries her daughters off to people she hardly knows, simply because of their caste.

Seth

He is the husband of Mrs. Tulsi. He takes care of the estate and other businesses. He is a shrewd person and later grows apart from the family.

Dehuti

Mohun's sister. She managed to marry a low-born boy, Ramchand, thereby going against the whole society.

Pratap and Prasad

Brothers to Mohun Biswas. They didn't support Mohun Biswas when he was in need.

Dhari

Neighbor of Raghu who gave Mohun the job to take his calf for grazing. The calf drowned due to Mohun's negligence.

Lokhan

When Raghu died in an attempt to find Mohun in the stream, Lokhan took out Raghu's body from the stream.

F.Z. Ghany

He provided fake legal certificates to people.

Bhandat

He is the brother of Ajodha who owns a wine shop. He is very much afraid of Tara. She keeps a close eye on the shop.

Miss Logie

She is the head of the Community Welfare Department where Mohun worked. She is a young lady who features prominently in the novel.

Sushila

Widowed daughter of Mrs. Tulsi; she takes care of Mrs. Tulsi all the time, while remaining personally neglected.

Chinta

Another daughter of Mrs. Tulsi. She is a weak character and remains unresponsive whenever her husband, Govind, beats her.

Owad

Younger son of Mrs. Tulsi. He went abroad to be a doctor and married a cousin of Dorothy.

Shekhar

Elder son of Mrs. Tulsi who lives with his wife, Dorothy.

Dorothy

The wife of Shekhar represents modernity. In the novel, she is as a free woman and performs the work traditionally assigned to men, like selling tickets at the cinema. She compelled her husband to live with her in her own house. She breaks values, wears frocks, and dresses in ways objectionable to her society.

Myna and Kamla

Younger daughters of Mohun Bisw