

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Namesake

This story is about The Gangulis who are Indian American immigrants in the United States. The story begins when Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli move from Calcutta to Cambridge, Massachusetts after they hold their arranged wedding. Ashoke leaves India with the new hope. Unlike her husband, Ashima leaves her hometown with the deep sadness. She cannot imagine that she should leave her family and follow her husband to the country that she is not familiar with. While Ashoke can adapt easily with his job as engineer at MIT and his new life, Ashima finds that it is hard for her to settle in the United States which has different ways of life with India.

The new problem happens when their first son, Gogol, was born. Ashima feels that it is not good if she raises Gogol alone in America which has different culture with her country and without her family or any relative who can help her. Even, her husband just returns to home rarely because of his work that forces him to live apart from her and their children.

As time goes by, Ashima finally can accept her new ways of life. She changes into a tough woman. She learns about how to live alone and raises her children without her family. She can also mix her Bengali culture with American ways of life.

It is shown when she celebrates Christmas and Thanksgiving but she also keeps her integrity as an Indian woman.

Synopsis of Jasmine

Jasmine is a story of a young Punjabi woman named Jasmine whose life takes her from India to the United States. She is a rebellious woman who is really keen on modernity and western things. She marries Prakash, a young Indian man who has modern thought and hates feudalism in India. Prakash has a plan to move to the United States with Jasmine in order to get a better life and continue his study. However, Prakash dies before they leave India. Thus, Jasmine wants to continue her husband's dream and she arranges illegal document to go to the United States by herself.

After arriving to the United States, there are many problems that Jasmine has to face. She is raped by a man named Half-Face and then she kills him and continues her journey in the United States.

Although Americans sometimes treat her differently, she tries hard to survive in America. She tries to hid her Indian identity and change into an American. She also has two love affairs with Bud Ripplemeyer and Taylor Hayes. Both of them are Caucasian.

Finally, after many things that happen in her life such as the murder of Bud Ripplemeyer, her disability in getting green card, and her disability in getting the confession from Americans themselves, Jasmine realizes that she is not the part of Americans.

Biography of Jhumpa Lahiri

Jhumpa Lahiri was born in London, England in July 1967 and brought up in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. Her mother introduces about Bengali heritage to her from an early age in order to make Lahiri and her siblings know that they are Indian. Lahiri received her B.A in English Literature from Barnard College in 1989. Then, she received an M.A. in English, an M.A in Creative writing, an M.A. in Comparative Literature and a Ph.D in Renaissance Studies from Boston University. She joined Provincetown's Fine Arts Work Center from 1997 to 1998. Lahiri lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Alberto Vorvoulias-Bush, who is a journalist, and two children. She has been a Vice President of the PEN American Center since 2005.

Lahiri taught creative writing at Boston University and Rhode Island School of Design. Most of her works concern about the lives of Indian-American, especially Bengalis. Her first work as a writer is Interpreter of Maladies which become the winner of 2000 Pulitzer Prize, O. Henry Award, PEN/Hemingway Award, etc.

The Namesake is her fifth book and becoming the first novel that she has wrote. It was published in 2003 and filmed by Mira Nair. The film was released in March 2007 in the United States and United Kingdom.

Her other works are Nobody's Business (The Best American Short stories 2002), Hell Heaven, Once In a Lifetime, Samanami (Bengali version of The Namesake), Unaccustomed Earth.

Biography of Bharati Mukherjee

Bharati Mukherje was born on July 27 1940 in Calcutta, West Bengal, India. After the Independence of India, she and her parents travelled to Europe and returning to Calcutta in the early 1950. Then, she attended the Loreto School, Kolkata. She received her B.A. from the University of Calcuttain 1959 and her M.A from the University of Baroda in 1961. She decided to continue her study at the University of Iowa. She received her M.F.A from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 1963 and her PH.D. in 1969 from the Department of Comparative Literature.

Mukherjee married writer Clark Blaise in 1963. Mukherjee, Blaise and their children returned to the United States after more than a decade living in Montreal and Toronto, Canada.

Mukherjee has taught at McGill University, Skidmore College, Queens College and City University of new York. Her works are Jasmine (1989) a novel about young Indian woman who tells about identity, The Holder of The World (1993), Leave it To Me (1997) Desirable Daughters (2002) and The Tree Bride (2004)