

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Namesake

The Namesake, Lahiri's first novel, tells the story of The Gangguli family. It begins in 1968, in Ashima Gangguli's kitchen, as she attempts to make her Indian snack. Later she is brought to hospital to give birth to a baby boy. Her husband, Ashoke, is a professor at MIT, they live in a small apartment in Massachusetts, but when he joins her at the hospital they face a problem, because the authorities won't allow them to leave with their baby until it is given a name. The hospital does not care about the cultural difference which allows for Bengali families to spend a good deal of time and deliberation before deciding their child's name. Thus, Ashima and Ashoke are forced to enter a pet name as formal name - Gogol. But they still wait for the news of Gogol's formal name. According to Bengali, the one who should give the formal names is Ashima's grandmother and she should send it in no times. Ashima and Ashoke wait patiently for the letter. After several months Ashima is told the sad news that her Grandmother has suffered a stroke, and can remember very little of anything. The boy grows up and known as Gogol. Later, Ashima is giving birth to another child, a girl named Sonali.

Ashima always holds to her Indian culture, while her children are influenced by the American. Ashima is rarely socialized with the American

people and she prefers to be with her own kind. Ashima spends most of her days in her house, working as a housewife. In fact, she does not like the situation of being alone. She always loves when the time comes to visit her relatives in Calcutta. When Ashoke passes away, she is very shocked because she will live alone in her house, while her children are having college outside of the town. The story ends in the year of 2000, at a last Christmas gathering before Ashima moves to Calcutta.

(Source: <http://www.shvoong.com/books/novel/87923-namesake/>)

Synopsis of Desirable Daughters

Desirable Daughters is a story of three Calcutta, India-born Brahmin upper-class sisters, renowned for their beauty, brains, wealth, and honored status in society. Mukherjee follows their lives as they leave their conservative, sheltered childhood home, where they are educated with culture, tradition, and values and educated with education by the Catholic nuns in their convent structured school and college. Two sisters immigrate to America and the other relocates to Bombay, India.

The three sisters, Padma, Parvati, and Tara, are born exactly three years apart from each other and share the same birthday. Tara is the youngest sister and yet, she is the most rebellious. Their mother names them after goddesses, hoping they will survive and prosper, which they all do. Tara is the most 'un-Indian' of the three. She lives in San Francisco and is divorced from an Indian Silicon Valley dotcom millionaire Bishwapriya Chatterjee, who is an ideal to all Indian immigrants, a sort of 'ethnic' Bill Gates, for his contribution to create a network of communication via the Internet, he invents a computer-routing system that makes them rich. Tara is a single mother of a teenage son who reveals he is gay and has a live-in lover Andy, a balding, red-bearded former biker, former bad-boy, Hungarian Buddhist yoga instructor. Tara is the most 'un-Indian' of all three sisters.

Later, Tara is also caught in the case about criminal group who are after her ex-husband. Tara is nearly killed in a murder attempt when her house is bombed. In the end she goes back to India to reunite with her parents.

(Source: <http://www.bookreporter.com/reviews/0786885157.asp>)

Biography of Lahiri

Jhumpa Lahiri, was born as Nilanjana Suleshna on 11 July 1967. She was born in London, England. Her parents were Indian immigrants. Lahiri moved to United States when she was three years old and later she grew up in Kingston, Rhode Island, where her father worked as a librarian at the University of Rhode Island.

Lahiri was educated as an Indian woman, because her mother wanted her to grow up knowing Bengali heritage. Their family often visited relatives in Calcutta, India.

Lahiri has good educational background. She received multiple degrees from Boston University: an M.A. in English, an M.A. in Creative Writing, an M.A. in Comparative Literature and a Ph.D. in Renaissance Studies. Later in 1997 until 1998, she took up a fellowship at Provincetown's Fine Arts Work Center. Lahiri also taught Creative Writing in Boston University for six years. She also taught it at Rhode Island School of Design. When she was in Boston University, she wrote many short stories and nine of which were printed as her debut book, which was Interpreter of Maladies, published in 1999. Lahiri gained a huge success for the book; she won a Pulitzer Prize and sold 600.000 copies.

In 2003, Lahiri published her first novel, The Namesake. The book told about a Gangguli family and their life as Indian immigrants in The United States.

She also earned success for the book and it was made as a film. Her second book of short stories was published on 1st April 2008, titled Unaccustomed Earth. The book became New York Time best-seller list in number 1 slot.

Lahiri married Alberto Vourvoulias-Bush, a journalist who was then Deputy Editor of TIME Latin America. Now she lives in Boston with her husband and their two children Octavio, 6 years old and Noor, 3 years old. Since 2005, Lahiri also has become a Vice President of the PEN American Center, an organization designed to promote friendship and intellectual cooperation among writers.

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jhumpa_Lahiri)

Biography of Mukherjee

Bharati Mukherjee was born on 27 July 1940 in Calcutta, India. Her parents are Sudhir Lal and Bina Mukherjee. Bharati Mukherjee was from a wealthy family. Mukherjee was a very smart girl; she learned to write and read by the age of three. She moved to Britain with her family when she was eight years old, they stayed in Europe for a half year. Mukherjee realized her talent in writing when she was ten years old and since then, she has written many short stories.

Because of her intelligence, Mukherjee achieved many awards academically. She got her B.A from the University of Calcutta in 1959 and her M.A in English and Ancient Indian Culture from the University of Baroda in 1961. She went to The United States of America because she got scholarship from Iowa University. At Iowa, she earned M.F.A. in Creative Writing in 1963 and her

Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature in 1969. Mukherjee was married to Clark Baise, a Canadian student in Harvard while studying in the University of Iowa. They married on 19 September 1963. Mukherjee wrote and published many books in collaboration with her husband.

Because of her marriage to Clark, she got a chance to teach all over United States and Canada. Later, Mukherjee was appointed Professor in University of Berkeley in California. Most of the Mukherjee writings are about the immigrant's experience in a foreign country. Her collections of short stories were published as her first book, entitled The Middle Man and Other Stories. The book won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Best Fiction. She also wrote a novel titled Jasmine. Besides short stories and novel, Mukherjee also wrote essays. All of her writings are about the meeting of East and West through immigrant experiences in the U.S. and Canada.

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/bharati_mukherjee)

EVALUATION SHEET

1st / 2nd *evaluation

This draft is declared

fit / unfit *for the thesis defence examination

Points to elaborate/reconsider:

* circle as appropriate

EXAMINER'S NOTE FOR REVISION

Students must go to supervisor I / II (circle as appropriate)

Points to elaborate/reconsider: