

## Author of the Week

### R. K. Narayan



**R. K. Narayan** (10 October 1906 – 13 May 2001), full name **Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami**, was an Indian writer, best known for his works set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. He was a leading author of early Indian literature in English, along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. Narayan's mentor and friend, Graham Greene was instrumental in getting publishers for Narayan's first four books, including the semi-autobiographical trilogy of *Swami and Friends*, *The Bachelor of Arts* and *The English Teacher*. The fictional town of Malgudi, Narayan's mentor and friend, Graham Greene was instrumental

Narayan's mentor and friend, Graham Greene was instrumental in getting publishers for Narayan's first four books, including the semi-autobiographical trilogy of *Swami and Friends*, *The Bachelor of Arts* and *The English Teacher*. The fictional town of Malgudi, was first introduced in *Swami and Friends*. Narayan's *The Financial Expert* was hailed as one of the most original works of 1951, and Sahitya Academic Award winner *The Guide*, was adapted for film and for Broadway.

Narayan highlights the social context and everyday life of his characters, and he has been compared to William Faulkner, who also created a similar fictional town, and likewise explored with humour and compassion the energy of ordinary life. Narayan's short stories have been compared with those of Guy de Maupassant, because of his ability to compress a narrative. However, he has also been criticized for the simplicity of his prose.

In a career that spanned over sixty years, Narayan received many awards and honors, including the AC Benson Medal from the Royal Society of Literature, **the Padma Bhushan and the Padm Vibhushan**, India's third and second highest civilian awards. He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of India's parliament.

#### Important Links:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R. K. Narayan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._K._Narayan)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/R-K-Narayan>

<http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/r-k-narayan-5285.php>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VukssWa9C8>

<https://www>

**Books By and On R.K. Narayan**

1. Narayan, R. K. (1955). *The English teacher*. Chennai: Indian Thought Publications.  
823.914 NAR 010213
2. Narayan, R. K. (1958). *The guide*. Mysore: Indian Thought Publications.  
823.914 NAR 010214
3. Narayan, R. K. (2004). *Swami and friends*. Chennai, India: Indian Thought Publications.  
823.91 NAR 009410
4. Narayan, R. K. (2006). *My days: autobiography*. Chennai: Indian Thought Publications.  
823 NAR 009408
5. Narayan, R. K., & Greene, G. (2000). *The Bachelor of arts*. London: Vintage.  
823 NAR 018776
6. Narayan, R. K., & Iyer, P. (2010). *Waiting for the Mahatma*. Delhi: Penguin Books.  
823 NAR 018468
7. Narayan, R. K., & Kampar. (2006). *The Ramayana: a shortened modern prose version of the Indian epic*. New York: Penguin Books.  
294.5922 NAR 009263
8. Narayan, R. K. (2002). *Malgudi schooldays: the adventures of Swami and his friends*. New Delhi; London: Puffin.  
823.912 NAR 003747 & 008329
9. Narayan, R. K. (2000). *The Indian epics retold: the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, gods, demons, and others*. New Delhi, India; New York: Penguin Books.  
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