



R. K. NARAYAN'S *SWAMI AND FRIENDS*

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Writer's Biography

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami (10 October 1906 – 13 May 2001) was an Indian writer known for his work set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. He was a leading author of early Indian English Literature along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. In a career that spanned over sixty years, Narayan received many awards and honours including the AC Benson Medal, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan, and in 1994 the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest honor of India's national academy of letters. He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament.

The Outline story of the Novel

Swami and Friends is the story of the tumultuous friendship of Swaminathan, his four childhood friends, and a new boy named Rajam. It takes place in British-colonial India in the year 1930. The story begins by introducing Swaminathan and his friends Somu, Sankar, Mani, and Pea. The story is entirely centred on social issues and identities.

Major Themes of the Novel

The major themes as expressed in the novel are:

- Disobedience**
- Conflict**
- Control**
- Authority**
- Power**
- Rebellion**
- Independence.**

Characters of the Novel

Swami

Swami is the ten-year-old protagonist of the novel. Swami is a schoolboy living in 1930, in the fictional town of Malgudi in the South of India under British colonial rule.

Rajam

- Rajam is the son of the Police Superintendent and one of **Swami**'s closest friends. Rajam is new to Swami's school at the start of the novel, and initially Swami and **Mani** view him as an enemy due to his quick wits, fine clothes, and fearless nature.

Mani

Known as “the Mighty Good-For-Nothing,” Mani is Swami’s other closest friend. Mani is a fearless troublemaker who never does his homework, sleeps in class, and frequently resorts to violence to solve his problems.

Swami’s Father

Swami’s father, W.T. Srinivasan, is an imposing figure who works at the courts and is usually strict with Swami. Swami sometimes feels afraid of his father, but at other times he turns to him for help and support.

Swami's Mother

Swami's mother appears in the novel only occasionally, usually in the context of providing Swami with something he wants or backing him up in an argument with his father.

Swami's Grandmother / Granny

Swami's paternal grandmother, whom he calls Granny, is an old woman who lives with Swami and his mother and father.

Swami's Brother

Swami's unnamed baby brother is born midway through the novel. While Swami at first thinks little of his brother, he soon grows fond of him and admires how quickly he learns and grows.

Rajam's Father

Rajam's father is the Police Superintendent and acts as a powerful figure in the community.

Somu

Somu is one of Swami's friends from the Mission School. He is the class monitor and gets along well with everyone, students and teachers, although he does not excel academically.

Sankar

Sankar is one of Swami's friends from the Mission School, known as "the most brilliant boy of the class."

"The Pea"

The Pea, whose real name is Samuel, is a small boy in Swami's class at the Mission School.

Other Characters include:

- **Mission School Headmaster**
- **Mr. Ebenezar**
- **Board School Headmaster**
- **The Coachman**
- **The Coachman's Son**
- **Karrupan**
- **Dr. Kesavan**
- **Ranga**
- **Mr. Nair**



Moral of the story of the novel

The novel reminds the common readers about childhood memories such as mischief's in childhood, plucking mangoes...etc. and in short it briefly explains the sweetness of childhood and importance of friendship.





THANK YOU