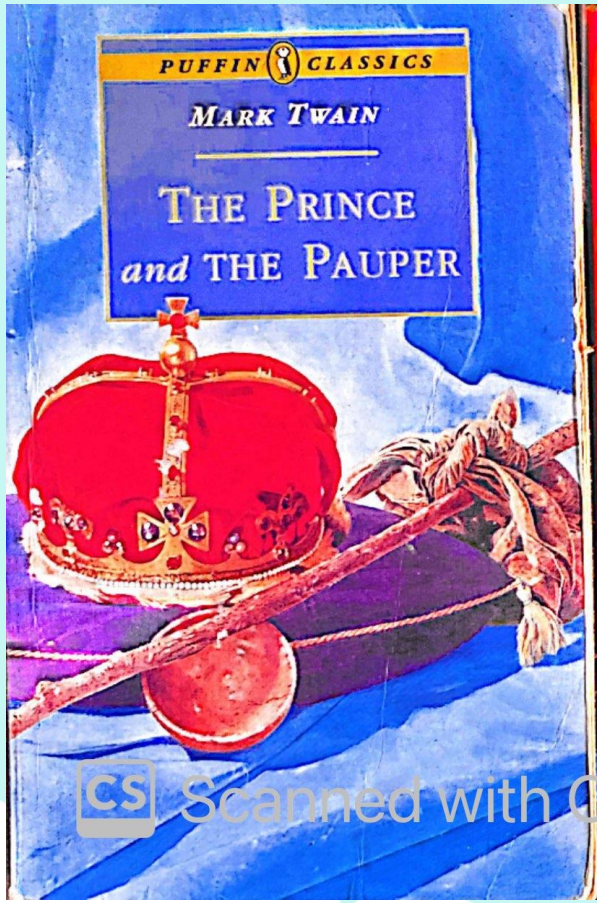
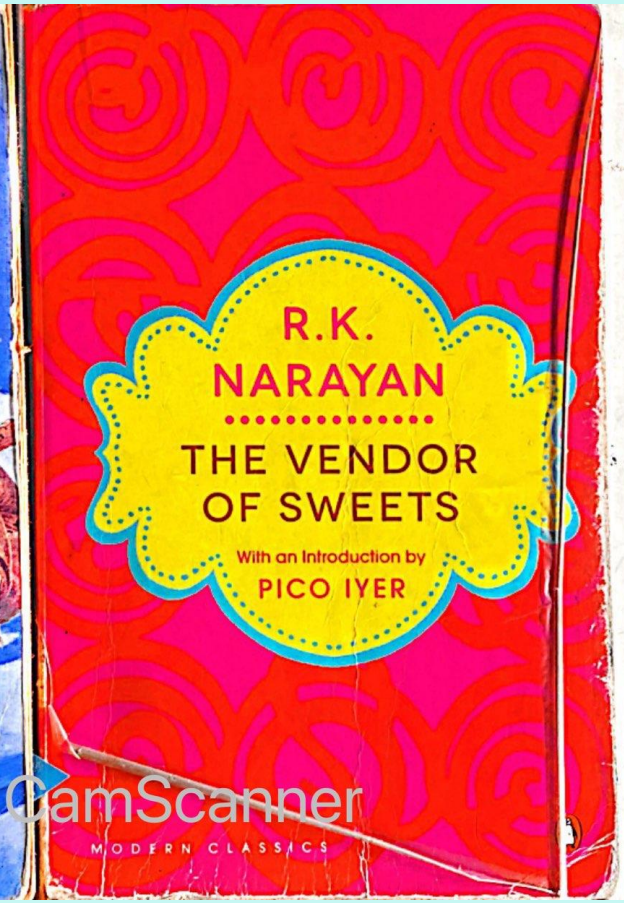
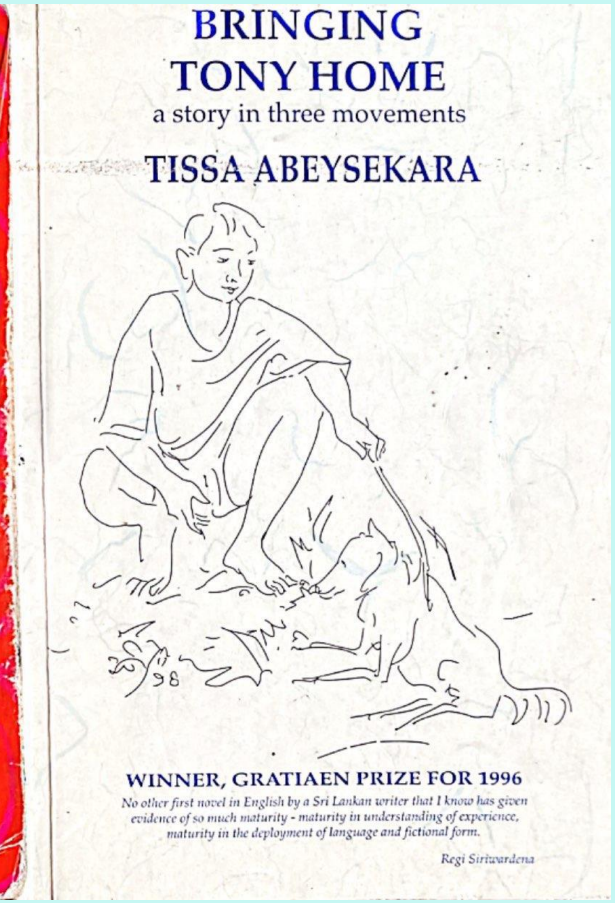
FICTION

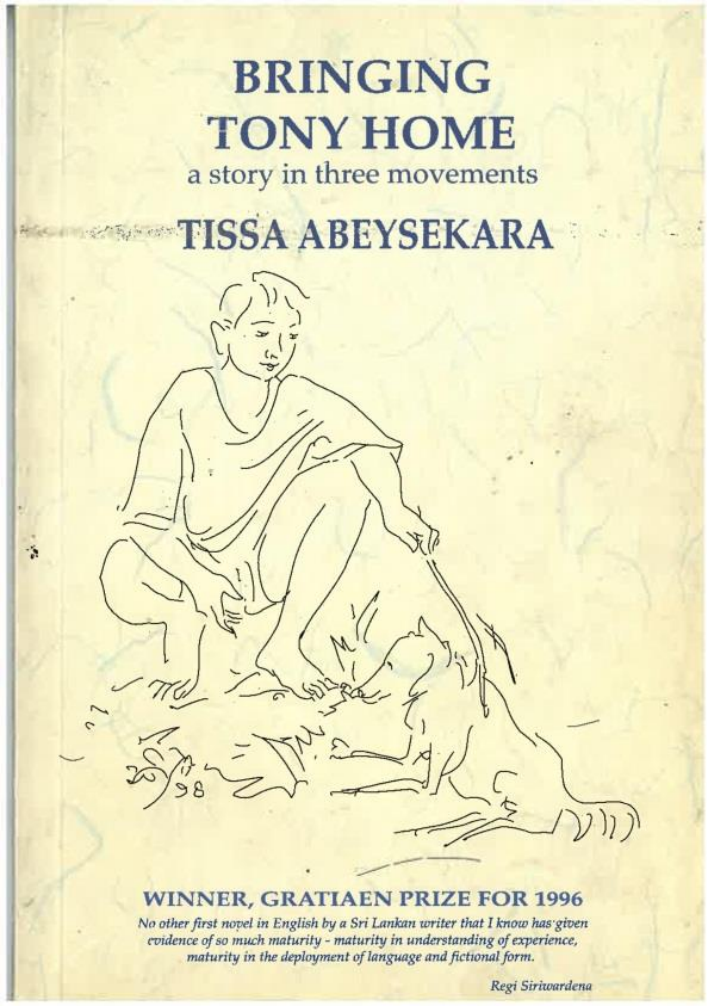






Scanned with CamScanner

BRINGING TONY HOME



A story in three movements

Prepared by Nirmala Kaluarachchi

Novella – (Less than 50,000 words)

Novel – (Usually long and complex sequence of events More than 50,000 words)

The Story runs back between 1940 – 1950

Elements of a novel/ novella

- Characters
- Setting
- Conflicts
- Plot
- Themes
- Dialogues
- Tone & Style

This story is closely related to the personal life of the narrator and the landscape he experienced as a child.

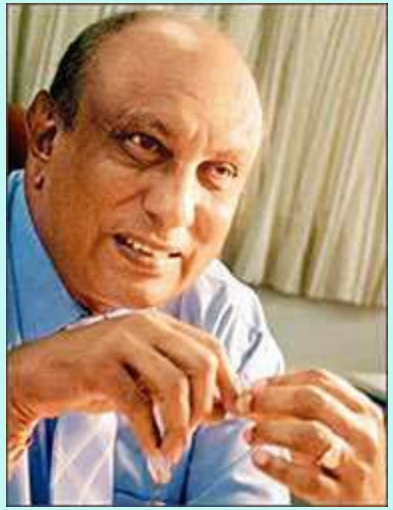
More events are recreated through memories and some are fictious. (Semi biographical)

About the Author

- **Tissa Ananda Abeysekara**

Born – 7th May 1939

Died – 18th April 2009



He was born in Maharagama.

- His parents belonged to middle class.
- His ancestral house situated in Havelock Town, Colombo.
- Occasional visits to “Greenlands”
- His father declared bankruptcy in 1949.
- He was not sent to school until 11 years old as he was a child of poor health.
- First he was tutored at home.
- Later he had his formal education at Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Pannipitiya.
- Multifaceted character/ Versatile character – (Screen writer, film director, actor, author/ a bilingual writer)

The Title

- "**Bringing Tony Home"** is ironical as his attempt was wasted.
- How economic condition had affected their relationship.

The Story consists of 3 movements.

1. The Sunset – His adult lite as a film director

1. Tony – Narrator as a 4 – 10 year old boy/ his teenage/ young age.

1. The little train – He goes back to his village as an adult to find traces of by gone era.

Episode 1 – Sunset

- The "Sunset" means the time period which is going to finish and when we think of the life of Tissa Abeysekara as a teenager he had been highly attracted towards the magnificence of the sunset.
- Whenever he glimpses the sunset, it is clear that he goes back to his past.

When we take the 1st paragraph, we see the following ideas.

- He finishes his teledrama in 1996 March
- He comes from Television Network Institute premises and he is on his way home.
- He sees the environment which he was passing Independence Square/ Race Course and the red sky.
- These things can unveil about a lot about the past as well as the writer's attraction towards this environment.

Second Part – how the tele-drama was shot. His efforts to recreate his past (He was nostalgic about his part)

Slow paced life

Baudhaloka Mawatha changed to Buller's Road to preserve identities. The government has changed these names into Sinhalese.

Giant "Mara" trees growing over centuries (When roads were constructed these trees had been planted by the foreigners in order to get shade)

In *Italics*, our attention focused towards his shooting.

Chapter 1 – The Sunset

- A day in March
- Evening setting sun
- Narrator drives out of Television Training Institute
- Places he passes
- Narrator's mind is shifting from **real to fantasy and fantasy to reality**

"Pitagamkarayo like a drug had got into my blood stream."

"My mind was a confusing montage of images constantly cross-cutting between past and present, fantasy and fact."

Chapter 2 – Tony

- Passing Ambagashathara Junction
- Man at the boutique lighting the petromax lamp

3rd Chapter – The Little Train

- He starts to go to school
- He becomes addicted to be in his own dream world with his memories of the dog companion
- The **sad whistle of the little train** was metaphorically compared to the **sad painful cry of the dog**.
- He revisits his childhood environment (After 46 years later)
- He wants to see the change occurred in the area.

Charges he notices →
- houses
- vegetation
- people
- friends

- He becomes nostalgic during his visit.
- He moves along the lanes of memories until he reaches the memories of Tony.

Significance of the places/people mentioned

He uses certain land marks, signs and symbols.

- **Independence Square** – It shows that Sri Lanka had been a British Colony and got independence in 1948 and the first independence celebration was held in the Independence square.

- **Fur trees** – Celebrate Christmas

(Suggesting 3 invasions in our country, Portuguese, Dutch and English. Our people embraced Christianity and they became Christians.)

- **Race Course** – Game the British's

They Suggest social cultural situation at that time.

Still we see shadows of Colonization prevailing in the country.

Description of his route

Statue of Sir Oliver Gunathilake (He represented both eras – Colonial era & the post colonial era)

We are made aware of the technical aspects of teledrama (dubbing, titles, delivering to client)

Rapid changes taken place

(Paddy fields were obstructed by Arpico showroom)

How he went to Egodawatta as a 10 year old boy (set the emotional backdrop to create the tele-drama)

The narrator is 3 years old → Family shifts →

(The residence in Havelock Town)

7 years old

A two storeyed big house in split levels in suburban village Depanama about 20Km away from Colombo.

↘

Smaller house in Egodawatta (about 6 miles away from the small house in Depanama)

↙

10 years old (1950 March)

Full house in Egodawatta (lives 20 years until he is 30 years old)

Colonial Period

- RAF Camp
- Western life style adapted by Sinhalese

(guitar, tennis court, caramel pudding Cargills, Rita, Anton Yardley lavender talcum powder, fir trees, race course, Castle street,) Sir Oliver Gunathilake

Post Colonial Period

- Ration books
- Slow urbanization
- Industrialization (Little train)
- Independence square,
- Bauddhaloka Mawatha, (*changes in names earlier Buller's Road*)

BMICH

Changes in the environment

- Beautiful panoramic view of the paddy field → Obstructed by Arpico Showroom
- Niyara → a by road
- RAF camp → University of Sri Jayawardenapura
- Macadam Road → Tar Road
- Sleepy little town (Maharagama) → Populated city

Rubber & paddy fields → Replaced by buildings and houses

Boralesgamuwa Town → Converted into a muddy hole

The little train → Changes into a bigger train

Changes occurred with the time

Socio – economical change within the country/ people.

Family changes from rich to poor

Narrator's mother changes from strict to lenient

Change and trauma faced by people.

- Economic Constrains (ration books)
- Economic implosion the narrator’s father faced (becoming poor)

Changes taken place in the narrator

A reserved child → Stubborn child → Playful, active school going teenager

↙

Reputed film producer

The Narrator as a Child

- Lonely
- Brave
- Courageous
- Found companionship in the dog as he lacked school mates.
- Later in life enjoyed life with village friends.
- Empathetic towards dog, and Ranal
- Grows into a responsible adult

Tony

- Victimized by human behaviour
- Capable of showing love & affection
- Well looked after but later abandoned and neglected
- Playful
- Intelligent & understands human behaviour
- Faithful

Other minor characters

Mr.Perera

Guneris

Mendis family

Sirisena

Ranal

Geera Atha

Rita

The Perera’s

Anton

Padmini

Mr. Jayakody

Piyasena, Jayasena

Jinadasa

Issues discussed in the novella

- Love/ affection Vs survival
- Guilt as a psychological condition
- One cannot escape from the past memories
- Changes – poverty, loss of wealth, loss of identity, loss of companions, loss of family bonds.
- Social classes
- Reality of life – fall from wealth to poverty
- Authority (parental authority, house owners)

Themes

1) Strong bond between man and animal

- Tony had lived for 7 years with the narrator

Tries even to get into the bus, when the family was moving away.

2) Charges occurred within the time (Socio – economic change/ change in people/ family changing from rich to poor/ narrator's mother)

3) The life of the people in the by – gone era

- Simple & unsophisticated/ slow paced life style
- Life is supported by ration cards
- He enjoys natural landscape in the past
- Likes his childhood spent with his village friends.
- As an adult he visits his village in the hope of meeting his friends.
- He recreates his past friends in the teledrama.

4) Relationship between children & parents

- formal mother is close to children, empathetic.
- father – more formal, distant, sometimes insensitive

5) Needs of a child

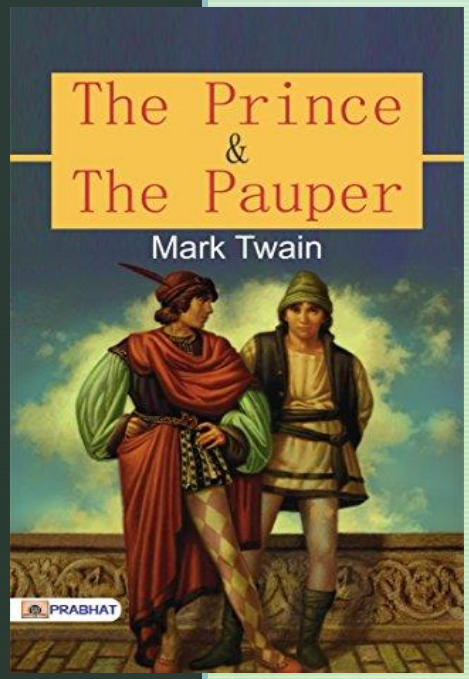
- Companionship
- Love of parents

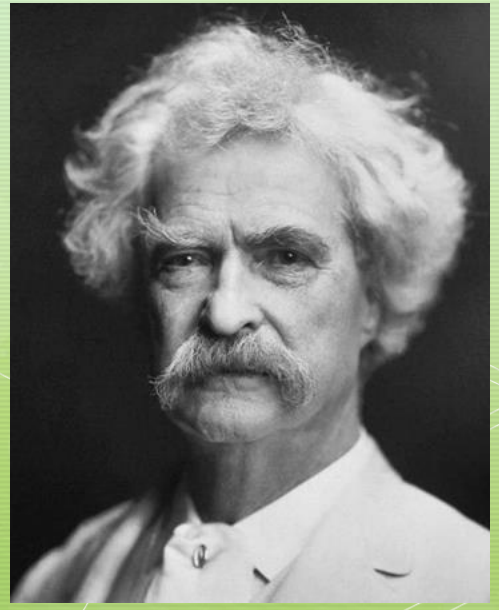
6) Human beings are nostalgic about their own past (Narrator loves to be in a dream world with the memories of his pet dog).All his past memories are related to Tony.

7) Human beings are unable to deal with separation

The Prince and the Pauper

-Mark Twain





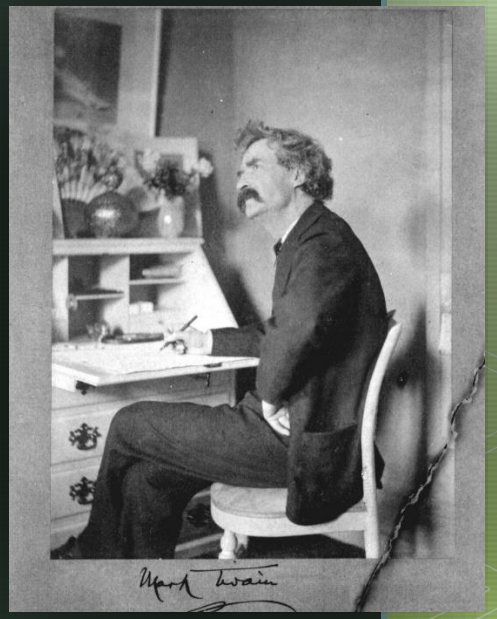
Prepared by Nirmala Kaluarachchi

Introduction

- ”The Prince and the Pauper” which was published in 1881, is a very popular children’s classic. It’s described as a fantasy fiction, fast-moving, adventurous, set against the background of the 16th century England.

The Author

- Mark Twain is a famous American writer whose real name is Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was born in 1835 and died in 1910. “The Adventure of Tom Sawyer” and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” stood out as his outstanding popular books.



The Historical Background

- **The historical background of the story is the Tudor Period in general and the latter part of the reign of king Henry VIII in particular.**
- The followings are an introduction to some of king Henry VIII's queens and children
  - **Queen Catherine of Arragon-** daughter Mary who came to be known as 'Blood Mary' for her cruelty. Catherine was divorced by the king after he established the church of England for this purpose.
  - **Anne Boleyn-** mother of Lady Elizabeth mentioned in the story (the little prince's sister). This queen was beheaded (Incidently Lady Elizabeth became one of the most popular and successful rulers of England, Queen Elizabth I).
  - **Jane Seymour** whose son is the joint- hero of this story (Prince Edward) – she died naturally after the little prince was born.
  - **Catherine Howard** who was beheaded.
  - **Catherine Parr** who survived the King and is referred to in the story as the queen ("Hast paid thy duty to the queen's majesty?" says lady Jane)
- **Jane Seymour's son Edward Tudor** was the only male baby that survived to fulfill Henry VIII's desire for a son.
- **He was born on the 12th October 1537 and became the king of England, Edward VI, at the age of nine but died on 6th July, at the age of sixteen.**

A Glance at the Characters

- **The Cantys**
  - The Cantys were an extremely poor family (paupers), uneducated, unemployed living in filth and squalor in a small section of a tenement building (Offal Court) in east London. They were beggars and the father John Canty was a thief. He treated his three children- Tom and his twin sisters fifteen-years-old Nan and Bet- with great cruelty “forcing them to beg but he couldn’t make them steal” There was also his old mother who was as cruel as Canty or worse.

- ## The Tudors
  - The Tudors were the ruling Royal family. The king Henry VIII was old and very sick and close to death. Edward Tudor was his only son and heir to the throne, and was being trained for kingship. He was a little boy the same age as Tom Canty and very much like him in looks.
  - Henry VIII's daughters' figure is very briefly in the story. Mary, the elder, is mentioned by the Prince as the sister who has forbidden her servants to smile and later Tom Canty in his role as king tells her to beg of God to give her a human heart. The other sister Lady Elizabth and the cousin Lady Jane Grey are seen in the story as Tom's playmates at the palace, while lady Elizabeth with her quick understanding and tact also proves to be a good helper and rescuer when Tom is at a loss as to how to act.
  - There is also the Earl of Hertford, the brother of Prince Edward's mother, Jane Seymour, who together with Lord St.John help Tom (as Prince Edward)to act correctly, in his role as Prince Edward presumably asuffering a mental upset.

Main characters

Edward Tudor

- Strong sense of justice, fearlessness and authoritative manner. (*“How dar’st thou use a poor lad like that ! …”)*
- Understanding, kindness and generosity.
- Whatever the circumstances, he maintains his royal dignity(*“ We forsooth! Follow thy trade- it befits thee. But I will not beg.”)*
- Outspoken and honest (at times his outspokenness could be dangerous)
- Has a great pluck of courage (which won the respect of even the uneducated rabble who stopped their abuse as a mark of respect.)
- Great sense of appreciation, strong affection, deep sense of gratitude

Tom Canty

- He bears a strong resemblance to the Prince
- Though he comes from an uneducated and bad environment, he is naturally intelligent and honest.
- Has become obsessed with royals and royal life and began to dream of royalty.
- His intelligence, natural ability to learn and adaptability helped him to survive the switching roles well.
- His sensitive nature, kindness and strong sense of right and wrong.

Becomes confident and begins to enjoy his position and the attention as the Prince.

Later becomes remorse as his life as a pretend prince became an ‘ordeal’ to him since he missed his old life.

Helps the Prince to prove his identity proving his honesty and loyalty.

- **Miles Hendon**
  - Miles Hendon figures prominently in the story as the brave, kind honest man who rescued the little Prince from the unruly mob in London, befriended and protected him and finally brought him back to London.
  - Hendon belonged to a noble family but had been deprived of what should have been his and is wicked brother.
  - But finally he gets back what should have been his and is knighted and made a peer of England, Earl of Kent, by King Edward VI who he had looked after so kindly thinking he was a little, mentally affected beggar boy.

Father Andrew and the Mad Hermit

- Father Andrew was a kind old priest who Henry VIII had driven out of his home with a pension of a few farthings a month's. As a result, he now lived at offal court. He taught Tom and later some other children too, to read, write and behave correctly. Tom enjoyed his stories, read his books, especially those about Royalty, learnt Latin, became throughly obsessed with Royalty, formed a Royal Court with his friends and yearned to see a real Prince. It was due to Father Andrew's teaching that Tom was able to survive and play the role of Prince when fate suddenly turned him into a Prince.
- The mad Hermit lived in a forest into which the prince ran to escape from John Canty and vagabonds. He called himself the archangel and declared he should really have been the Pope if Henry VIII had not formed a new church of his own. The little Prince saying he was the son of king Henry VIII infuriated the hermit who prepared to kill the prince in revenge after tying him up. Luckily Hendon found the Prince just on time, although he was really taken away by John Canty.

- **Humphrey Marlow**
  - Humphrey Marlow was a little twelve-year-old boy who was Prince Edward's 'Whipping Boy'. When the Prince did not do his studies properly it was considred necessary to punish him with a whipping. But the 'sacred person' of the prince was not be touched so the whipping was given to the Whipping Boy. Poor Humphrey was beaten and with his pay as the Whipping Boy he had to support himself and his sisters.

    "My back is my bread…. If it go idle I starve".

  - Tom (now acting as king) made Humphrey Marlow Hereditory Grand Whipping-Boy to the Royal House of Englad.

- The Tramps or Vagabonds
  - The tramps or vagabonds into whose company the little Prince happened to fall, were a large mixed gang of “gutter-scum, and ruffians” of both sexes. They included theives, criminals, beggars, old women, girls, babies those left crippled by inhuman punishements and those who had lost everything due to the cruel laws of the time. As opposed to Royalty and Nobility they were the uneducated, poverty-striken majority of society. John Canty too was one of them.

Objects / places appeared in the story

Prepared by Nirmala Kaluarachchi

London

London is the city in England where Tom Canty and Edward Tudor were born.

It was home to rich merchants and nobility who live in sumptuous mansions where as dirty and has narrow streets and many slums on another side.

The picture can't be displayed.

Offal Court

Offal Court is at the end of Pudding Lane in a very poor part of London where Tom lives.

It’s a place full of drunken quarrels and rioting, where many people are beggars and thieves.

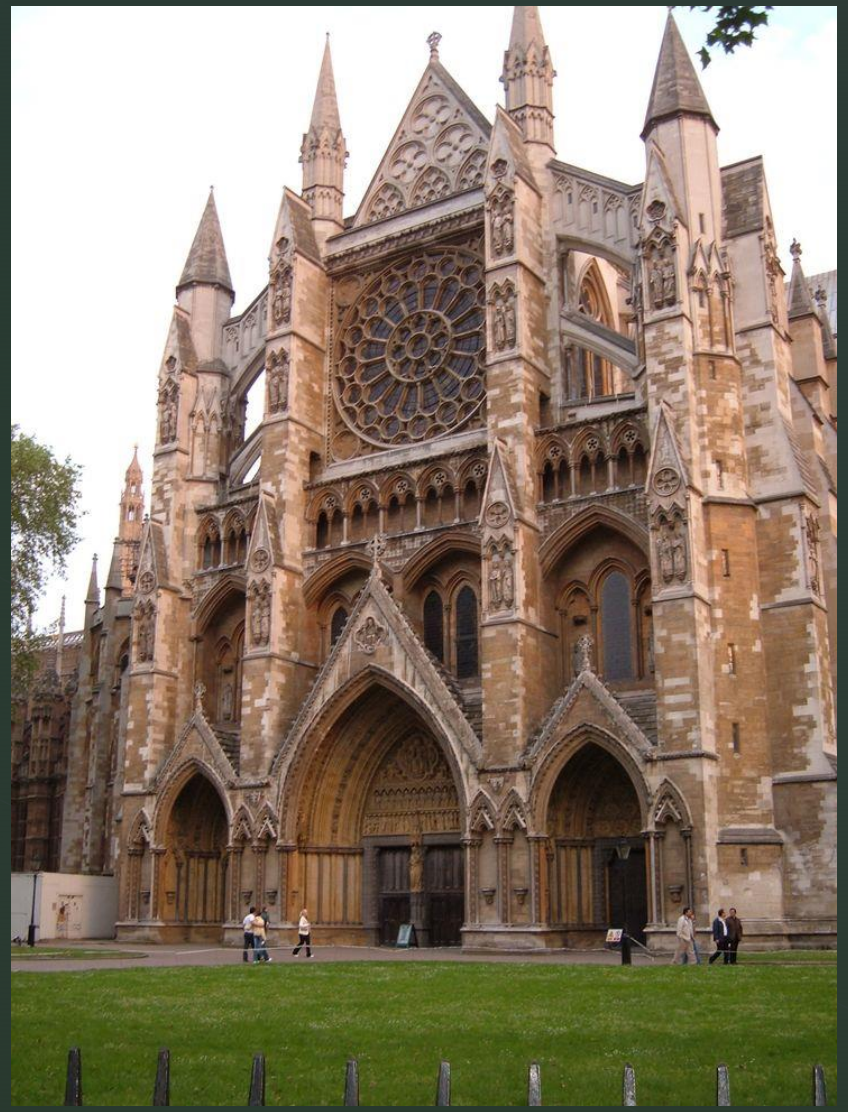
Tom’s house is a small, run-down tenement filled with many families crammed together in abject povery.

Westminster

Westminster is the palace where King Henry viii lives with his son, Edward Tudor.

The palace is protected by gates and sentinels.

Everyday people like Tom often stand outside Westminster's gates hoping for a glimpse of royalty.



London Bridge

London Bridge, which crosses the Thames, is closer to Tom's house in Offal Court.

London Bridge is a village all to itself, with everything people need to live.

The Thames

The Thames is the river that flows through London.

It fills with barges and boats during celebrations that precede the coronation of the young king.

Hendon Hall

This is the ancestral home of Miles Hendon. The estate has seventy rooms and before Miles left it ten years earlier, it had twenty-seven servants. Although this was stolen from Miles by his younger brother, Miles eventually gets it.

Christ’s Church

Christ's Church, also called Christ’s Hospital, is the ancient Grey Friar’s Church in London that was taken from monks by Henry viii, who made it a home for poor orphan children.

When Edward was wandering in the city, the children there mistreat him but he determines to provide the education along with food.

Cheapside

- Cheapside is a village near Tom's home where he goes to the fair sometimes, and engages in activities around the Maypole, and occasionally sees a military parade in which someone is being carried to the Tower for punishment.

Smithside

- Another village near Tom's home where he once saw four people who were accused of witchcraft burned at the stake.

Charing Village

A LOVELY PLACE Tom finds during his walk to Westminster. It has a beautiful palace owned by a cardinal and a majestic cross created by a king long ago.

Southwalk

A village towards which Hugo and John Canty go as they lure young Edward away from the protection of Miles Hendon. In a barn within a forest beyond Southwalk, Hugo and John reveal their deceit as they take Edward into captivity.

The Great Seal

The Great seal is a device to stamp the King's authority on documents to make the official. Henry viii needs the seal for the paperwork that authorizes execution of Duke of Norfolk, but Edward had put the seal somewhere in his room before he left the palace, Edward's memory of where he hid the great Seal ultimately becomes the proof he needed to prove his rightful heirship to the throne.

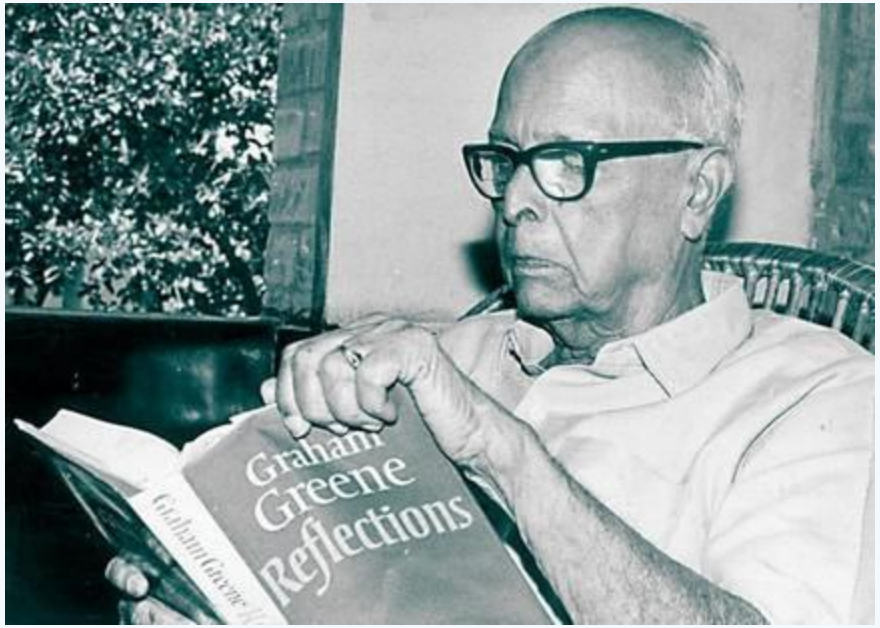
Themes

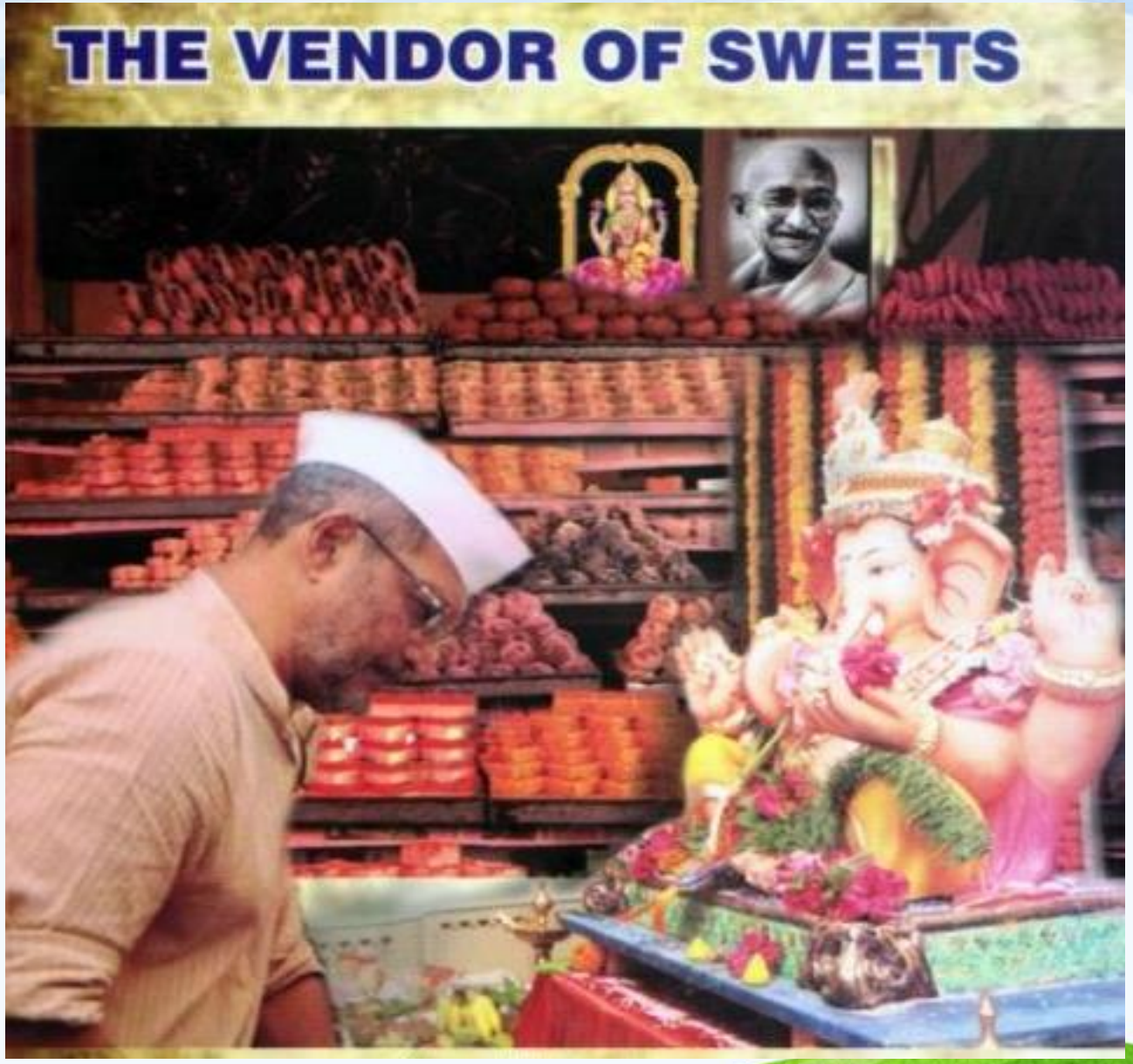
- The contrast between the lives of the rich and the lives of the poor.
- A person of noble birth and the one of low birth are not essentially different.(The determining factors are intelligence, experience, environment and a person's inborn natural qualities.)
- The human trait of being dissatisfied with what one has and yearning for something different.
- Importance of adapting to one's circumstances.
- The importance of education.

Vendor of Sweets

R.K.Narayan.

Prepared by Nirmala Kaluarachchi





Prepared by Nirmala Kaluarachchi

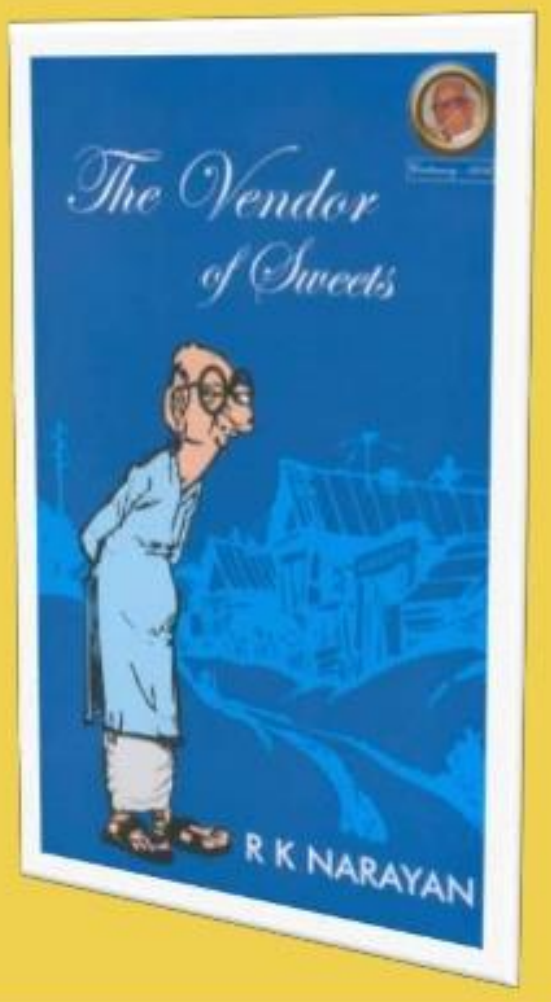
Prepared by Nirmala Kaluarachchi

Malgudi is a fictional town located in South India in the novels and short stories of R.K. Narayan. It forms the setting for most of Narayan's works. Starting with his first novel, *Swami and Friends* (1935), all but one of his fifteen novels and most of his short stories take place here. Malgudi was a portmanteau of two Bangalore localities - Malleshwaram and Basavanagudi.

Narayan has successfully portrayed Malgudi as a microcosm of India. Malgudi was created, as mentioned in Malgudi Days, by Sir Fredrick Lawley, a fictional British officer in the 19th century by combining and developing a few villages. The character of Sir Fredrick Lawley may have been based on Arthur Lawley, the Governor of Madras in 1905.[1] But now MP of Shimoga (Lok Sabha constituency) has requested Indian Railways to rename Arasalu Railway Station a small station on Shimoga-Talaguppa railway line to Malgudi Railway station. (Wikipedia)

Introduction

- "The Vendor of Sweets (1967) is a novel written by R. K. Narayan
- R. K. Narayan (10 October 1906 – 13 May 2001), was an Indian writer, best known for his works set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi.



Plot Overview

- Jagan, a 55 year old sweets vendor, is an honest, hardworking and humble resident of Malgudi. He is a staunch believer in Gandhian ideologies of simple living. Despite owning a sweetmeat shop, he himself eats food without salt/sugar. His only son Mali is the apple of his eye. Jagan lost his wife when Mali was a little boy and ever since, has tried his best to keep his son happy and fulfill all his little desires. But the nervous father is faced with awkwardness and embarrassment while communicating with his teenage son. The Gandhian ideologies don't seem to go well with the young blood. On the other hand, the sky-high ambitions of the son are beyond understanding of the father.

Prepared by Mr. Walia Education.com

Chapter 1 (This chapter is expository in nature)

Introduction of Jagan

- ✓ Vendor of sweets-has staff of four
- ✓ Widower of about sixty
- ✓ Appearance –slight, elfish , brown skin was translucent , chin was covered with whitening bristles ,wore loose jibba
- ✓ Follows the Gandhian principles though in his own eccentric manner
  - ★ felt a sentimental thrill receiving Rs 5 in exchange of home spun yarn
  - ★ Excursions to remote villages to get leather for his sandals
- ✓ Religious
- ✓ Deceives government (Income tax officers)by maintaining two ledgers

We are told of his son , Mali who would play a crucial role in the novel and would be the cause of his undoing.

- Chapter 2 – The chapter throws further light on the character of Jagan (His Gandhian principles, about his wife , about spacious house in which he lived)

- Chapter 3 -We get an idea of the central theme of the novel – The ambition of Mali to become a writer creates endless problems to Jagan / Father – son conflict

- Chapter 4 – Mali is the ruin of Jagan-He is the cause of his suffering and anguish. He does not take his doting father into confidence , He does not seek father's help, steals his money and goes to America ,against his wishes ,causing him intense suffering

- Chapter 5 -Tells much about Mali and America and Jagan's troubles are on the increase

- Chapter 6- An Important chapter-Further light is thrown on the characters, both of Grace and Mali.Jagan's troubles, cares and worries are increasing.
  The father-son conflict –**the conflict of the generations** is further developed. Jagan's talk of Gandhian principles and his study of the Gita make him appear a hypocrite . Suspense is skillfully created here.

- Chapter 7- Change in Jagan

- Chapter 8- Role of bearded man in Jagan's life and possible retreat for Jagan hints at his troubles and his desire to escape from them

- Chapter 9- Parental authority has been weakened. Jagan has no hold over his son or his daughter- in-law. The father-son conflict has arisen. It is evident that Mali would be the ruin of his father.

- Chapter 10- Grace's shocking revealing of not being married to Mali Cousin's role as a good friend.

- Pressure being exerted on Jagan. Since Jagan has made his position clear, there seemed to be a barrier between him and other two. Jagan got to know that Mali and Grace were not married.

- Chapter 11- Jagan in a reminiscent mood.We get to know about his past – his boyhood, how his family separated him especially after Grace's arrival. Jagan's avoidance of "evil rays"

- **Chapter 12**
  Jagan is now an anguished soul, the conduct of his only son is unbearable to him and his thoughts turn naturally to his past. The entire chapter is in the form of retrospective narration through the sensations floating through Jagan's mind. (It is only in this chapter we get a clear picture of Jagan's wife, of her relatives and of the love of Jagan for her. The character of his parents also has been developed .)

- **Chapter 13**
  Jagan is a tortured soul , because his son is leading a sinful life. All his money is of no use for him and he tries to find some comfort only through a withdrawal from his present state.

Characterisation

Characters

- **Jagan**: The protagonist. A follower of Gandhi in his youth, he is now a vendor of sweets.
- **Mali**: Jagan's son. Blame his father for his mother's death. After living in America he dislikes his hometown and wants to "modernize" it.
- **The cousin**: The Man about-town, he claims his cousinhood with the whole town. he proves to be helpful to Jagan in creating a communicative bridge.
- **Grace**: a half American half Korean girl Mali brings home, claiming she is his wife. She works like a catalyst between the two cultures, and tries to integrate into the Indian culture she has entered.

- Jagan is a queer combination of strength and weakness, tradition and contemporary, the spiritual and the mundane, an average man on the whole.
- A staunch follower of Gandhi
- Simple living: high thinking
- A hypocrite
- Money minded and dishonest

(shrewd businessman)

- National consciousness

Jagan

Loving father

Cowardly father

Extremist

- Brings forth the weaknesses of Jagan through the character of Cousin.
- Acts as the mediator of Jagan and Mali.
- The representative of common humanity
- Patient listener
- Helpful
- Jagan's saviour

Cousin

"Man about town"

" Man of caution"

" Flattery is his accredited credit"

Grace and Ambika

- Grace
- A catalytic agent
- Modern
- Intense of her interest in Mali's success
- Tactful
- Adapts to situations easily
- Not married but living together

- Ambika
- Her invisible influence
- A proud mother
- Conventional
- Model of goodness and courtesy and cheerfulness generally, but she could lash with her tongue when her temper was roused
- Married with fanfare and a dowry

- Proud and arrogant
- Corrupted
- Disregards traditions and culture
- Blind devotion towards western culture
- Demanding
- Selfish
- Deceitful
- Spoilt

Mali

The invisible barrier

Failure to write the novel

Steals money

Goes to America

His exorbitant demand

His fall

Jagan and Mali

Jagan

- Represents the older generation
- Idealistic view point
- Conserves conventional and traditional things(old fashioned, orthodox)
- Lives in his own world – not aware of what is happening beyond it
- Resistant to modern change and tries to remain unchanged
- Prefers trouble free life thus leading a monotonous life
- Not willing to take up challengers
- Frugal and sparing in everything

Mali

- Represents the modern youth
- Materialistic
- Embraces the new trends and prefers to be exposed to modernity to keep pace with challenging world
- Criticizes and rejects the old as old fashioned and misfits to the new world
- Eager to get away and embark on the world outside
- Welcomes changes
- Prefers exciting life style
- Likes to take up challengers and experiment new things
- Wasteful, not clever in using money

Themes

- Spirituality Vs Materialism
- Materialism
- Tradition Vs Modernity (Eastern Vs Western conflict)
- Modernity
- Conflict between the old and the young