



# The Guide by R.K.Narayan



## A study of the Novelist

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## The beginning of his career

R.K Narayan is regarded as one of the greatest of Indian writers writing in English. He is the most artistic of the Indo-English fiction writers particularly after Indian Independence. His sole aim is to impart aesthetic satisfaction and not to use his art as a medium of propaganda or to serve some social purpose. The novelist has never been a bright student. He failed in both high school and intermediate examinations. He could get his degree only when he was twenty-four years of age. His failures at the school and the college level have made him shy, reserve and diffident. As a result, he becomes an introvert and loves to live alone.

# His Achievement

The Guide fetched for him the Sahitya Akademi award for the year 1960. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1964. The University of Leeds conferred on him the Honorary D.Litt in 1967. He has been included in the Writers and Their Works series being published by the British Council. He was the only Indian so far to have achieved this distinction. He visited U.S.A in 1956 on an invitation from the Rockefeller Foundation. Many of his stories and sketches have been broadcast by the B.B.C, a rare achievement again. His works have been published both in England and the U.S.A and in both these countries he has enjoyed wide popularity. In America, he is regarded next only to Faulkner and Graham Greene. His works are a true replica of his character and personality.

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# **His bent of mind**

R.K Narayan is one of the greatest of Indian writers of English fiction. He is a novelist who has no axe to grind. He is the rare example of a pure artist. He is one who writes for the sake of art and not out of any ulterior motive. That is why his popularity has been worldwide and lasting. His works have been translated into a number of languages of the world and his reputation as an artist has been steady and rising.



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His deliberate detachment from the social and political unrest of the time distinguishes him from his other contemporary novelists. He affirms his belief and says:-

“Don’t forget I am only a fiction writer and not a historian philosopher or social scientist. My habit is to take things as they are. Too much analysis proves a handicap to my Understanding. It is essential that I should maintain my objective”.

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He does not believe into digging the burials of history and opines in this way:-

“One should not revive history blindly and stir up the bitterness of other days. It serves no purpose. Let us forget the past and see what we may do now”.

R.K.Narayan, thus, decides to proceed on his own path of creating artistic genre.His achievement as a writer is no less than other great writers of the world.

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