

Indian Writing in English PYQ 2018

Q1 a Discuss the ending of Swami and Friends.

Ans. The ending of R.K. Narayan's novel "Swami and Friends" is a bittersweet culmination of the protagonist's journey of self-discovery and the realization of the harsh realities of life. The ending highlights the theme of growing up and the loss of innocence, while also hinting at the possibility of resilience and hope.

In the final chapters, Swami, the young schoolboy, finds himself caught in the midst of the political turmoil of the Swadeshi movement. He is torn between his loyalty to his friends and the allure of the freedom fighters' cause. Swami's involvement in the movement leads to a series of challenging and disillusioning experiences that shake his idealized view of the world. He witnesses the violence and chaos surrounding the movement, and it becomes increasingly clear to him that the world is far more complicated and harsh than he had imagined.

The climax of the novel occurs when Swami's beloved classmate and friend Rajam, who represents Swami's innocence and carefree spirit, is killed during a confrontation with the police. This tragic event marks a turning point in Swami's life. He is confronted with the reality of death and the loss of a dear friend, which shatters his childhood innocence. The ending reflects the profound impact of this event on Swami's character and worldview.

In the final scenes, Swami's inner turmoil is depicted as he struggles to come to terms with the loss and the subsequent changes in his life. He realizes that his childhood has come to an end, and he must confront the challenges and responsibilities of adulthood. The ending captures the poignant moment of Swami's transformation, as he grapples with the harsh realities of the world and the loss of his friend.

At the same time, there is a glimmer of hope and resilience in the closing lines of the novel. Swami is determined to move forward and face the future, albeit with a sense of loss and a newfound maturity. The ending suggests that although Swami has lost his innocence, he has gained a deeper understanding of the world and himself.

Overall, the ending of "Swami and Friends" is a poignant portrayal of the loss of childhood innocence and the harsh realities of life. It highlights the transformative journey of the protagonist and the challenges he faces as he navigates the complexities of growing up. The ending leaves readers with a sense of both melancholy and resilience, emphasizing the universal theme of coming-of-age and the enduring spirit of the human experience.

OR

Q1 b The Education system in Swami and Friends.

Ans. In R.K. Narayan's novel "Swami and Friends," the education system plays a significant role in shaping the experiences and challenges faced by the young protagonist, Swaminathan (Swami), and

his friends. The novel offers a critical examination of the educational system prevalent during the British colonial era in India and the impact it has on the lives of students.

One of the key aspects highlighted in the novel is the rigid and often oppressive nature of the education system. Swami and his friends are subjected to strict discipline, rote memorization, and a focus on academic achievements rather than holistic learning. The teachers are portrayed as authoritative figures who prioritize discipline and conformity over nurturing individuality and creativity. This can be seen through the character of the headmaster, Mr. Ebenezer, who is known for his strict and harsh disciplinary measures.

The curriculum in Swami's school is predominantly centered around Western subjects and English literature, reflecting the colonial influence on education. The emphasis on English language and literature is portrayed as a means for upward social mobility and a measure of intelligence and success. However, for Swami and his friends who struggle with English, it becomes a source of frustration and alienation. The novel depicts the challenges faced by students who are forced to learn in a language and educational system that is disconnected from their cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Furthermore, the education system in the novel perpetuates a sense of hierarchy and discrimination. Swami's school is divided into different sections based on social class, with the English section being perceived as superior to the Vernacular section. This division reinforces social hierarchies and discrimination among the students, leading to a sense of inferiority and resentment.

The portrayal of the education system in "Swami and Friends" reflects the broader critique of colonial education prevalent during that era. R.K. Narayan highlights the shortcomings and limitations of an education system that prioritizes conformity, rote learning, and the imposition of a foreign language and culture. The novel suggests that such an education system fails to cater to the needs and aspirations of Indian students and stifles their creativity and individuality.

However, it is important to note that the novel also portrays the value of education as a means for personal growth and development. Despite the challenges and flaws of the education system, Swami and his friends still strive to excel academically and find a sense of purpose in their studies. The novel raises questions about the purpose of education and the need for a more inclusive and culturally relevant approach to learning.

Overall, the education system depicted in "Swami and Friends" serves as a backdrop against which the struggles and growth of the young characters are portrayed. It offers a critique of the oppressive and discriminatory aspects of colonial education while acknowledging the value and potential of education in shaping individual lives.

Q2 a In 'A Poem for Mother' Robin S. Ngangom deploys the figure of mother both as a metaphor and as a looking glass. Discuss.

Ans. In Robin S. Ngangom's poem "A Poem for Mother," the figure of the mother is employed both as a metaphor and as a looking glass, offering insights into the multifaceted nature of motherhood and the complex relationship between the speaker and their mother.

Firstly, the figure of the mother is used as a metaphor throughout the poem. The speaker compares their mother to various elements of nature, such as a tree, a river, and a mountain. This metaphorical

depiction highlights the strength, stability, and nurturing qualities associated with the archetype of motherhood. The mother becomes a symbol of resilience and unwavering support, embodying the nurturing and protective essence of nature itself.

Additionally, the mother is portrayed as a looking glass, serving as a reflection of the speaker's identity and experiences. The speaker contemplates how their mother's eyes, words, and actions have shaped their perception of the world and influenced their sense of self. The mother becomes a mirror, reflecting the speaker's emotions, memories, and struggles. The looking glass aspect of the mother figure emphasizes the deep connection between the speaker and their mother, where the mother becomes a lens through which the speaker understands themselves and their place in the world.

Furthermore, the metaphorical and reflective qualities of the mother figure in the poem highlight the transformative power of motherhood. The speaker acknowledges the sacrifices and hardships their mother has endured, and through this recognition, they also acknowledge their own growth and transformation. The mother becomes a catalyst for personal development and self-realization, guiding the speaker on their journey of understanding and self-discovery.

The use of the mother figure as both a metaphor and a looking glass underscores the complexity and depth of the mother-child relationship. It illustrates the intricate interplay between the maternal role as a source of strength and nurturing, and the role of the mother as a reflective figure that shapes the child's perception of themselves and the world around them. The poet explores the profound influence of the mother's presence, words, and actions on the speaker's development, while also emphasizing the reciprocal nature of the relationship, where the speaker's experiences and growth are intertwined with their mother's own journey.

Overall, in "A Poem for Mother," Robin S. Ngangom employs the figure of the mother both as a metaphor and as a looking glass to delve into the intricacies of motherhood and the transformative power of the mother-child bond. The poem celebrates the strength, nurturing, and reflective qualities of the mother figure, highlighting its significance in shaping the speaker's identity and understanding of the world.

OR

Q2 b With reference to Nissim Ezekiel's 'The Night of the Scorpion' discuss the tension between faith and reason.

Ans. In Nissim Ezekiel's poem "**The Night of the Scorpion**," the tension between faith and reason is explored through the portrayal of a superstitious belief system in the face of a traumatic event. The poem delves into the clash between the irrationality of religious beliefs and the rationality of scientific reasoning, ultimately questioning the boundaries and limitations of both.

The poem narrates an incident in which the speaker's mother is stung by a scorpion, and the entire village responds with a collective effort to help her. The villagers resort to various superstitious rituals and beliefs, such as chanting, praying, and seeking divine intervention, to alleviate the mother's suffering. This illustrates the strong influence of faith and traditional beliefs in the community, even in the face of a natural disaster.

On the other hand, the speaker, representing the voice of reason and skepticism, observes the scene with a more rational perspective. The speaker describes the events with a detached tone, highlighting the contrast between the fervent belief of the villagers and their superstitious rituals, and the speaker's own skepticism towards such practices. This tension between faith and reason is evident in lines such as "They searched the village and returned with candles and with lanterns/Throwing giant scorpion shadows on the sun-baked walls" and "My mother only said/Thank God the scorpion picked on me/And spared my children."

The clash between faith and reason is further emphasized through the contrasting attitudes towards suffering. The villagers perceive the mother's suffering as a result of some divine plan or punishment, seeking solace in their religious beliefs and rituals. In contrast, the speaker views the situation through a more rational lens, recognizing the natural cause of the scorpion's sting and acknowledging the role of medical intervention in providing relief.

Ultimately, the poem raises questions about the limits of faith and reason. It highlights the complexity of human nature and the different ways people cope with trauma and adversity. While faith offers comfort, unity, and a sense of purpose, reason seeks to understand the natural world and find practical solutions. The tension between these two forces is evident in the contrasting responses to the scorpion's attack.

"The Night of the Scorpion" does not provide a definitive answer to the tension between faith and reason but invites readers to reflect on their own beliefs and the complexities of human response to challenging situations. It underscores the ongoing dialogue between these two ways of understanding the world and invites readers to consider the potential for harmony or conflict between them.

Q3 a Using appropriate examples from the story The Two Lady Rams. comment on the use of mock-heroic style to satirise Sir Jhinda Ram and his wives.

Ans. In "The Two Lady Rams" by Khushwant Singh, the author employs the mock-heroic style to satirize the character of Sir Jhinda Ram and his wives, highlighting their exaggerated sense of self-importance and their comical attempts at emulating the aristocratic lifestyle.

The mock-heroic style is characterized by the use of elevated language and epic conventions to depict trivial or mundane subjects. In this story, Sir Jhinda Ram, a wealthy businessman, and his two wives, Ram Katori and Raj Katori, aspire to be seen as the epitome of high society and nobility. However, their pretensions are exposed through the use of satirical devices and exaggerated language.

One example of the mock-heroic style is seen in the portrayal of Sir Jhinda Ram's grandiose gestures and his desire for recognition. The narrator describes how Sir Jhinda Ram would ride his horse in a flamboyant manner through the town, pretending to be a noble knight. This over-the-top display of supposed chivalry is a satirical commentary on his inflated ego and his desire to be admired.

Another example is the depiction of the two wives, Ram Katori and Raj Katori, who consider themselves to be aristocratic ladies despite their humble backgrounds. They go to great lengths to imitate the lifestyle of the elite, adopting affected accents, dressing in elaborate attire, and indulging

in pretentious activities. The author uses humor and irony to expose their misguided attempts at sophistication, highlighting the contrast between their self-perception and their actual social standing.

Through the mock-heroic style, the story satirizes the characters' attempts to elevate themselves to a higher social status. The use of exaggerated language, heightened imagery, and ironic tone serves to deflate their self-importance and expose the ridiculousness of their aspirations. The contrast between the characters' inflated sense of self and their actual circumstances creates a comedic effect, inviting readers to laugh at their absurdity.

Overall, the use of the mock-heroic style in "The Two Lady Rams" serves as a satirical tool to mock Sir Jhinda Ram and his wives, exposing their pretensions and showcasing the contrast between their self-proclaimed aristocracy and their actual social status. The exaggerated language and humorous tone contribute to the overall satirical effect, inviting readers to reflect on the folly of aspiring to a higher social status without genuine merit or substance.

OR

Q3 b Murad's magazine in 'In Custody'.

Ans. In Anita Desai's novel "In Custody," Murad's magazine plays a significant role in the narrative, symbolizing both his aspirations and the clash between tradition and modernity.

Murad, the main character of the novel, is a middle-aged Urdu poet and teacher who dreams of preserving the dying art of Urdu poetry. He believes that his magazine, named 'Mirage,' will be a platform to promote Urdu literature and revive its glory. Murad sees the magazine as a means to preserve the cultural heritage of Urdu and counter the encroachment of English language and literature.

The magazine 'Mirage' represents Murad's hopes and ideals. He invests his time, energy, and limited resources into its creation, gathering contributions from poets and writers, conducting interviews, and organizing events to promote Urdu poetry. Through the magazine, Murad aims to bridge the gap between the past and the present, striving to keep Urdu alive and relevant in a changing society.

However, the magazine also symbolizes the challenges and conflicts faced by Murad in his pursuit. The name 'Mirage' itself suggests an illusion or a mirage, hinting at the elusive nature of his dreams and the uncertain outcome of his efforts. Despite his dedication, Murad faces numerous obstacles, including financial constraints, lack of support from the younger generation, and the shifting literary landscape.

Furthermore, the magazine becomes a site of tension between tradition and modernity. Murad's focus on preserving Urdu poetry represents a longing for the past and a resistance to the dominance of English and Western influences. He is often seen as clinging to outdated traditions, which puts him at odds with the younger generation who are more inclined towards modernity and the English language.

In the end, Murad's magazine 'Mirage' becomes a symbol of both his aspirations and his struggles. It reflects his deep love for Urdu literature and his desire to preserve its heritage. However, it also

reflects the challenges and conflicts faced by individuals like Murad, who find themselves caught between tradition and modernity, and the difficulties of sustaining cultural legacies in a rapidly changing world.

Overall, the magazine in 'In Custody' serves as a powerful symbol, representing Murad's hopes, struggles, and the clash between tradition and modernity. It highlights the complexities of cultural preservation and the challenges faced by individuals who strive to keep alive their cherished traditions in the face of social, linguistic, and generational changes.

Q4 a "I heard rumours of what was happening in the caravan but I closed my ears." What was happening in the caravan? How does the story The Free Radio by Salman Rushdie produce a critique of the policies of the Indian State during the Emergency?

Ans. In the story "The Free Radio" by Salman Rushdie, the specific events happening in the caravan are left to the reader's interpretation, as the narrator mentions only hearing rumors but purposefully closing their ears to avoid knowing the details. This intentional ambiguity adds to the overall theme and critique of the story.

"The Free Radio" serves as a critique of the policies of the Indian State during the Emergency period (1975-1977), a time of political repression and censorship. The story follows the life of Ramani, a poor, illiterate man who comes across a free radio as a gift from a generous neighbor. With the radio, Ramani gains access to a world of knowledge, entertainment, and ideas, which he eagerly shares with his community.

However, the story takes a darker turn when Ramani becomes a target of the state authorities due to his unauthorized broadcasting activities. The radio, which symbolizes freedom of expression and access to information, becomes a threat to the state's control over the media and dissemination of information. The authorities view Ramani's actions as subversive and try to silence him.

The mention of the caravan and the rumors allude to the state's repressive actions during the Emergency. The caravan may represent a symbol of the state's machinery, its surveillance, and its suppression of dissent. By choosing not to disclose the specifics of what is happening in the caravan, Rushdie emphasizes the fear and intimidation faced by the people, the climate of secrecy, and the deliberate silencing of voices that dared to challenge the state's policies.

The story's critique of the Indian State's policies during the Emergency is achieved through various literary techniques and themes. The character of Ramani, an ordinary man who finds joy and empowerment through the radio, represents the potential of free expression and the power of information. The state's efforts to control and suppress this freedom highlight the oppressive nature of the government's actions.

Additionally, Rushdie's use of magical realism, humor, and irony in the story serves to expose the absurdity and contradictions of the state's policies. The authorities' reaction to Ramani's unauthorized broadcasting is exaggerated and disproportionate, reflecting the state's fear of dissent and its desperate attempts to maintain control.

Overall, "The Free Radio" produces a critique of the policies of the Indian State during the Emergency by portraying the suppression of freedom of expression and the intimidation faced by individuals who challenge the state's authority. The story raises questions about the role of the

media, the importance of free speech, and the impact of censorship on society, all while weaving a narrative that combines humor, irony, and a sense of rebellion against oppressive power structures.

OR

Q4 b " Mother did not believe he wore his sudra and kusti anymore, she would be very surprised if he remembered any of the prayers; when she had asked him I he needed new sudras he said not to take any trouble because the Zoroastrian society of Ontario

imported them from Bombay for their members..." Referring to the above excerpt, discuss the anxiety experiences of Mother and Father regarding the Parsi identity of their son in the story Swimming Lesson.

Ans. The excerpt from "Swimming Lessons" highlights the anxiety experienced by the mother and father regarding the Parsi identity of their son, who has moved abroad. It depicts a sense of concern and doubt about whether their son maintains his religious and cultural practices while living outside of their homeland.

The mother's disbelief that her son still wears his sudra (sacred undergarment) and kusti (sacred thread) indicates her doubt about his adherence to Parsi religious customs. She questions whether he remembers any of the prayers associated with these rituals. This disbelief suggests a fear of their son's potential disconnection from his religious heritage and the erosion of their Parsi identity in a foreign land. The mother's surprise at her son's supposed lack of adherence suggests an underlying anxiety about the preservation of their cultural and religious traditions.

On the other hand, the father's response when asked about the son's need for new sudras adds another layer to their anxiety. He dismisses the idea, stating that the Zoroastrian society in Ontario imports the garments from Bombay for their members. This response implies that the father is aware of the challenges his son faces in maintaining his Parsi identity abroad. The fact that they import sudras from Bombay indicates a conscious effort to sustain their religious customs despite living outside their homeland. The father's response reflects the anxiety of the parents in ensuring that their son remains connected to his Parsi roots, even if they are physically distant.

These anxieties expressed by the parents in the excerpt reflect their concerns about the preservation of their son's Parsi identity. They worry that the son might be assimilating into the foreign culture and potentially neglecting or forgetting his religious practices. The mother's doubt and the father's attempt to address the issue by importing religious garments highlight their desire for their son to maintain a strong Parsi identity.

Overall, the excerpt portrays the anxieties of the mother and father regarding the Parsi identity of their son in "Swimming Lessons." It demonstrates their concern about the potential loss or dilution of religious and cultural practices in a foreign environment. Their questions and responses reflect their underlying fears and the importance they place on preserving their Parsi heritage, showcasing the complexities and challenges of maintaining a cultural and religious identity outside of their homeland.

Q5 a Swami and Friends is a depiction of child psychology. Discuss.

Ans. Swami and Friends, written by R.K. Narayan, indeed offers a compelling depiction of child psychology through its exploration of the protagonist's inner world, emotions, and struggles. The novel provides valuable insights into the complexities of a child's mind and showcases the challenges, dilemmas, and growth experienced during childhood.

One of the key aspects of child psychology depicted in the novel is the formation and evolution of Swami's identity. Swami, the main character, is portrayed as a typical ten-year-old boy navigating the world around him. The novel delves into his thoughts, desires, fears, and conflicts, offering readers a glimpse into the intricate workings of a child's mind. Swami's journey of self-discovery, his search for identity, and his attempts to fit into society are all reflective of the psychological development that children undergo.

Furthermore, Swami's relationships with his family, friends, and teachers provide insights into various aspects of child psychology. The novel explores the complexities of peer dynamics, the influence of authority figures on a child's behavior and self-esteem, and the impact of familial relationships on emotional well-being. Swami's interactions with his strict father, supportive mother, and loyal friends showcase the intricate web of emotions that children experience as they navigate their relationships.

The novel also addresses the theme of escapism, which is often observed in children's psychology. Swami's vivid imagination and his tendency to daydream and create alternate realities serve as a coping mechanism for dealing with the challenges he faces. Through Swami's imaginative adventures and his yearning for freedom and independence, the novel explores the desire for escape from the confines of reality, which is a common aspect of child psychology.

Moreover, Swami's emotional struggles, such as his fear of examinations, his desire to be accepted by his peers, and his conflicts with authority figures, highlight the emotional vulnerability and growth that children experience. The novel captures the internal conflicts, insecurities, and anxieties that are characteristic of a child's psychological development.

Overall, Swami and Friends provides a nuanced portrayal of child psychology by delving into the inner world of the protagonist, exploring his relationships, emotions, and struggles. It offers valuable insights into the complexities of a child's mind, the formation of identity, the dynamics of relationships, and the emotional challenges faced during childhood. Through its vivid depiction of Swami's experiences, the novel offers readers a deeper understanding of child psychology and the universal experiences of children as they navigate the world around them.

OR

Q5 b Discuss anti-colonial consciousness in Swami and Friends.

Ans. While "Swami and Friends" by R.K. Narayan primarily focuses on the experiences of a young boy named Swami and his coming-of-age journey, it subtly touches upon the theme of anti-colonial consciousness. The novel portrays the social and cultural context of British colonial rule in India, and the characters' reactions and responses to this colonial presence highlight a growing awareness of the impact and injustices of colonization.

One of the significant ways in which anti-colonial consciousness is portrayed is through the depiction of Swami's interactions with British authority figures, particularly his encounters with his strict headmaster, Mr. Ebenezar. Mr. Ebenezar embodies the oppressive nature of colonial rule, imposing strict discipline and English education upon the students. Swami's rebellious and defiant attitude towards Mr. Ebenezar and his dislike for the school's rules reflect a resistance to the authority imposed by the colonizers.

Moreover, the novel also portrays the characters' yearning for independence and freedom from British rule. Swami and his friends often engage in discussions about the nationalist movement and express their desire for India's liberation. They take pride in their Indian heritage, culture, and traditions, which can be seen in their participation in local festivals and celebrations. Their growing sense of identity and belonging to their own culture and country reflects their rejection of British dominance.

The character of Rajam, a new student who joins Swami's school and becomes his close friend, also embodies anti-colonial consciousness. Rajam's father is involved in the nationalist movement, and his discussions with Swami about fighting for independence and resisting colonial rule contribute to Swami's growing awareness of the larger political struggle against the British.

Additionally, the novel depicts the disparities between the British and Indian characters, highlighting the inequality and discrimination faced by the Indians under colonial rule. The British characters are often portrayed as superior, while the Indian characters are marginalized and oppressed. These portrayals serve to challenge the power dynamics and reflect a consciousness of the unfairness and injustice inherent in colonialism.

Overall, while "Swami and Friends" primarily focuses on the personal growth and experiences of its young protagonist, it subtly addresses the theme of anti-colonial consciousness. Through the characters' resistance to colonial authority, expressions of nationalist sentiment, and awareness of the cultural and social disparities, the novel reflects a growing consciousness of the injustices of British colonial rule in India.

Q6 a Through Nur's wives, Anita Desai explores the multilayered and ocilous existence of women in an orthodox Indian family. Discuss.

Ans. Anita Desai's novel "In Custody" offers a nuanced exploration of the multilayered and oppressive existence of women in an orthodox Indian family through the characters of Nur's wives. The novel portrays the struggles and complexities faced by women in a patriarchal society, highlighting their limited agency, societal expectations, and the oppressive dynamics within the family structure.

Firstly, through Imtiaz Begum, Nur's first wife, Desai sheds light on the traditional gender roles and expectations placed upon women. Imtiaz is portrayed as a dutiful and submissive wife who adheres to societal norms and lives within the confines of her traditional role as a wife and mother. Her existence revolves around domestic duties and serving her husband and children. Imtiaz's character reflects the limited options and opportunities available to women in such an orthodox setting.

On the other hand, through Munira Begum, Nur's second wife, Desai portrays a contrasting perspective. Munira represents the voice of rebellion and nonconformity. She refuses to be confined

within the traditional role of a wife and expresses her desire for education, independence, and self-expression. Munira challenges societal expectations and the constraints imposed on women, and her presence serves as a critique of the oppressive gender norms prevalent in the patriarchal society.

Desai also explores the complexities of the relationships between the wives themselves. Despite being in a polygamous marriage, the wives share a deep bond and understanding, offering support and solace to each other in the face of their common struggles. Their solidarity and resilience demonstrate the strength and resilience of women in the face of societal restrictions.

Furthermore, the novel delves into the themes of love, desire, and unfulfilled dreams. Both Imtiaz and Munira yearn for a different life, one that goes beyond their prescribed roles. They harbor unfulfilled aspirations and suppressed desires, highlighting the stifling impact of societal expectations on women's individuality and personal growth.

Overall, through the portrayal of Nur's wives, Anita Desai provides a critical examination of the multilayered and oppressive existence of women in an orthodox Indian family. The novel sheds light on the limitations imposed by societal norms, the struggles for agency and independence, and the complex dynamics within the family structure. By exploring the experiences of these women, Desai offers a poignant and thought-provoking commentary on gender roles, societal expectations, and the quest for self-fulfillment in a patriarchal society.

OR

Q6 b In Anita Desai's In Custody, the custodians of culture are in custody themselves. Discuss.

Ans. In Anita Desai's novel "In Custody," the notion that the custodians of culture are themselves in custody is a central theme. The story revolves around Deven, a middle-aged college lecturer and aspiring poet, who is entrusted with the task of interviewing and recording the famous Urdu poet, Nur. Through Deven's journey and his interactions with Nur and other characters, Desai explores the complexities and contradictions within the cultural custodianship and the challenges they face in preserving and transmitting cultural heritage.

One aspect that highlights the custodians' predicament is the dwindling popularity and appreciation for Urdu poetry and language in modern India. Urdu, once a prominent and cherished language, has lost its cultural significance and mass appeal. The decline of Urdu represents the marginalization of a rich cultural tradition and the custodians' struggle to preserve and revitalize it. As a custodian of Urdu poetry, Nur himself feels the weight of this cultural decline and laments the fading recognition and appreciation for his art.

Furthermore, the custodianship of culture is not just about preserving the language or art form but also about grappling with the demands and expectations of the audience and society. Deven, who idolizes Nur and dreams of becoming a poet himself, is disillusioned when he discovers the harsh reality of Nur's life and the compromises he has made. Nur's fame and poetic success come at the expense of personal happiness and artistic fulfillment. Deven's encounter with Nur reveals the sacrifices and compromises that cultural custodians often make to gain recognition and maintain their position.

Moreover, Desai highlights the tensions and conflicts within the custodians themselves. Nur's complicated relationships with his wives and family reflect the personal sacrifices he has made for his

art. Similarly, Deven's own struggles with his passion for poetry, his duties as a husband and father, and his career aspirations demonstrate the conflicts faced by cultural custodians as they navigate their personal and professional lives.

Overall, through the characters and their experiences, Anita Desai presents a critique of the custodianship of culture in "In Custody." The custodians find themselves in custody, constrained by societal expectations, fading popularity, personal sacrifices, and the challenges of maintaining cultural heritage in a changing world. The novel raises questions about the role and responsibilities of cultural custodians and the delicate balance they must strike between preservation and adaptation. Desai's exploration of these complexities offers a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by those who seek to protect and promote cultural traditions and their own artistic aspirations.

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