

R.K Narayan (1906-2001)

R.K. Narayan was born on 10th October 1906, in Madras, India. He was arguably the one who pioneered Indian writing in English along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. Graham Greene played an instrumental role in getting publishers for R.K Narayan. Much like Thomas Hardy and William Faulkner, R.K Narayan too created a fictional town of Malgudi, situated in south India. Among his famous writings, (out of a total of 34), are *The English Teacher* (1945), *Waiting for the Mahatma* (1955), *The Guide* (1958), *The Man-eater of Malgudi* (1961), *The Vendor of Sweets* (1967), and *A Tiger of Malgudi* (1983). He has also written a few Short story collections such as *Lawley Road* (1956), *Under the Banyan Tree and Other Stories*(1985) etc.

Ordinary peoples like next-door neighbours, relatives, cousins make the writing canvas for Narayan, thereby, providing a greater degree of relatability for the characters. Narayan explores the intricacies of Indian societies without fitting his roles in the trends and fashions of fiction writing. Narayan's humour is natural and his tone, unpretentious. Critics observe that his objective style, rooted in a detached spirit, enables authentic and realistic narration. His creation of Malgudi, an imaginary town, is a character in itself where the standard norms of superstition and tradition apply.

R. K. Narayan had won many awards and honours, one of the prestigious Sahitya Akademy award for his novel, *The Guide* in 1958. He also got nominated for Nobel prize multiple times.

