


# R.K Narayan

VIJAYALAKSHMI C S  
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# Introduction

- born in 1906 in Madras
  - educated at the Collegiate High School in Mysore where his father was the Head master, then at Maharaja's College, Mysore.
  - His full name is Rasipuram Krishnaswami Ayyar Narayanswami.
  - on Graham Greene's, suggestion he shortened his name to R.K Narayan.
  - He worked, very briefly, as a teacher, then as a journalist, before publishing his first novel.
  - **Swami and Friends** (1934) in which he created the imaginary small town of Malgudi, which he was to map out and populate in several of his forthcoming novels.
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The Bachelor of Arts (1937)

The English Teacher (1945)

Mr. Sampath (1949)

The Financial Expert (1952)

The Guide (1958)

The Vendor of Sweets (1967)

The Painter of Signs (1977)

The World of Nagraj (1990).

# R.K. Narayan and his fictional world

His fictional world is peopled with characters -- journalists, painters, Professors, financial experts, lawyers, dreamers - portrayed with a gentle irony as they struggle to accommodate tradition with Western attitudes inherited from the Britishers. Graham Greene, who recommended his first novel for publication, compared the tragi-comedy, pathos and frequently disappointed aspirations of his characters to those of Anton Chekhov's and commented that Narayan's particular comic gift flourished in 'the strong framework of social convention'.



# Short stories

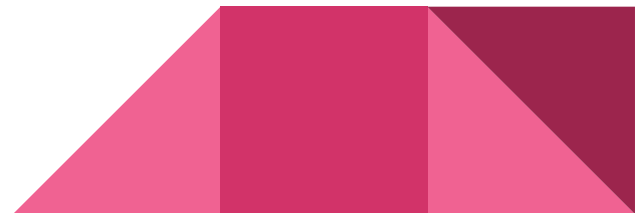
An Astrologer's Day and Other Stories (1947)

Lawley Road (1956)

A Horse and Two Goats (1970)

Malgudi Days (1982)

a Memoir -- 'My Days' (1975)



# Awards

He was awarded the prestigious 'Sahitya Academy' Award for his novel *The Guide* in 1960. In 1964, he was honoured with Padma Bhushan and received the Honorary D.Litt. from the University of Leeds and the University of Delhi in 1967 and 1973 respectively. The renowned 'British Council' also honoured him by including him in 'Writers and Their Work' series. Many of his stories have been broadcasted by the B.B.C. A Bollywood film based on his novel *The Guide* was released in 1965. This novel was adapted into a play in 1968 and has been translated into several languages.

