



List of Books on/by

R. K. Narayan



(Available in the Central Library)

How to Recommend Book(s)?

You may recommend the books by filling out recommendation forms available on the website:

<https://library.iitd.ac.in/page/book-recommendation/> or

through the online recommendation system:

<https://library.iitd.ac.in/page/obrs-new/>

using your Kerberos ID and password.

Contact Us:

Collection Development Division

Central Library, IIT Delhi

Email: cdd@library.iitd.ac.in

Phone: 011-2659-6652/6096

Scan the QR
code to
explore
Pathfinder



Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayanaswami



R.K. Narayan (10 October 1906 -13 May 2001) was one of the finest authors of Indian writing in English. His stories often explore themes such as the clash between tradition and modernity, individual freedom, and the dynamics of Indian family life. His style is marked by genial humor, gentle irony, and simplicity.

Hand in hand with pioneering Indian novelists Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao, Narayan laid the foundations of the novel as a genre in Indian literature. Whereas Anand focused on social realism, and Rao breathed philosophical depth into his works, Narayan used simple, humorous prose to depict the lives of ordinary people in India. In 1980, Narayan was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament, for his contributions to literature

Early Life and Education

Raised by his grandmother, Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami graduated from Maharaja College of Mysore in 1930 and devoted himself to writing, using the pen name R.K. Narayan. His younger brother, R.K. Laxman, was a renowned cartoonist who illustrated many of his works, including *Swami and Friends* (1935), *The Bachelor of Arts* (1937), *Malgudi Days* (1943), and *The Guide* (1958).

Writing Career and Major Works

Narayan wrote 34 novels. His first work, *Swami and Friends*, is an episodic narrative recounting the adventures of a group of schoolboys. The coming-of-age story introduces readers to Narayan's fictional town of Malgudi and captures the joys and hardships of childhood in colonial India. It was published with the help of English novelist Graham Greene, who was a close literary mentor and advocate for Narayan's work in Britain. Malgudi, where Narayan set most of his novels, became a part of Indian literary history. Readers felt as if they knew the town. It had strong similarities to the Madras of his childhood and the Mysore of his later years.

The Bachelor of Arts is a semi-autobiographical novel that details the life of a young man as he navigates through education, family expectations, and love. Written in the aftermath of his wife's death, *The English Teacher* (1945) is one of Narayan's most personal works, dealing with grief and spirituality. *The Guide* chronicles the journey of Raju, an opportunistic tour guide who becomes a spiritual leader.

Among Narayan's other works are *Waiting for the Mahatma* (1955), *The Man-Eater of Malgudi* (1961), *The Vendor of Sweets* (1967), and *A Tiger for Malgudi* (1983). He also wrote several short stories; collections include *Lawley Road* (1956), *A Horse and Two Goats and Other Stories* (1970), *Under the Banyan Tree and Other Stories* (1985), and *The Grandmother's Tale* (1993). In addition

to works of nonfiction such as *My Dateless Diary* (1960), *My Days* (1973), *Reluctant Guru* (1974), and *Emerald Route* (1977), he also published shortened modern prose versions of two Indian epics, *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, by the same titles in 1972 and 1978, respectively.

Adaptations in film and television

In 1965 a film adaptation of *The Guide* was directed by the renowned Indian filmmaker Vijay Anand. It starred legendary Bollywood actor Dev Anand and the well-known actress Waheeda Rehman. The film became a classic in Indian cinema and received wide acclaim for its portrayal of complex themes from the novel.

The TV series *Malgudi Days* (1986–2006), directed by the visionary Indian filmmaker Shankar Nag, was based on Narayan's short stories and became a cultural phenomenon in India, popularizing his work among a new generation of readers. The series was filmed entirely near Agumbe in the Shimoga District, Karnataka. Thirty-nine episodes of *Malgudi Days* were telecast on Doordarshan, the national public television broadcaster in India. The sketches for the show were drawn by R.K. Laxman.

Recognition and legacy

Narayan received several venerable literary and civilian honors and awards in India:

- **Sahitya Akademi Award (1960):** Awarded for his novel *The Guide*, this is one of India's highest literary honors. Narayan was its inaugural prize winner.
- **Padma Bhushan (1964):** India's third highest civilian award, it was bestowed in recognition of Narayan's contributions to literature.
- **The Benson Medal (1980):** Presented by the Royal Society of Literature, this British award recognizes outstanding contributions to literature.
- **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship (1994):** This is the highest honor conferred by India's National Academy of Letters, awarded for lifetime achievement in literature.
- **Padma Vibhushan (2000):** Awarded a year before his death, this is India's second highest civilian honor, further acknowledging his literary achievements.
- **Rajya Sabha nomination (1986–92):** Narayan was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of India's Parliament, in recognition of his contributions to Indian literature.
- **Honorary doctorates:** He received honorary doctorates from several universities, including the University of Leeds (1967), the University of Delhi (1973), and the University of Mysore (1976)

Narayan's stories transcended geographical boundaries and were translated into many languages, establishing him as a beloved writer worldwide. His legacy in Indian literature is profound, shaping the course of Indian English writing and influencing generations of writers.

References:

1. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/R-K-Narayan>
2. <https://indianwritinginenglish.uohyd.ac.in/r-k-narayan-subarna-mondal/>
3. <https://www.vedantu.com/biography/r-k-narayan-biography>

Explore more about R.K. Narayan

1. Dasgupta, D. (2026, March 19). 10 Best books by R.K.Narayan -. *The Himalayan Writing Retreat*. <https://himalayanwritingretreat.com/10-best-books-by-r-k-narayan/>
2. Geeta. (2018a, April 7). R. K. Narayan Biography: Books, awards and facts. Who-is-who. <https://www.mapsofindia.com/who-is-who/literature/r-k-narayan.html>
3. GradeSaver. (n.d.). R. K. Narayan Biography | List of works, study guides & Essays. GradeSaver. <https://www.gradesaver.com/author/r-k-narayan>
4. IndiaOnline. (n.d.). R K Narayan, Writer R K Narayan, Malgudi Days R K Narayan. <https://www.indiaonline.in/guide/r-k-narayan>
5. Madur. (2023, October 24). R.K. Naryan | English Literature| Malgudi Days | Personalities. *karnataka.com*. <https://www.karnataka.com/personalities/rk-narayan/>
6. McLeod, A. L., & Srinath, C. N. (2001). R. K. Narayan: An anthology of Recent criticism. *World Literature Today*, 75(2), 328. <https://doi.org/10.2307/40156581>
7. MY DAYS by R.K NARAYAN – Indian Writing in English. (n.d.). <https://ebooks.inflibnet.ac.in/engp14/chapter/my-days-by-r-k-narayan/>
8. R.K Narayan: the one who created Malgudi. (n.d.). Drishti IAS. <https://www.drishtiias.com/blog/R.K-Narayan-the-one-who-created-malgudi>
9. R.K. Narayan (Author of Malgudi Days). (n.d.). https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1305302.R_K_Narayan
10. R.K. Narayan House | Museum of India. (n.d.). <https://shop.museumsofindia.org/node/436>
11. Sphere, K. (2024, June 7). Author Spotlight: Profiles & Biographies-R.K.NARAYAN-Knowledge Sphere. KVS Library. <https://kvslibrary.com/author-spotlight-r-k-narayan/>
12. Tilak, S. G. (2025, November 23). Rebooting R.K. Narayan for the new-age reader. The Hindu. <https://www.thehindu.com/society/r-k-narayan-mysore-home-museum-inspired-new-novel-author-sita-bhaskar/article70293833.ece>

(Books Available in the Central Library)

1.	Narayan, R. K. (1977). <i>Painter of signs</i> . Mysore: Indian Thought Publication. 82-31 NAR-P	HU512 HSS
2.	Narayan, R. K. (1967). <i>Sweet-vendor</i> . London: The Bodley Head. 82-31 NAR-S	HU266 HSS
3.	Narayan, R. K. (1958). <i>Financial expert</i> . Mysore: Indian Thought Publications. 821.111-3 NAR-F	HU1681 HSS
4.	Narayan, R. K. (1960). <i>Next Sunday</i> . Bombay: Pearl Publications. 821.111-4 NAR-N	HU1682 HSS
5.	Narayan, R.K (2004). <i>Jivan aur Mrityu (जीवन और मृत्यु): English teacher</i> . Jaipur: Sahitya Chandrika Prakashan. H 821.214.21-31 NAR-J	148090 CL
6.	Narayan, R.K (1965). <i>Gods, Demons and others</i> . London: Heinemann. 8-32:398.2 NAR-G	21647 CL
7.	Narayan, R.K (1979). <i>Mr. Sampath</i> . New Delhi: Hind Pocket Books. 820-31 NAR-S	91325 HSS
8.	Narayan, R.K (2004). <i>Guide</i> . Chennai: Indian Thought Publication. 820-31 NAR-G	146183 CL

Updated by Central Library, IITD
on 19/04/2026