

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 053 057

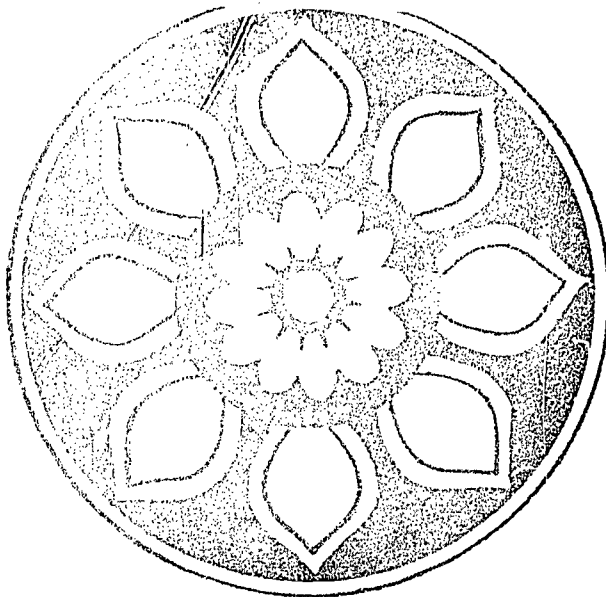
SO 001 810

AUTHOR Johnson, Donald; Johnson, Jean
TITLE India Through Literature: An Annotated Bibliography for Teaching India. Part II: India Through Contemporary Fiction.
INSTITUTION Educational Resources Center, New Delhi (India).
SPONS AGENCY Office of Education (DHEW), Washington, D.C.; State Univ. of New York, Albany.
PUB DATE 68
NOTE 21p.
EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.65 HC-\$3.29
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies, *Area Studies, *Cross Cultural Studies, *Fiction, Humanities, Interdisciplinary Approach, *Nonwestern Civilization, Novels, Resource Guides, Secondary Grades, Short Stories, Social Studies, Supplementary Reading Materials
IDENTIFIERS Asia, *India

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this bibliography is to suggest interesting and educational Indian novels and short stories which are appropriate for American secondary school student use. The best books written by Indians in their own languages and translated for the English speaking reader are included along with many written in English. There are two lists: 1) those books most appropriate for average high school students, and for the basic library collection; and, 2) a supplementary list with several for the superior student. The most useful way to use any of these works is as outside reading with students reading different books, or several students reading selected chapters of the larger volumes. The works in both lists are rearranged and described in chronological order for studying the historical aspects of the Indian experience from the Mutiny of 1857 to the present; then, in topic order covering various aspects of Indian life: village life, the role of women, marriage, water, social change, and caste. In all, approximately twenty seven novels and nine short stories are described, SO 001 619 through SO 001 623 are related documents. (SBE)

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INDIA THROUGH LITERATURE
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR TEACHING INDIA
PART II - INDIA THROUGH CONTEMPORARY FICTION
BY DONALD & JEAN JOHNSON

The Educational Resources Center

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NEW DELHI, INDIA

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MODERN INDIA THROUGH LITERATURE

One of the best ways to get students involved in issues and events of another time or place is through literature. Stories which are interesting in themselves can personally involve the students' minds and emotions. There is such a vast abundance of Indian literature that the problem becomes one of selection. The purpose of this bibliography is to suggest Indian works appropriate for American High School use which are of a high interest level and of a high educational content.

The best, but not always the easiest to read, are books written by Indians in their own languages and then translated for the English speaking reader. Translations vary, but since these stories are written for Indians, they will be the most authentic.

Indians who write in English often have an eye on their non-Indian audience. This may make the works more comprehensible for the American student (since the author often explains things that the Indian would know and take for granted), but it may also mean that the author is preaching. This is perhaps true in Anand's Untouchable. It may also mean that the author has been "de-Indianized" to such an extent that the picture he presents is no longer true to India. This is perhaps true in the role of the husband and the relationship between husband and wife presented in Nectar in a Sieve. An exception to this is Kanthapura which, though written in English, is very Indian but also very hard.

Non-Indians who have written about India have much to offer but primarily as non-Indians. Do not read them to get a feel of how the Indian felt; read them to get a feel of how the Indian affected the alien.

On the following pages there are two lists. List A includes those books most appropriate for high school use. A good library ought to have at least these works. The two works starred are of a more difficult reading level; the average high school student should be able to handle any of the others. We recommend them highly.

List B is a supplementary list. The books are recommended with different qualifications and would be most appropriate as supplementary reading, assigning sections from them to individual members of a class. Several of these works (those with an asterisk *) are of superior quality but are very difficult and should be reserved for the outstanding student. Several works have been included because they cover certain aspect of Indian life. They could best be used by students with specific interests in these areas. For example, Twilight in Delhi gives the Muslim experience; Bhowani Junction offers insight into the Anglo-Indian experience; Mahanagar is one of the few that pictures city life. The Princes deals with the decline of princely State after independence. Rajan's The Dark Dancer is an excellent work, but it is out of print at present. All the others can be obtained either in the United States or from India.

Perhaps the most useful way to employ any of these works is as outside reading. Rather than have the whole class read one novel (although a teacher may find one of these books he/she wants "to teach"), it might be better to have students read different works. In this way, students would bring more varied information to the classroom discussions. A student assigned one chapter might want to read the whole novel on his own. This selective assigning of the novels could take into account both individual differences among the members of the class, differences in the interests of boys and girls,

and the varying strengths of the works suggested. Few students would want to plow through the whole of the classic Godaan . However, selected chapters of it contain many insights.

For these reasons we have included two approaches to these novels. The first is chronological. If you are studying India historically, we have suggested novels dealing with aspects of the Indian experience from the Mutiny of 1857 to the present. The second approach is topical. If you are considering village life or women, for example, we have suggested selections which might enrich your study. The first time a book is suggested, we have given a brief summary. Thereafter we have merely listed the title and added (again) after the title.

Evaluations of books vary. No two people will agree on the books they like best. You will want to add your own suggestions to this list, or to delete a selection you did not enjoy. Please do so. If this annotated bibliography introduces you to some works you may not heretofore have discovered and encourages you to use some of these works in your classroom, it will have accomplished its purpose.

LIST 'A'Indian authors writing in their own languages:

Thakashi Sivasankara Pillai, Chemmeen - a Malayalam novel translated by Narayana Menon, N.Y.: Harper Brothers, 1962. UNESCO Series. (Also published by Jaico Publishing House, Bombay, 1968. Paperback)

Vyankatesh Madgulkar, The Village Had No Walls - a Marathi novel translated by Ram Deshmukh, New Delhi: Asia Publishing House, 1966.

Indian authors writing in English:(Indo-Anglian)

*Raja Rao, Kanthapura, New York: News Directions Paperback. 1967.

Khushwant Singh, Train to Pakistan, New York: Grove Press, 1956. Also an Evergreen Black Cat Paperback.

Mulk Raj Anand, Untouchable, Bombay: Kutab-Popular, 1947 (first published 1935)

R.K. Narayan, The Bachelor of Arts, Mysore: Indian Thought Publications, 1967.

Non-Indian authors writing in English:

Ruth Praver Jhabvala, The Householder, Amrita, The Nature of Passion. All published by W.W. Norton, New York.

John Masters, Nightrunners of Bengal, New York: Viking Press Paperback.

Christine Weston, Indigo, New York: Scribner Library Paperback.

Short Story Collection:

K. Natwar Singh, ed., Tales from Modern India, New York: MacMillan Company, 1966.

LIST 'B'Indian authors writing in their own languages:

Premchand, The Gift of a Cow - translation of the Hindi novel Godaan. Translated by Gordon Roadarmel, Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (Also published by George Allen and Unwin, London) 1968). UNESCO Series. (Also in paperback: Godan, translated by Jai Ratan and P.Lal, Bombay: Jaico Publishing House, 1963.

Tarasankar Banerjee, Ganadevata (The Temple Pavilion), a Bengali novel translated by Lila Ray, Bombay: Pearl Publications, 1969.

Narendranath Mitra, Mahanagar, a Bengali novel translated by Chatterjee and Franda, Bombay: Jaico Publishing House, 1968.

Indian authors writing in English:

Balachandra Rajan, The Dark Dancer, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1958. Too Long in the West, Bombay: Jaico Publishing House, 1961.

Bhabani Bhattacharya, Music for Mohini, Bombay: Jaico Publishing House, 1968.

Manohar Malgonkar, The Princes, New York: Viking Press, 1963. A Bend in the Ganges, London: Pan Books Ltd., 1964.

R.K. Narayan, Swami and Friends, Mysore: Indian Thought Publications, 1967.

Kamala Markandaya, Nectar in a Sieve, New York: Signet Paperback (New American Library 1956).

Non-Indian authors writing in English:

*E.M. Forster, A Passage to India, New York: Harcourt & Brace, 1952. (See also Santa Rama Rau's stage adaptation).

John Masters, Bhowani Junction, New York: Viking Press Paperback.

*Paul Scott, The Jewel in the Crown, New York, William Morrow, 1966.

Rudyard Kipling, Kim, New York: Pyramid Paperbacks. (Dell)

SHORT STORY LIST

- Rabindranath Tagore, The Runaway and other Stories, Calcutta: Visva-Bharati; The House Warming and Other Writings, New York: Signet Paperback. (Also a good collection of Tagore's works: A Tagore Reader, New York: Beacon Press Paperback.
- K.A. Abbas, The Black Sun and other Stories, Bombay: Jaico Publishing House.
- G.D. Khosla, The Price of a Wife, Bombay: Jaico, 1963.
- Ruth Praver Jhabvala, A Stronger Climate, Like Birds, Like Fishes, New York: W.W. Norton. (Also New Delhi: Orient Paperback).
- Milton and Clifford ed., A Treasury of Modern Asian Stories, New York: Mentor Paperback (New American Library, 1961).
- Contemporary Indian Short Stories, Vol. I & II, New Delhi, Sahitya Akademi.
- Premchand, The Premchand Reader, translated by David Rubin.

MODERN INDIA THROUGH FICTION -
CHRONOLOGICAL APPROACH

A. The British in India

John Masters, Nightrunners of Bengal. By writing of three centuries of the Savage family in India, Masters has tried "to paint the broad canvas of the British period in India." His novels start in the 17th century with Coromandel and come to the present in Coral Strand. (Many of them in paperback) Nightrunners - about the period of the Mutiny of 1857 - is perhaps the best. Here's an adventure story the boys should really enjoy! Let them read it all. Selections might include chapter 8 on how news of the Mutiny was spread; section 10 suggests possible reasons for it. Get a feel for the horror of it in section 16 (and remember the British did worse in return).

Rudyard Kipling, Kim. Although the liberals in the 1920's gave Kipling a bad press, the more you know India, the more you appreciate Kim. This captures the spirit of city life, train rides, the meeting of the holy and the profane, the expert living of "Artha!" Have the class read through Chapter 2; that'll give them the flavor. Read Kim also for insight into the Anglo-Indian experience. Kim - an Anglo-Indian - is pulled by both realities and lives in both worlds. Good as this work is, we should add, it probably is best discovered at age 13 or savored at age 35. It may be wasted on high school students.

Scott, A Jewel in the Crown. A great novel but long, detailed and very difficult reading. Modelled consciously after Passage to India, it also deals with Anglo-Indian

relationships. An English girl loves an Indian boy who is accused of her rape. The British Community, Indian life, Missionary attitudes, life in the cantonment are all here. Part 5, "Young Kumar" about an Indian boy raised in England who returns home an alien, is so good we should perhaps qualify our judgment that non-Indians may report on the Indian experience.

E.M. Forster, A Passage to India. Here is British-Indian relations, the contact between East and West, what community loyalty does to personal friendship. Here's cultural difference and cultural shock, as Dr. Aziz tries to bridge the gap between the English and the Indian and is accused of rape for his efforts. Here you also have comparisons of the Muslim (Dr. Aziz) and the Hindu (Professor Godbole). This is a great piece of literature, but it's hard. You may prefer Santa Rama Rau's adaption for Broadway. Or, better still, try and get BBC (seen on NYC Channel 13) television presentation. It was excellent.

Christine Weston, Indigo. Similar in theme to Passage, this story focuses on the experiences of young people and is easier reading than either Passage or Jewel in the Crown. Can personal affections last in the face of the humiliations the Europeans heap on the Indians? Try pp.211-3 and then 230-4. Here an Indian boy hears himself praised in a letter from an Englishman but when he finally reads that letter - the contents turn out to be something quite different.

Ahmed Ali, Twilight in Delhi. A vivid picture of Muslim life in Delhi during the early 1900's. Muslim attitudes toward life, fate, marriage, purdah, the British and Delhi are all here.

B. The Fight for Independence

Raja Rao, Kanthapura. Beautiful, sensitive, very Indian and very hard. Written in 1937, it tells of what the Gandhi

struggle for independence did to a small village in South India. At that time, the author didn't know if the struggle had been in vain, but that question is irrelevant for, in the words of the Gita, the villagers' concern was with the deed, not with the result. Try it in short selections. Perhaps young Moorthy's conversion to a Gandhi man, pp.32-4; or how he first gets the village to spin, pp. 15-9. (The glossary at the end is outstanding).

Balachandra Rajan, The Dark Dancer. This novel includes a good deal of philosophy which slows the pace and increases the difficulty. However, it is rich with insight and through the hero, Krishnan, we see the problem of the western-educated Indian. On the independence movement - read chapter 2, and see how a demonstration that starts with a discussion of non-violence ends with its share of blood-shed.

Narayan, Swami and Friends. A delightful picture of life in South India. Good reading, easy going, and with a very Indian feel. For a delightful, short and funny passage on the Independence movement, try pp.93-103 as school boys listen to a rally for Gandhi's ideas and later start their own "riot" at school. (Another view of the political meeting is in Kalyana's Husband, pp.29-33, by Krishnaswamy) (Some students feel this book is best for the Junior High level).

Singh, "Karma" in A Treasury of Modern Asian Stories. This is a great short story and may well fit in here. A husband who tries to be other than he is, and a wife who doesn't, start out on a train trip - he in first class, she in third. He ends up on the platform, she on her way. What was it the Gita said? Better to do one's own duty though poorly than another's ... Find a place for this story, some place; it's good fun.

Masters, Bhowani Junction. This novel gives insight into the experience of Anglo-Indians before independence who found themselves accepted neither as Indians nor as Englishmen.

Malgonkar, A Bend in the Ganges. Boys might enjoy this long novel of the decade before independence. It includes insight into the Freedom Fighters, a terrorist group, and forces other than Gandhi which contributed to independence. Detailed description of prison life and communal hostilities.

Mulk Raj Anand, Untouchable. A short, emotional description of a day in the life of a sweeper filled with degradations and humiliations. One high point is when the hero listens to Gandhi talk about the Harijans and wonders if this could be he. pp. 113-126.

C. Partition

Khushwant Singh, Train to Pakistan. Set in 1947, Mano Majra, a town where Hindus and Muslims have lived together in peace for hundreds of years, cannot escape the horrors of partition. There is no better expression of the agony of the Punjab during partition. This is not a pretty book, but Singh, with a journalist's eye, shows just how hatred can flower. (Perhaps this is especially timely for us.) Use pp. 120-128 and see how the village must turn out its Muslim members, almost against its own will.

Rajan, The Dark Dancer (again) chapter 6. Krishnan, on a train to a riot torn area, is almost killed by a Muslim whom he then tries unsuccessfully to save from a Sikh's knife. They discuss where right lies - if anywhere. Read also Ch. 7-9 which pictures the communal riots in a small town. (Compare to Train to Pakistan.) Krishnan's wife dies trying to save a Muslim girl. Did her death accomplish anything? Here is an example of the message of the Gita being manifest.

Malgonkar, A Bend in the Ganges (again) chapter 34 to the end deals with partition. In chapter 35 a Hindu man, Debi-dayal, and his Muslim wife try to go North to his family

caught in what will become Pakistan. Although disguised as Muslims they are discovered and he is killed.

D. India since Independence

Praver Jhabvala - Just about anything. Especially The Householder, about a young, newly married school teacher trying to make ends meet with bills and mother-in-law and coming baby to complicate things; Amrita, a young - modern - gal who pursues her man until she falls for the man her family picks out for her; The Nature of Passion, which shows family life in Delhi, how businessmen operate, how a modernized gal seeks for her role in the family. Girls will enjoy Jhabvala especially. She captures the confrontation of tradition with modern, the humor and tempo of everyday life. Although her style is direct, she is not simple, but her works are delightful.

Mitra, Mahanagar. City life is pictured as the wife breaks tradition and secures a job selling sewing machines. The family opposes her at first and then comes to covet the extras her pay provides. See traditional values both changing and withstanding change.

Malgonkar, The Princes. With a great sense of history, this novel gives a picture of the princely states and what happened to their readers after independence.

MODERN INDIA THROUGH FICTION -
TOPICAL APPROACH

A. Village India

Premchand, Godaan. A Hindi novel of village life by an insider. It's long and rambling, but taken in doses, it's good. Chapters 1, 3, 8 and 9 make a sort of unit on the getting and losing of a cow. Chapter 4 makes a delightful excerpt on how the hero, Hori, outsmarts himself in bargaining. A sense of identity with the family and with caste comes through very well. Especially good are Chapters 1-5, 8-11 and 14.

Thekashi Sivasankara Pillai, Chemmeen. Here's a novel of a fishing village in Kerala, South India. Caste and dharma are very strong here as well as an excellent picture of how the fishermen live. Girls will like this book. The translation, although poor, makes very simple reading.

Bibhutibhusan Banerji, Pather Panchali. A touching, moving novel of a Bengali village in the 1920's as seen by Opu and his sister Durga, children of a poor Brahmin family. This work assumes the setting and life of the village, rather than touring it, and the reader comes to know the village by living in it. First section is of the old aunt who seeks solace and finally dies, pp.23-58; Chapter 8, pp.67-73, give good picture of children's life and father's dreams. See Durga dream of marriage in Ch. 17, pp.175-88; see the joy of life for the children in Chapter 19.

Banerjee, The Temple Pavilion. Written episodically, starting abruptly and ending so, (and therefore difficult reading) this novel is nonetheless a touching picture of Bengali village life. The last 50 pages give an interesting example of how myth, and reality intertwine. The novel

pictures how the villagers struggle against poverty, disease and corruption. The first chapter gives a very good illustration of the Jajmani system breaking down.

Vyankatesh Madgulkar, The Village Had No Walls.

Excellent, short (pp.168) novel of shepherd's village through eyes of government teacher. Boys will like this work. Chapter 5 - picture of shepherd's life; Ch. 12 shows how farmers in village live; The village enforces its own justice in Ch. 16; The village ostracizes a member-pp. 109-113 and 154-6.

Kanala Markandaya, Nectar in a Sieve. This was written by a western-educated upper class Indian a bit too enamoured with western "togetherness" whose experience with the village would have to be second hand. Through the wife's eyes (or are they Miss Markandaya's?) we see a poor farm family try to coax a living out of someone else's land. And we see change come to the village. The girls will like this. Have them read section one. (They might compare it to the boy's report of The Village Had No Walls).

Malgonkar, A Bond in the Gauges (again) Chapters 3-7 are a unit on an extended family's feud that extends over several generations. The courts, the police and justice as the village experiences it and determines it are clearly presented. Can stand on its own without the rest of the novel.

Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, "Drought" in Tales from Modern India. Good for a quick look at real poverty in a village.

Raja Rao, Kanthapura (again). Try the first six pages. The old grand-mother-narrator takes you on a walking tour of the village.

B. The Role of Women

The Classical Models: Sita from Ramayana; Savritra from Mahabharata. See Narayan's Gods, Demons and Others.

Bezborao, "Bhadari" in Contemporary Indian Short Stories, (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1966). In this three page short story, we have a modern expression of a wife's dharma. This will provoke much discussion.

Chenneen (again). The happiness and success of the village rests on the women's shoulders. What happens when a woman violates her dharma? (Have gals report; may be too romantic for boys). Is it virtue and/or the appearance of virtue which matters?

Kanthapura (again). The women discuss their role in the Gandhi movement, pp. 102-107.

Godaan (again). (Chapter 15) includes a speech given on the role of women in modern India. Have someone report on it.

The Dark Dancer (again). If anyone has read the whole book, let him report on a comparison between the English girl Krishnan loves for a time and his wife who lives the wife's dharma to perfection (?)

Indigo (again). Chapter 31. An English girl visits the woman's quarter in a Hindu home where the women are in purdah.

Both The Nature of Passion and Amrita. In the first, traditional ways meet modern ones. How does the heroine act and react? In Amrita views of the "modern" urban girl, on marriage and other things are especially good.

Tagore, "The Stolen Treasure" and "The Conclusion" from The Runaway and other Stories. In the first story Tagore looks at the horoscope method for finding a bride; In "The Conclusion" he shows how love can grow after a marriage.

C. On Marriage
The Dark Dancer, pp.8-24.

Narayan, The Bachelor of Arts. This book shows how a college graduate tries to "find himself" a job and a wife. A good selection for the boys as it's seen through a fellow's eyes. The hero can laugh at his own efforts to become a holy man and at his infatuation with a girl he sees but whose horoscope doesn't match his own. Read Ch.16 to end for the way his marriage is arranged and his reactions to it.

Bhattacharya, Music for Mohini, the first 130 pages. Girls will enjoy this account of how Mohini's marriage is arranged and then the description of the marriage and her first days in her husband's (or should we say her mother-in-law's?) home.

Nectar in a Sieve, pp. 7-14, 19-21 and Chapter 6.

Santha Rama Rau, "Who Cares" in Tales from Modern India. Like a good Jewish mother, the Indian mother seems to know her son will succumb to the arranged marriage even though he is "England Returned" and restless with new ideas. A story student should enjoy.

D. Water

Kanthapura, pp.50-1; Train to Pakistan, pp. 90-94 and The Village had no Walls, pp. 48-50 give descriptions of the monsoon.

The Village had no Walls (again). The last chapter. A moving picture of how the villagers must leave their homes because of the drought.

Nectar in a Sieve, Chapter 13, when the rains come too late.

Khosla, "Untouchability" in The Price of a Wife. In this four page story a Brahmin girl takes an untouchable as a lover but faces a crisis when he wants a drink of water. This'll provoke discussion!

Untouchable (again). Pp. 12-20. The classic situation of the untouchable girl waiting for an upper caste person to fill her water jug at the well. (Students might want to compare this to "Village Well: Drama of India", by P. Strait, New York Times Magazine, Sept. 20, 1959.)

E. Social Change

Mulk Raj Anand, "The Barber's Trade Union" in Tales from Modern India. A fine story of a young barber who goes on strike and wins. Reform from within and a story student should enjoy. (They could compare this to the first chapter of the novel Ganadevata by Tarasankar Banerjee).

Rajan, Too Long in the West. Educated at Columbia University, Nalini returns to her father's village to have her marriage arranged. This worries her health-expert American friend more than it does Nalini. Their varied reactions make interesting reading. (And Section 2, p. 1 on her arrival in New York City is just plain good fun!)

Godaan (again). Have students compare the attitudes and values of Hori and his son, Gobar. What changes have one generation made? Hori : Chapters 1-5 and 8-11; Gobar: Chapters 12 and 19-21.

Chemmeen (again). What happens when you violate the established ways of society?

Nectar in a Sieve (again). This work is probably best as a record of changing life in the village. What are the signs of change. Have they improved the villagers' lot?

Abbas, "The New Temple" in The Black Sun and Other Stories. What happens when a dam threatens a Krishna temple?

Train to Pakistan (again). Iqbal Singh comes to Mano Majra to do social work. Here is a good picture of the western educated Indian who returns to the village and finds himself alienated from his own. A short but true case study. Better if you have the whole book, but it can stand on its own. Pp. 32-38 he comes; Pp.45-50 he discusses the Independence Movement with villagers and tries not to drink the milk they offer him; Pp. 163-172 he tries to decide what he'll do to prevent massacre of the Muslims.

Untouchable (again). The author, Mulk Raj Anand, although an expert on Indian art and aesthetics, is a Marxist - very much in the movement - and he tends to believe in technology as a solution for the ills that beset India. His hero in this powerful, short and moving story is a sweeper, a cleaner of latrines, whose touch pollutes; he suffers every kind of insult for the first 100 pages. He then is presented with three alternatives: a missionary who offers him Jesus, Gandhi who speaks of the Harijans, and a modern poet who talks about a flush toilet. Can we blame him for choosing the latter? Kids will love this, and it's strong stuff.

Kanthapura (again). What happened to the village as a result of the Gandhi movement?

F. Caste

Chemeen and Godaan. It is important to note that these two works, written not originally in English but in Malayalam and Hindi, assume caste as we would assume good middle-class morality. It is the fabric of life, the ordering of society. Written for an Indian audience, the authors are not out to "rid India of the caste system"; they paint a picture of life as it is and the system of community organization on the basis of caste is, unselfconsciously, the way it is. For

this reason, perhaps these two books are really the best if we want to understand the caste system as it is. (Godaan, Ch. 10-11).

Kanthapura could also be added to the above two. Caste is as much a part of the village as the seasons. However, for a short excerpt, read what happens to Moorthy when he tries to carry Gandhi's message to the untouchables of his village pp. 35-43. Then, again, see him almost sick the first time he enters a pariah (outcaste) home and takes a drink - pp. 71-3. After all a Brahmin is a Brahmin, sister!"

Untouchable (again) and Chandar, "Kalu Bhangi" (in Tales from Modern India) Two tomes against untouchability. It is important to remember Untouchable was written about conditions 40 years ago.

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