



HUMERA KHAN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

UGC.NCTE Approved, Affiliated To University Of Mumbai (NCTE Code No: 123082)

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NAAC Accreditation 'B' Grade

BOOK REVIEW:

“Swami and Friends”

Author: R.K. Narayan

Presented by: Aisha Kazi

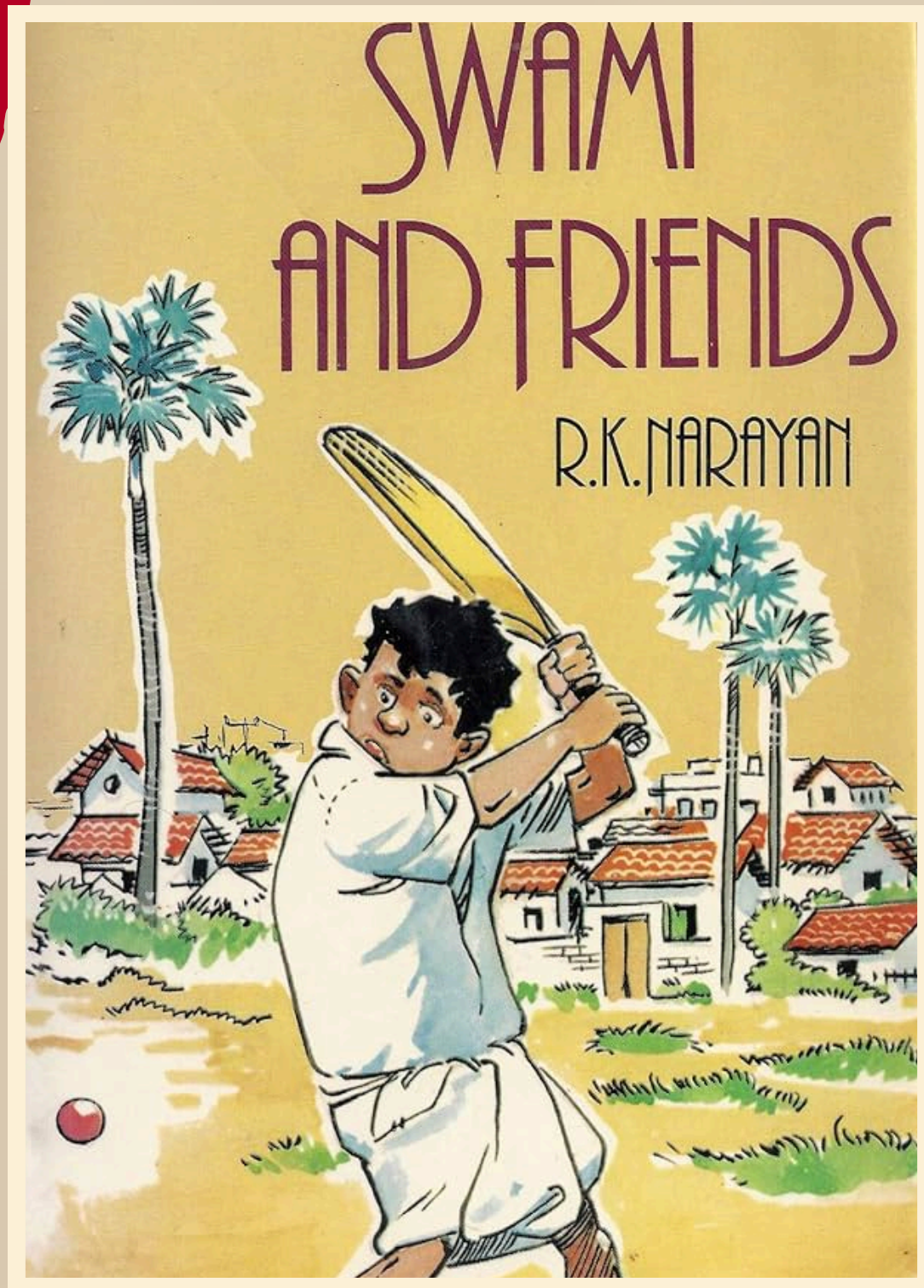
EC2- PEDAGOGY OF ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT

About the Author – R.K. Narayan

- Born on 10 October 1906 in Madras
- One of India's greatest English novelists
- Known for creating the fictional town "Malgudi"
- **Writing style:** simple, humorous, realistic
- **Major awards:** Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan
- **Contributions:** popularized Indian writing in English

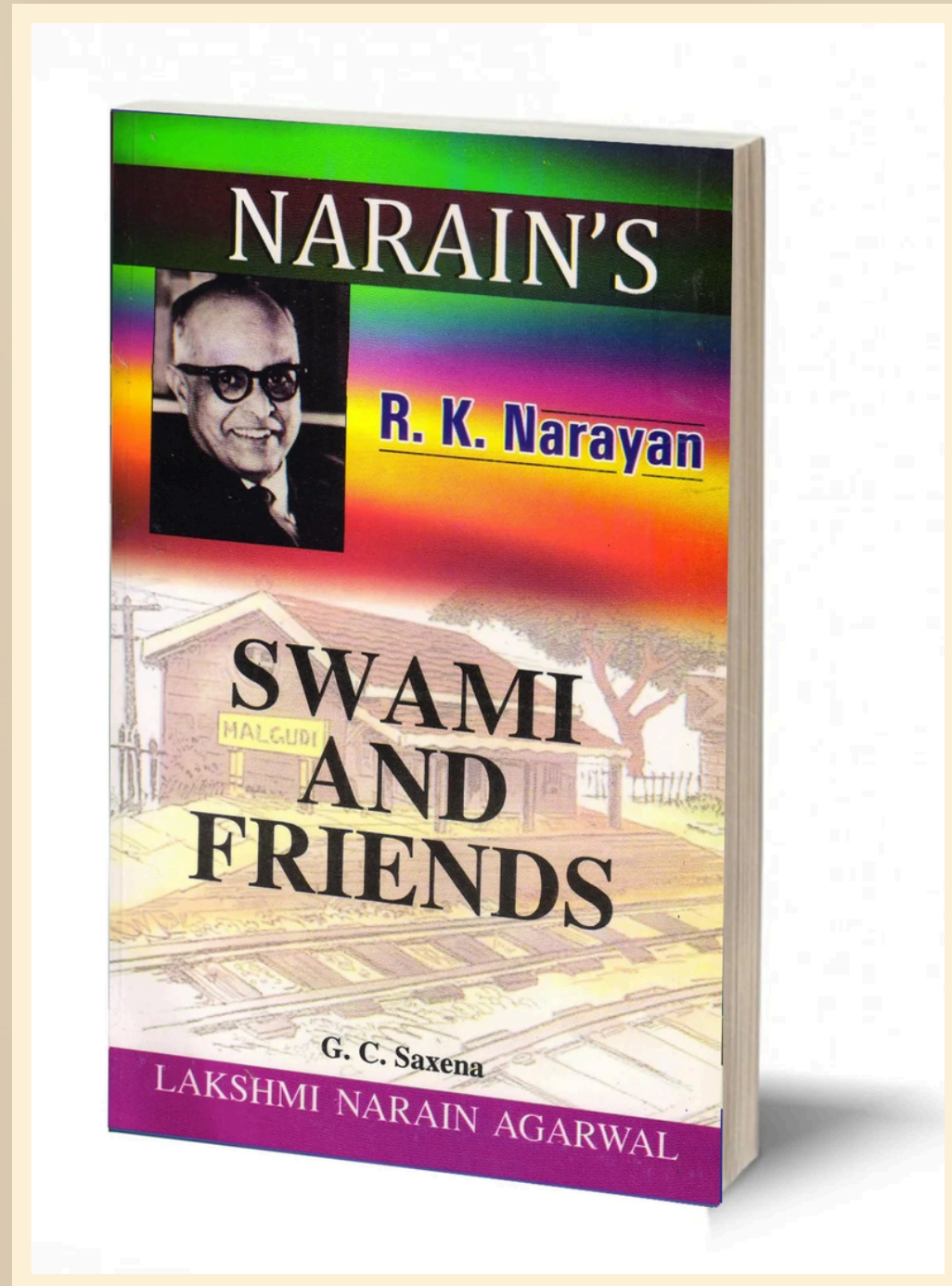


About the Book – Swami and Friends



- Published in 1935
- Set in the fictional town Malgudi
- Genre: Fiction / Children's Literature
- Story centers on the life of a schoolboy, Swaminathan
- Highlights everyday experiences of childhood
- Shows Indian society and school system of the 1930s

Plot Summary



- The story follows Swami, an innocent and playful schoolboy.
- It shows his daily school life, teachers, and punishments.
- His friendship with Mani and Rajam is the main focus.
- Swami unknowingly joins the political protests.
- Misunderstandings create distance between Swami and Rajam.
- In the end, Rajam leaves Malgudi, and Swami feels very emotional.

Main Characters

- Swaminathan is the main character, sensitive and lively.
 - Mani is Swami's strong and loyal friend.
 - Rajam is confident and modern, and he is the police superintendent's son.
 - Swami's father is strict but cares for him.
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- His mother and granny are loving and supportive.
 - The teachers are strict and follow the old British discipline system.



Themes Related to Education



The story shows child psychology through fear, joy, and imagination.



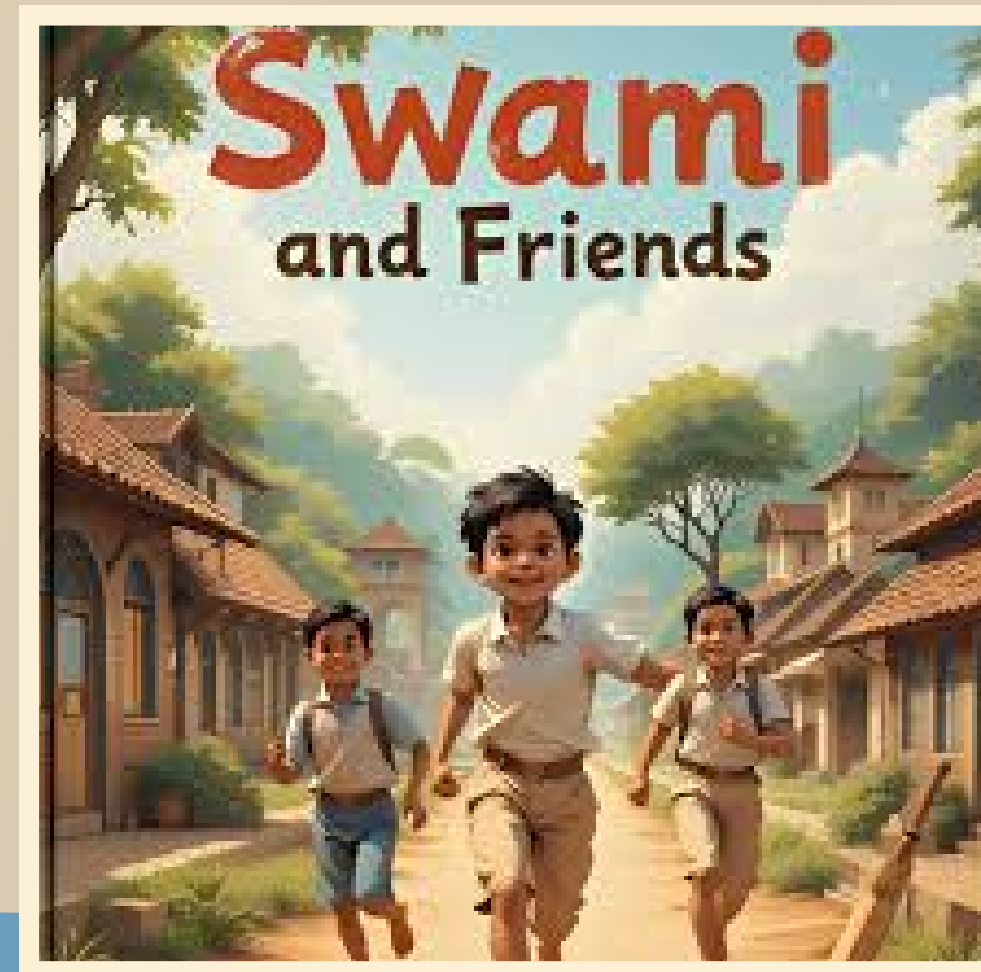
Friendship teaches loyalty and how peers influence behaviour.



Discipline is shown through strict rules and punishments.



It shows emotional changes like fear, confidence, and frustration.



Child Psychology in the Novel

- Swami is scared of strict teachers and punishments.
- He loves praise and dislikes being scolded.
- He is easily influenced by his friends.
- His emotions change quickly depending on situations.
- He shows innocence, honesty, and curiosity.
- Teachers can understand how children think by observing Swami's behaviour.

Critical Review

Strengths

- The writing is simple and easy to connect with.
- The story creates strong emotional feelings.
- It shows childhood in a very realistic way.
- The characters are memorable and relatable.

Critical Review

Weaknesses

- The story feels slow in some parts.
- The school system shown is outdated for today.
- There are very few female characters.

Critical Review

Overall

It is a timeless and beautiful story about childhood, written in a natural and humorous style.



Educational Implications

- Teachers learn to understand children's emotions and fears.
- Harsh punishments should be replaced with friendly discipline.
- Students should be encouraged to form healthy friendships.
- Academic pressure on children should be reduced.
- Teachers can use stories to teach values like empathy and honesty.
- Education should focus on overall development, not just marks.

Conclusion

- The book presents childhood and school life in a touching way.
- It helps teachers understand students' thoughts and behaviour.
- It highlights friendship, discipline, emotions, and learning.
- It is a meaningful book for teachers and literature readers.

References

- Narayan, R.K. (1935). Swami and Friends.
- Articles and studies on R.K. Narayan's writings.
- Concepts from educational psychology textbooks.