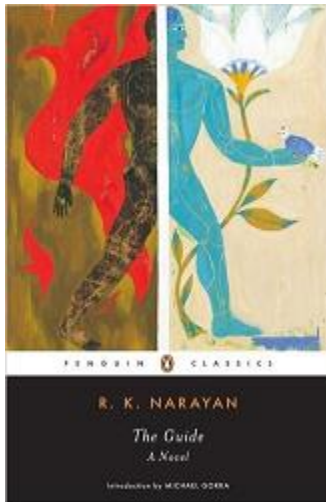


Watch the videos [Beliefs made visible: Hindu art in South Asia](#) and [Beliefs made visible: Buddhist art in South Asia](#). These videos will provide initial cultural background for the summer reading novel. As you read the novel, you should look up additional information about the culture as you encounter concepts and beliefs that are unfamiliar to you. (Examples are the caste system, the tradition of temple dancers, arranged marriages, family structure.)



Read *The Guide* by R.K. Narayan. Keep a reading journal as you read. Your first entry should be written in response to the videos above. Subsequent entries will be about the novel, and you should have a minimum of one entry for every chapter. Each entry should be a reflection, written in paragraph format, that includes thoughts about each of the following:

- What I Learned
- What Questions Do I Have?
- What Surprised Me
- Overall Response

Please complete your journal in Google Docs. Journals are **due on the first day of school** and must be turned in to Google Classroom. You should also be prepared to write an analytical essay about the novel after the first week of school.

Your writing journal should be an excellent review resource when preparing for the AP Exam in May and can be used to answer many different categories of AP questions. While the third essay question is different from year to year, there are only so many literary categories about which the examiners can ask you to write. For example, the following prompts both involve character analysis.

2010. Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience. Select a novel, play, or epic in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

2014. It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character’s values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the sacrifice illuminates the character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

Used copies of *The Guide* are available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [BetterWorldBooks.com](https://www.betterworldbooks.com).