RAM MOHAMMAD THOMAS’ MOTIVATION IN JOINING
“WHO WILL WIN A BILLION?” QUIZ AS SEEN IN VIKAS
SWARUP’S SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

Presented as partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
to Obtain the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree
in English Language Education

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Ernawati Sriningsih
Student Number: 071214043

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21 May 2012
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Faculty of Teachers Training and Education
Sanata Dharma University

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Yogyakarta, 21 May 2012

The Writer

Ernawati Sriningsih

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ABSTRACT

Sriningsih, Ernawati. 2012. Ram Mohammad Thomas’ Motivation in Joining “Who will Win a Billion?” Quiz as Seen in Vikas Swarup’s Slumdog Millionaire. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program. Department of Language and Arts Education. Faculty of Teachers Training and Education. Sanata Dharma University.

This study discusses Ram Mohammad Thomas’ motivation in joining “Who will Win a Billion?” quiz in Vikas Swarup’s Slumdog Millionaire. This novel tells about Ram Mohammad Thomas, a young waiter who becomes the biggest winner of the quiz. Having no formal education, he dreamed to have wealthy life. The incident happened in his life had influenced his motivation in joining the quiz. In this study, the writer discussed two problems: (1) How is Ram Mohammad Thomas described in novel? (2) How does Ram Mohammad Thomas, the “slumdog” become a millionaire in the novel?

In solving the problems above, the writer applied the psychological approach, theory of character, theory of characterization, Braun’s theory of motivation and Freud’s theory of psychology. The method of this study was a library research. There were two sources used in this study, namely, the primary data, which was Slumdog Millionaire novel itself, and the secondary data taken from books of psychology, character, characterization, and human motivation.

Based on the analysis of the theory of character, the study concludes that Thomas is classified as a major, dynamic, and round character. While based on the theory of characterization, analyzed through speech, reaction, mannerism, thought and seen by others, Thomas is described as a kind, responsible, a selfless and a hardworking person. Then, this study concludes that Thomas’ motivation in joining “Who will Win a Billion?” is influenced by literal and true meanings. The literal meaning of Thomas’ motivation is to take revenge. While the true meaning of Thomas’ motivation is to win the quiz. Thomas was really motivated to get a billion rupee because he wanted to achieve his dreams, which raised his social status in order to gain respect from society, saved the one he loves from the prostitution, and helped his friends get a better life.

In the last part of this thesis, there are two suggestions. The first suggestion is for future researcher(s) on Slumdog Millionaire. The second suggestion is to implement Slumdog Millionaire in teaching English, especially in teaching Prose II class.

Keywords: Motivation, Literal and True Meanings, ‘Slumdog’.

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ABSTRAK


Untuk memecahkan dua permasalahan tersebut, penulis menerapkan pendekatan psikologi, teori tokoh dan teori penokohan, teori motivasi oleh Braun dan teori psikologi oleh Freud. Metode yang digunakan dalam studi ini adalah studi pustaka. Ada dua sumber yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini yaitu data utama yang merupakan novel Slumdog Millionaire sendiri, dan data pendukung yang diambil dari beberapa buku mengenai psikologi, tokoh, penokohan, dan motivasi manusia.

Berdasarkan analisis dari teori karakter ditarik kesimpulan Thomas digambarkan sebagai karakter utama, dinamis dan kompleks. Sedangkan berdasarkan teori karakterisasi yang dianalisis melalui ucapan, reaksi, kebiasaan, pikiran dan pandangan tokoh lain, Thomas digambarkan sebagai seorang yang baik hati, bertanggung jawab, tidak egois, setia dan pekerja keras. Selanjutkan skripsi ini menyimpulkan motivasi Thomas mengikuti kuis “Who will Win a Billion?” dipengaruhi oleh makna yang tertulis dan makna yang sesungguhnya. Makna yang tertulis dari motivasi Thomas adalah untuk balas dendam. Dan makna yang sesungguhnya dari motivasi Thomas adalah untuk memenangkan kuis. Thomas sangat termotivasi untuk mendapatkan jutaan rupee karena dia ingin mewujudkan impianya, seperti menaikkan status sosial hidupnya untuk dihargai oleh masyarakat, membebankan wanita yang dia cintai dari pelacur, dan untuk menolong sahabatnya mendapatkan hidup yang lebih baik.

Pada bagian terakhir skripsi ini, terdapat dua saran. Saran pertama diperuntukan bagi (para) peneliti Slumdog Millionaire selanjutnya. Saran kedua untuk penerapan Slumdog Millionaire dalam pengajaran bahasa Inggris, terutama untuk mengajar di kelas Prose II.

Kata Kunci: Motivasi, Makna yang tertulis dan Makna yang sesungguhnya, Orang miskin dari daerah kumuh.
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Ernawati Sriningsih
Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Love them
Plan with them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have

Jimmy Yen (Y. C. James Yen)

Dedicated with gratitude and love to
myself,
my friends,
and my beloved parents.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into six parts. It starts with the background of the study, which gives explanation about the topic of this study, and the reason for choosing it. The second part covers the objective of the study in which the purpose of writing this study is stated. Problem Formulation that consists of two questions is stated in the third part. The fourth part presents Problem Limitation of the study that provides the focus of the problems. The last part is Definition of Terms that deals briefly with the explanation of the terms used in this study.

1.1. Research Background

Literature and reality have a very close relationship. Many writers have poured out their heart into literary work. Literary work describes the reality which exists in the writers’ times. Wellek and Warren (1977) state, that literature is a social institution, or more exactly, a social creation. It is created by conventions and norms which occur in the society. In addition, literature represents life in large measure, a social reality even though the natural world and the subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation. They continue stating that literature is not a rejection of the social process, but the essence, the abridgement and summary of all history. Literary work is an expression of societies’ critics. Literature describes society as some social realities.
Different people express their ideas and experiences about their surroundings differently. The writer would express his or her experience of real life through novels, editorial lines, stories, etc. For some people, demonstration may be a good way to express their criticism, while for others, writing a complaint letter becomes a better solution. Diplomats also have their own styles in expressing their opinion.

Vikas Swarup is an Indian diplomat. He wrote a book entitled *Slumdog Millionaire*, which was published in 2005. This book was inspired by the existing reality where “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” quiz became the most popular quiz in the world at that time. The quiz displays the power of money. The expected contestants are those who read books and have formal education in school and university (Heinemann: 2010). Swarup’s inspiration was also supported by the reality where a computer with an internet connection was put in a Delhi slum. When the slum was revisited after a month, the children of that slum had learnt how to use the World Wide Web. It made Swarup fascinated and he realized that there was an innate ability in everyone to do something extraordinary, provided he or she was given an opportunity. Children with no education were able to learn using the Internet. This shows that knowledge was not just preserve of the elite (Isahita: 2011).

He believes that it would be interesting to have a contestant who has not had a formal educational background, the one who got knowledge and experience from the streets. In the novel, Ram Mohammad Thomas is the one who comes
from a slum area. Thomas, the “slumdog” got a billion rupees that turn him into a billionaire. Swarup tries to present unusual depiction to the readers, shows them the reality in which anyone can become rich even though they are from lowest class of society with no formal education. Moreover, Thomas’ motivation is influenced by both literal and true meanings in winning the quiz. This novel shows the reader the reality in which anyone can become rich even though he or she is from the lowest class of society without having formal education. Nothing is impossible in this world.

Swarup (2011) explains in his article that Slumdog Millionaire is the other name of Q & A. Originally, it was published as Q & A; the book has now been reissued as Slumdog Millionaire. Q & A was made into a film in 2008, Slumdog Millionaire, directed by Danny Boyle. It was the author’s first novel. Set in India, it tells the story of Ram Mohammad Thomas, a young waiter who becomes the biggest quiz show winner in history, only to be sent to jail on accusations with no evidence that he cheated. In Slumdog Millionaire, Ram Mohammad Thomas tells the story of his life and all of its difficulties. He lived in a slum area, which made him undermined by the society. Having no formal education, he dreamed to have a wealthy life and to be respected. He is just eighteen, yet he has experienced one hell of a roller-coaster ride of a life. In order of the questions on the show, Thomas tells the reader which amazing adventures in his street-kid life taught him the answers. In his journey, he found a scoundrel who always tortures his partner while having sex. That man’s name is Prem Kumar. He had tortured Neelima until
dead; he also had tortured Nita until she was hospitalized. Thomas was extremely angry to what happened. This incident also motivated Thomas to join the quiz show.

Swarup’s *Slumdog Millionaire* becomes an interesting literary work to be analyzed for some reasons. Firstly, the word plays in the title, “slumdog” and Millionaire, arouse the interest. The world “slumdog” usually refers to poor people who live in a slum area, whereas the word millionaire is used to describe someone who is wealthy. It is an unusual phenomenon, which occurs in the slum area. Moreover, how can “slumdog” become a billionaire remembering that the lower class people hardly ever move on to be middle class. This thought provoking drives curiosity in reading this novel and knowing what this novel is actually about.

Secondly, Ram Mohammad Thomas’ life, especially his journey in life has captured the reader interest. Living in a slum area where poor people live in bad conditions and unfeasible facilities is believed to bring a lot of influence to his life. Moreover, finding out what his real motivation in joining the quiz is another reason from explicit reasons about what is expressed in the novel.

This novel extremely a valuable that tells about what, the economic, politics and culture in India is like. The novel shows how living in the streets of India has provided Thomas with knowledge similar to what students learn formally in school. There are many things that can be analyzed in this novel, but in this study, the writer would like to focus on the analysis on Ram Mohammad
Thomas’ personality and how he becomes a billionaire as seen in Swarup’s 
*Slumdog Millionaire*.

1.2. Research Objectives

The aim of the study is to see that everyone has his or her motivation and 
equal right to achieve anything she or he wants as seen in Ram Mohammad 
Thomas, the main character of Swarup’s *Slumdog Millionaire*.

1.3. Problem Formulation

This study is directed by these research questions:

1. How is Ram Mohammad Thomas described in the novel?

2. How does Ram Mohammad Thomas, the “slumdog”, become a billionaire in 
the novel?

1.4. Problem Limitation

The discussion in this study will be limited to Thomas’ personality. The 
analysis of personality leads to the finding of Thomas’ motivation. The discussion 
describes Thomas’ personality and how he becomes a billionaire.
1.5. Definition of Terms

In order to have a clear and accurate understanding in reading the analysis, there are some terms that should be defined so that the meaning of these terms can be limited.

1.5.1. Motivation

According to John Jung (1974), motivation refers to desires, wishes, plans, goals, intents, impulses, and purposes. It also refers to the cause or reasons that underline a given behavior (p. 4). In this study, motivation refers to surface and deeper meanings of Ram Mohammad Thomas’ motivation in joining “Who will Win a Billion?”

1.5.2. “Who will Win a Billion?”

“Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” the syndicated television quiz show, is an on-air program of thirty minutes. For each episode of the program, the producer will select contestants from the contestant pool to appear as contestants who will play the game on the program in which they can win up to one million dollars ($1,000,000) by correctly answering up to fifteen (15) multiple-choice questions of increasing difficulty. (ABC Domestic Television: 2011). In this study, “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” refers to “Who will Win a Billion?” hosted by Prem Kumar.
1.5.3. “Slumdog”

UN Habitat (2004) states that slum means an area that combines to various extents the following characteristics: Inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding, insecure residential status. In this study, “slumdog” refers to lower class person living in a slum area, Ram Mohammad Thomas, who suddenly becomes a billionaire by joining the quiz show, “Who will Win a Billion?”
CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses the theories that are used to analyze the topic of this study. It is divided into three parts. The first part presents Review of Related Theories that consist of theories of character, theory of characterization, theory of motivation, critical approach and theory of psychology in the literary study. The second part is Theoretical Framework that explains some theories used to analyze the problem formulation of the study. The last part presents Context of the Novel.

2.1. Review of Related Theories

There are several theories needed in analyzing a literary work, especially a novel. Those are theories of character, theory of characterization, theory of motivation, theory of psychological approach and theory of psychology.

2.1.1. Theories of Character

A character is one of the most important elements in literary work. It is the one that makes the story seem alive, interesting, and understandable to read. It can attract the reader to be more deeply involved in the story.

The shape of the character depends on the readers’ interpretation, which is how the readers interpreted the character. Stanton (1965) says that the term of character is commonly used in two ways. It can be referred to the individuals who appear in the story and also the mixture of interest, desires, emotions, and moral
principles that shape each of these individuals (p. 17). He further states that in a
good fiction, speech and action are not only a step in the plot, but manifestation of
character is also included in it (p. 18).

Further Henkle (1977) divided character into major and secondary
characters. The major character is the character that takes the reader’s attention.
The effectiveness of the novel depends on the ability of the major character in
expressing and dramatizing the issue in the story. To a great extent, major
characters are created because only they are given the amplitude and attention to
present convincing dramatizations of human issues of the book. On the other
hand, secondary character performs limited function. Secondary character usually
comes on the scene frequently commenting on events or interacting with the
major character. They interact with the major character in order to bring out into
the open crucial elements of the nature or predicament of the major character.
Secondary characters are less important than those of the major character (pp. 92-
94).

Different from Henkle, Abrams and Harpham (2009) distinguish two types
of character, namely flat and round characters. Flat character presents a single
idea or quality. Flat character describes adequately in a single phrase or sentence
and presents without much individualizing detail. On the other hand, round
character is complex in temperament and motivation. Round character presents
with subtle particularly that is difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person
in real life. There is always a surprise element in round character (as cited in E. M
Foster, 2009, p. 43).
According to Rohrberger and Woods (1971) the process of creating characters is called characterization. There are two principal ways an author can characterize. First is direct, which they describe physical appearance, second is dramatic, which place situations how the character behaves and speaks (p. 20).

2.1.2. Theory of Characterization

Murphy (1972) point out nine ways of how an author may reveals the characters’ personality and traits to the reader. They are personal description, character as seen by others, speech, past life, conversation of others, reaction, direct comment, thought and mannerism. First is personal description. It means the author describes the characters’ physical appearances and clothes directly, such as the face, skin, eyes, and the castaway’s extraordinary clothing. Second is characters as seen by others, which means the author describes the character through the eyes and opinion of another. The reader can know the main character by understanding other characters’ saying and thought about him or her. Third is speech. From what character says the author can give the reader some clues to his or her character. Whenever a person speaks, whenever he is in conversation with another, whenever he puts forward an opinion, he is giving clue to his characters. Fourth is past life, which means the author gives a clue to the character’s past events. Through the person’s thoughts, through his conversation or through the medium of another person, the reader can have the picture about the character’s past life and relating what the character does with his/her future life. Fifth is conversation of others. The author gives clues to person’s character through the
conversation of other people and the things they say about him. Sixth is reaction, which means the authors give clues to a person’s character by letting the reader recognize how that person reacts to various situations and events. Seventh is direct comment from the author to the character. Eighth is thought. The author gives direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. In this respect, he is able to do what the reader cannot do in real life. He can tell us what different people are thinking. The last one is mannerism. The author describes a person’s mannerisms, habits or idiosyncrasies, which may also tell us something about his character.

2.1.3. Theory of Motivation

Daci (1975) says that the experiment on pain and cognitive dissonance focuses on distinction between two classes of motivation: intrinsic and extrinsic. Behavior that is undertaken because of some external reward is considered to be extrinsically motivated, and behavior that is undertaken because of long-term goals or an individual’s established preferences is considered to be intrinsically motivated (as cited in Braun, 1983).

2.1.3. Theory of Critical Approaches

Rohrberger and Woods (1971) state that there are five approaches that can be used to study a literary work (pp. 6-15). Those are formalist approach, biographical approach, sociocultural-historical approach, mythopoetic approach and psychological approach.
First is formalist approach concentrates on the total integrity of the literary work. It tries to examine the work of art without reference to facts of author’s life or genre of the work. The formalist believes in the idea of the work itself. The formalist entirely on its esthetic value by; first, demonstrating the harmonious involvement of all the parts to the whole; second, pointing out how meaning is derived from structure; and the last, how matters of technique determine structure.

Second is biographical approach, which is used when the researchers intend to judge a literary work based on the importance of acknowledging the author’s personal life for a deeper understanding of literary work.

Third is sociocultural-historical approach. This approach asserts the analysis of the social, cultural and historical background as a reference to the further understanding of the story. This approach can lead to an ethical judgment concerning the truth of an author’s statement. Establishing the validity of the text is the first job of historical criticism.

The fourth is mythopoeic approach. The proponent, who has a major interest in the mythopoeic approach, attempts to find particular recurrent patterns of human thought, which is considered to share the same universal beliefs to certain community mind. Those recurrent patterns are found being expressed in ancient myths and folk rites and are so basic to human through that they have meaning for all men.

The last is psychological approach, which reflects life and representation of human motivation and behavior. Here, the psychological approach is used to discover and demonstrate certain repetitive patterns. Hence knowledge of
psychological theories such as human motivation, personality, and behavior pattern written in literary objects can be analyzed. The approach finds what the work tells the researcher about the human mind and involves the effort to locate and demonstrate certain recurrent pattern. Thus, the knowledge of psychological fields is in order to study further some kinds of literary works.

To conduct the analysis of the novel, the writer uses psychological approach based on the theory of psychology. Rohrberger (1971) says that psychological approach analyzes a novel based on theory of psychology. This approach analyzes the character described in the novel deeper through the lens of psychology. The writer uses psychological approach to analyze the main character, Ram Mohammad Thomas, deeper so that it helps the writer to understand the character and motivation through his personality.

2.1.4. Theory of Psychology

Considering the topic of the thesis, the theory of psychology is used because character’s motivation in terms of his or her desire in achieving their aims need to be explained. Characters’ personality in their relationship with another character is also important to analyze. The psychoanalysis theory that is discussed here is the major systems of personality; they are id, ego and superego.

Braun (1938) divides personality into three parts; the ego, the superego, and the id. Each of them has its own highly specific role in maintaining normal personality functioning (as cited in Freud, 1977).
Freud uses the *ego* as *ich*, which means “I”, the part of the personality recognized and accepted as oneself. The ego acts according to the reality principle that it seeks to please the *id*'s drive in realistic ways that will benefit in the long term rather than bringing grief. The *ego* controls the *id* in doing some activities. The *ego* controls the individual’s action and manipulates the environment, because of that it calls the executive agency of personality. The *ego* is also the organized, realistic part.

The superego call as *überich* thus means “over the I”. *Superego* refers to the moral component that is imposed on the self by society. *Superego* plays the critical and moralizing role in the psyche, aims for perfection, includes ego’s ideals, and punishes misbehavior with feelings of guilt. The *superego* is that part of the personality that represents the moral standards of the society as conveyed to the child by the parents. *Superego* represents the ideal world rather than the pleasure. *Superego*’s main function is to decide whether something is right or wrong so that they can act in accordance with moral standard authorized by the society around them.

Freud uses for *id* as *es*, which means “it”, implying an alien force, something in a person that is not recognized as part of the self. The *id* may be seen as the instinctual biological drives that presents in every person at birth. The *id* talks about instinct, which is the source for the ego and the superego. The instincts itself have two types, Eros and The Opposed of Eros. The Eros is included in the need for food, warmth, sex and so on. The energy of Eros is called libido, a driving force of personality and propelling through life. The second type is The
Opposed of Eros. It is about death instinct. Freud also calls *id* as the principle of pleasure, only takes into account what it wants, and disregards all consequences. When the *id* fails releasing an individual from a strain, it tries to at least reduce the strain so that the psychic goes back to the constant condition.

### 2.2. Theoretical Framework

The theories of character and theory of characterization used to answer the first problem formulation, How is Ram Mohammad Thomas described in the novel? Those theories are used to help the process of finding Ram Mohammad Thomas’ character and later decide his personality portrayed in the novel.

Theory of motivation and theory of psychological approach is applied to answer the second problem. The writer uses those theories to understand Thomas’s motivation in winning the quiz and to understand how the author describes the way Thomas becomes a billionaire. Besides, the study of literal and true meaning is also conducted and analyzed using theory of psychology.

### 2.3. Context of the Novel

This part describes a major element setting of the story. The novel’s setting of place is Dharavi, a slum area around Mumbai, India. Approximately a million people from immigrants and natives inhabit this slum area. The novel’s setting of time is a modern era.

Most of the setting for the story takes place in a corner of Mumbai called Dharavi, a place where slum people live. In Dharavi, there are minimum and
indecent facilities. It can be said that Dharavi is not a place for human beings.

Swarup (2005) has described the situation of Mumbai in the novel:

“Dharavi, in a cramped hundred-square-foot shack that has no natural light or ventilation, with a corrugated metal sheet serving as the roof over it. It vibrates violently whenever a train passes overhead. There is no running water and sanitation. There are millions people like me, packed in two-hundred-hectare triangle of swampy urban wasteland, where we live like animals and die like insects. Destitute migrants from all over the country jostle with each other for their own handful of sky in Asia’s biggest slum. There are daily squabbles-over inches of space, over a bucket of water—which at times turns deadly. Dharavi’s residents come from the dusty backwaters of Bihar and UP and Tamil Nadu and Gujarat” (p. 156; ch. 6).

Many people come to Mumbai with dreams in their hearts of striking to be rich and living upper-middle-class lives. Changing their social status becomes one of their reasons for migration to Mumbai. Swarup (2005) added description of situation in Mumbai, as below:

“They come to Mumbai, the city gold, with dreams in their hearts of striking it rich and living upper-middle-class lives. Dharavi is not a place for the squeamish. Delhi’s Juvenile Home diminished them, but Dharavi’s grim landscape of urban squalor deadens and debases them. Its open drains teem with mosquitoes. Its stinking, excrement-lined communal latrines are full of rats, which make you think less about the smell and more about protecting your backside. Mounds of filthy garbage lie on every corner, from which rag-pickers still manage to find something useful. And at times you have to suck in your breath to squeeze through its narrow, claustrophobic alleys. But for the starving residences of Dharavi, this is home” (pp. 156-167; ch. 6).

The statement above is similar to the fact about Mumbai in real life. Feely, in her article states that Mumbai is one of the largest cities in India. The lure of jobs in the city is a huge pull on those living in rural areas. Migration into the city of Mumbai continues to grow at exponential rates each year. As a result, there has been a disproportionate rise of slums and overgrowing in the city. Mumbai holds
the dubious record of being the slum capital of the world. The population of
Mumbai is approximately 12 million people. She added that, almost 60% of the
total population lives in slums and the rich own 90% of the land, while the poor
are overcrowded in the remaining 10%.
CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the research methodology employed in this study. It consists of three parts namely, object of the study, approach of the study and method of the study.

3.1. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *Slumdog Millionaire* written by Vikas Swarup. It is a best-known novel, which was published in London in February 2005. This novel is the prime of Vikas Swarup's novel; it was previously published as *Q & A* in 2005. *Slumdog Millionaire* has a total of 382 pages and it is divided into four parts, the first part is Prologue, the second part consists of 12 chapters, the third is Epilogue and the last part is acknowledgment.

*Slumdog Millionaire* was written based on the experience of the author who was inspired by the slum area situation in Mumbai. Set in India, it tells the story of Ram Mohammad Thomas, a young waiter who becomes the biggest quiz show winner in history. In the novel, Thomas tells the story of his life and all of its difficulties. Living in a slum area, he dreamed to have a wealthy life and to be respected by the society. His dreams had motivated him to get what he wanted. The order of twelve questions on the game show, Thomas tells the readers that amazing adventures in his street-kid life taught him all the answers.
3.2. Approach of the Study

In conducting this thesis, the writer explained the approach used in this study. The writer only used one approach that is the psychological approach. This study focused on Thomas’ motivation in joining the quiz. Then, the writer used the psychological approach to find out the personality and motivation of the character in joining the quiz. This approach helped the writer to get the deeper description of the character motivation and view the character’s personality in the story.

3.3. Method of the Study

This study is a library research. Getting the novel *Slumdog Millionaire*, the first step taken was reading the novel and taking notes for the purpose of having understood the story. Besides, there were also other steps the writer used during the process of the study, such as reading some books as data and sources, and then putting what was appropriate in the analysis.

In this study, there are some steps done by the writer. First, the writer read the novel to understand and to get the idea of the novel. Second, the writer formulated the research problem based on the novel. Third, the writer found some references related to the novel. Fourth, the writer determined the appropriate approach to answer the research problem in this study. Fifth, the writer analyzed the work using some related theories to answer the problems. The last, the writer concluded the study based on the analysis.
In order to complete the study, it requires a lot of thought as well as references, books and sources from electronic sources. There are many sources that the writer used in analyzing the main character’s motivations in joining “Who will Win a Billion?” quiz as seen in Swarup’s *Slumdog Millionaire*. The sources are basically divided into two parts. The first is primary source that becomes the basis of the analysis. The primary source is *Slumdog Millionaire* novel. The second part is secondary sources that become supporting sources in giving information to the writer’s study as listed in the references part. Besides, there are many other books and electronic sources that support this study.
CHAPTER 4
ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the answer to the question formulated in the problem formulation. The discussion is divided into two parts. The first part is the analysis of Thomas’ personality described in the novel. The second part or the last part is the analysis of the literal and true meaning of Thomas’ motivation in joining the quiz.

4.1. The Description of Ram Mohammad Thomas’ Personality

This part describes Thomas’ personality in the novel. The theory of character and characterizations are used here. Thomas’ character is analyzed by using Rohrberger and Woods’ theory of characterization (1971). Based on the story, Thomas is classified as a major, round and dramatic character.

According to Rohrberger and Woods (1971), the process of creating characters is called characterization. There are two principal ways an author can characterize, direct and dramatic. Thomas can be classified into dramatic because Thomas’ physical appearance is not described clearly in the novel. Nevertheless, the reader can recognize Thomas’ character through his speech and behaviour in facing situations and conditions in his life.

Henkle proposes that character can be classified into major and secondary character (1977). Major characters are those who appear more often in the story. While, secondary characters appear less in the story. In the novel, Thomas can be classified into a major character since he appears in every chapter in the story.
Different from Henkle, Abrams and Harpham (2009) distinguish two types of character, namely flat and round character. Thomas can be classified into round character because he has a higher achievement. He is a kind person the first time. He lives with a priest in a church. But in his later journey, he killed more than twice for some reasons. He struggles hardly to be a billionaire.

The analysis of characterization is conducted by applying Murphy’s theory (1972) which focuses on characters as seen by another, speech, reaction, thought, and mannerism. Based on the theory of characterizations, Thomas’ personality can be explained as a kind, a responsible, a loyal, a selfless and a hardworking person.

4.1.1. A Kind Person

In this novel, Thomas never plans bad things for other people. He never plans to hurt others. According to Hornby (2005) a kind person means caring about others; gentle, friendly and generous. The writer finds out that being kind is one of Thomas personality traits through reaction to what had happened to his friend, Salim. Thomas was sad to know what happened to Salim. When Thomas had a conversation with Salim, he reacted and said “What? I cry in disappointment. ‘Just three seconds! What kind of role is that?” (p. 231).

The other clue that Thomas is a kind person is through his reaction. “I bet on Laxman and India and cleaned up ten lakh rupees!’ Salim said. ‘Ten lakhs!’ My eyes popped out” (p. 233). Based on the action that is told through his reaction, it can be assumed that Thomas was showing his understanding to what Salim felt. Although it had been a long time Thomas and Salim never met,
Thomas showed that he cared and was very sad to know what happened to his friend. He built good relationship with Salim. He loves Salim even though Salim is not his family. “It is a very long story.’ ‘No story can be long enough for me, Salim. Quick, now, tell me from the beginning” (p. 225). Thomas showed his enthusiasm to listen and to understand what was going on with his friend.

In addition, Thomas’ attitude that he is being a kind young man is shown in the story. He just tried to have a strong feeling to protect his best friend, Salim. Swarup shows it through speech (Muphy: 1972) that Thomas cared for his friend. Thomas was eight years old. He was sent to Delhi Juvenile Home for Boys after Father Timothy died, and that was his first meeting with Salim. Over time, Thomas and Salim become very good friends. Living in Juvenile Home, they were adopted by Mr. Sethji who promised them to be actor. He also taught vocal to Thomas and friends. Unfortunately, Mr. Sethji was not the owner of the school but he was a gangster. Hearing Mr. Sethji and Maman’s conversation, immediately Thomas realized that they were in danger. They were not taught to be an actor but to be beggar. Thomas was convinced now that Maman and his gang had deliberately maimed all the cripple boys here. Immediately, he asked Salim to go with him, but Salim wanted to stay. Because of that, Thomas gave the sense that he would not go without him.

“Why don’t you run away alone?’ he asks me.
‘I can’t go without you.’
‘Why?’
‘Because I am your guardian angel, and you are part of my package deal” (pp. 117-118).
Respect and care perhaps stimulate Thomas to be more mature and independent to decide his plan. He tries to maintain his personality to care and respect due to the purpose to protect his close friend. Thomas even does not care about himself. He had wasted his time to give Salim sense about any possible danger, even he would not go without his best friend. He would be able to pass any possible danger with Salim.

The author describes that even people cannot deny his kindness. It reveals through the eyes and opinion of another (Murphy: 1972), Gudiya felt comfortable with Thomas when he promised to take care of Pluto, Gudiya’s dog. It can be seen from a statement below.

“Suddenly she stretches out her arm and takes my hand in hers. ‘You are the brother I never had. Isn’t he Mummy?’ she says. Mrs. Santarem nods her head. I don’t know to say. This is a new relationship for me. In the past, I have imagined myself as someone’s son, but never as someone’s brother. So I just hold Godiva’s hand and sense an unspoken bond pass between us” (p. 80).

Based on the eyes and opinion of another, it can be seen that Thomas is a kind person. He helped Gudiya in solving her problem although she was just a new neighbor for him.

Furthermore, his kindness shows when Gudiya had an accident caused by what her father did. He treated Gudiya well. He cared for other people even though they were not family. In his reaction he said “Sister, don’t weep. Here, hold my hand’, I cry” (p. 82). He is a kind boy since he is showing his sympathy and understanding to other.

Through thoughts, it shows that he is a kind and a softhearted man. “Her crying affects me in a strange way. I don’t know how brother reacts on listening to
his sister’s sorrow, because I have no experience of being a brother” (p. 82). Furthermore, the author gives more description, “Stage sadness spreads through me when I hear this” (p. 263). He shows his sympathy to Gudiya.

Thomas is a generous man to rely on. The author adds more description through Thomas’ reaction. When he found that another child was being punished by Maman, the gangster, he helped that child. “Here, take this spaghetti. We saved it for you” (p. 111). “Then why don’t you leave him?’ I cry” (p. 260). It shows that Thomas cares for others. He didn’t want other people to be hungry. He considers about the other people he meets.

As has been explained before that a kind person is showing his or her understanding and sympathy. It was matching to what Thomas had done to Neelima. Thomas showed his understanding and sympathy through his conversation with Neelima when she was tortured by her boyfriend while making love. Neelima is in bed with a deep cut above her left eyebrow and her cheek is swollen. She had also difficulty speaking (p. 264). When he found his boss being tortured, he asked his boss the name of the man who had tortured her and also he asked his boss to call the police (p. 264). Nevertheless, his boss did not permit him. The only thing he can do was to treat his boss well. He did his best to care for his boss. He cried to know that his boss was lying in bad condition “Oh my God, Madam, what happened to you?’ I cry”. (p. 259). Even though he was only a new servant in Neelima house, he showed his sympathy through his tears. “Madam, I feel very sad seeing you in this condition. Who is doing this to you? I ask her” (p. 259).
He was so friendly to his boss that his boss could not deny his kindness and treated him like a family, a son. He was also well mannered. It can be said that he is a perfectly kind boy.

“Come to me, my child,’ she said and draws my face into her chest. I don’t know what Neelima Kumari was thinking when she drew me in her bosom. Whether she saw me as a son or as a lover, whether she did it to forget her pain or simply to gain a cheap thrill. But as I nuzzled my face between her breasts, all consciousness of the outer world ceased in my brain and for the first time I felt as though I was not an orphan any more that I had real mother, one whose face I could see, one whose I flesh I could touch” (p. 265).

Through his empathy, he denoted a deep emotional understanding of Neelima’s feeling and problem. According to Freud’s theory, these traits are influenced by superego. The superego leads Thomas to his fully conscious behavior.

4.1.2.  Responsible Boy

Thomas is a responsible boy. According to Hornby (2005), responsible means reliable (of people or their action or behavior) that you can trust and rely on. The author also describes that he is a responsible boy from thought and manner, so that his characteristic can be seen whether he acts positive or negative (Murphy: 1972). Thomas’ boss, Colonel Taylor is an Australian. The author describes Taylor as a rich person who was robbed when he was not home and he asked Thomas’ help to secure the Den immediately, took out the broken padlock.

“Colonel Taylor returns to Delhi without even attending his mother’s funeral. He rushes into the Den as soon as the taxi pulls up outside the house. He comes out looking relieved. ‘Thank God, nothing has been taken from the room. Well done, Thomas. I knew I could rely on you’” (p. 146).
The sentence above shows that Mr. Taylor trusted him to secure the Den. What Thomas had done was considered as his responsibility. As an orphan, he was responsible enough to what his boss asks for. He considered about the happiness of people who gives him work, life, and happiness. The Den is everything to Mr. Taylor. He even did not attend his mother’s funeral when he returned home. The first thing he did was rush into the Den and made sure that nothing happened. Although the Den was important for him, Taylor greatly relied on Thomas without any hesitancy. He is a responsible boy since his boss trusts him.

Referring to Murphy’s theory (1972), one character can be described through the eyes and opinions of others. Thomas is a responsible boy that is why Mr. Ramakrishna cannot deny his responsibility. Mr. Ramakrishna is an administrator of the Chawl. He was very important person to beg money from when Thomas and others didn’t have money to pay the monthly rent (p.71). He called Thomas to come and he said,

“Thomas, meet Mr. Shantaram. He is our new tenant, who will be staying in the flat next to yours. I have told Mr. Shantam that you are a very responsible boy, so please help him and his wife and daughter settle down. Ok, Mr Santaram, I will now take my leave.” (pp. 71-72).

Mr. Ramakrishna’s opinion about Thomas has described Thomas’ character. What Mr. Ramakrishna said in this novel has shown that Thomas is a responsible boy.

4.1.3. Selfless Person

According to Hornby (2005), selfless means thinking more about the needs, happiness, etc. of other people than about own. Through reaction (Murphy:
1972), it can be seen that Thomas is a selfless person. He cares about others’ needs without realizing his own needs. Skahil, one of the poor students living in the outhouse, approached him to beg money to pay the university fees (291). Without any hesitancy, he said:

“Of course, Shakil. I have already lent fifty to our great poet Najmi and hundred to Gopal, and I had been keeping a hundred to buy new shirt. But your requirement is greater than mine, so take it all” (p. 292).

Because of his actions, behaviors, and deeds, he can be assumed as a person of great selflessness.

The author also gives more description that Thomas is a selfless person through his reaction. After several times Thomas had lent his money to Najmi, Shakil, and many other friends, it was the turn to Bihari. Bihari was the only one who has not asked him for any money until now. That was why Thomas gave his money to Bihari. “I give two hundred rupees to Bihari, knowing that I would never get them back. But he is still unable to buy all the medicines” (p. 303). Knowing that he would never get his money back, he still lent his money to Bihari. Through Thomas’ reactions to any situation that happens to his friends, it can be assumed that Thomas is really a likeable and a selfless boy. Furthermore, from the statement above, it can also be assumed that Thomas is selfless through opinion of other’s. From Bihari and Shakil’s opinion, they knew that Thomas would lend his money so they asked for it. It was more than one or even three times, he lent his money to his friend without any hesitancy.
4.1.4. Loyal Person

Thomas is described in the novel as a loyal boy. He always had a high loyalty towards Neelima and Taylor, his masters. He wanted to be there wherever and whenever his masters needed him. The time when Neelima asked him to have a day-off, he secretly stayed at home and kept his master from any possible danger. He knew that Neelima would invite her boyfriend to come to her home. It can be seen through Thomas reaction to the situation that he was loyal to his master.

“These instructions are given to me three times in the next three months. I know that when I am away she will entertain her lover in the house, and does not want me to know about it. So the next time she tells me to stay in Ghatkopar and return the next day, I do not follow her instruction fully. I go back to Ghatkopar for the night, but instead of returning at seven am the next morning; I come back at five and hang around outside the flat” (p. 258).

When Neelima’s boyfriend came to her house, Thomas actually realized that he would only torture her while having sex, such as burning Noelma’s body with cigarettes, beating Neelima’s face until bruise and even more cruel than that (p. 258).

The statement above shows that Thomas is a loyal boy. It can be seen that Thomas’ loyalty made him to stay at home and to protect Neelima from any possible danger even though Neelima asked him to take the day-off. When every servant wanted to feel free by having day off after a full month serving his master, Thomas chose to take care of his master. He did not want his master to be in trouble. He even showed continuing allegiance to Neelima. “I feel pained and angry, and powerless to protect her” (p. 259). From that day, Thomas came to Neelima and showed more care. His caring was truly from his deepest heart. That
was why Neelima could see his loyalty by giving him more attention, so that Neelima treated him like a family, not a servant anymore, “Come to me, my child,’ she says and draws my face into her chest” (265).

The author describes Thomas as a loyal boy. Although Thomas was threatened with death by the robber, he still secretly called his master to inform that his house was robbed. ‘And if you try and call the police I will break every bone in your body” (p. 144). As a servant, he knew his duty well which was saving the house when his boss was not at home. The servant has to inform him whatever happened in the house.

“I call up Colonel Taylor on his cell phone number. ‘I am sorry to disturb you, Sir, but there has been a robbery in the house. Jay has taken away the VCD player and the three-in-one. And he also broke into the Den” (p. 146).

By helping his master to save his property at the expense of his own life, it is proven that Thomas is faithful to his master.

As Murphy (1972) has explained, author describes character through the other’s eyes and opinion. Therefore, Salim’s opinion about Thomas strengthens the idea that Thomas has a high loyalty. Thomas always wanted to be on his master’s side in any situations. When Thomas and Salim met Maman, he followed Thomas’ instruction to leave Maman although he knew by following Thomas’ instruction he would lose his chance to be an artist. Here, the writer can also see Thomas’ loyalty in caring Salim. Salim totally believed in Thomas and left Maman.

“Why don’t you run away alone?” he asks me.
“Can’t go without you.”
“Why?”
“Because I am your guardian angel, and you are part of my package deal.” Salim hugs me. (pp. 117-118).

From the conversation above, Thomas’ loyalty in protecting Salim can be seen and Salim was also able to see his integrity.

The author gives more description of Thomas’ loyalty. Thomas loyalty can be seen through reaction to the situation when his friend died because of rabies. Shankar was a friend who helped him when he did not have a place to live, a friend who was willing to share his room to sleep. When his friend died, Thomas took care of the funeral. Thomas demanded that Swapna Devi be responsible to bury his friend. He also asked Swapna Devi to claim Shankar as a child at the end of Shankar’ life. Although Swapna Devi did not want to pay the cost of Shankar’s hospital and burial, Thomas forced Swapna to claim Shangkar as a child. Because Thomas knew that Shankar’s only one desire was to have a mother and claim / to be claimed as a child. “I know your secret, Swapna Devi,” I tell her to her face. “I have discovered that Shankar is your son” (p. 323).

Thomas knew the risks against Swapna Devi. If Swapna Devi was being angry, Thomas could be expelled from the house. Nevertheless, Thomas did not care. He just wanted his friend to be claimed by Swapna Devi as a child although it had to be at the end of Shankar’s life.

“I climb on the table, and place Shankar’s body gently in the middle, in between a creamy vanilla cake and a bowl of rasagullas” . . . . “Mrs. Swapna Devi, if this is your palace, and you are its queen, then knowledge the prince. I have come to deliver the dead body of your son Kunwar Shankar Singh Gautama to you. He dead half an hour ago, in the outhouse where you have kept him hidden all these fulfill the duty of a mother. Now honors your obligation as a landlady. Please pay for the funeral of your penniless tenant” (pp. 326-327).
The sentence above proves that Thomas’ reaction can describe his loyalty as Murphy (1972) said that character is also described through the person’s reaction to the situation.

### 4.1.5. Hardworking Person

The author describes Thomas as a hard working boy. Thomas plays a role as a major character that tends to be dynamic. In exile, Thomas realized that he needs to be a hard worker to keep his life. Food was one of the main problems in exile. Thus, Thomas realized that he had to work and to earn money. He lived alone without a caring family.

Thomas had worked as a freelance in many places. But then he worked at a foundry in chawl of Mumbai. He also had experience of working in a restaurant and bar as a waiter.

“Ajay, the show-off, is also getting on my nerves. He made fun of me in front of the whole chawl when I told him I joined a foundry. I know working in foundry is not half as exciting as working for film star, but at least it is better than sitting in the street” (p. 70).

His motivation in getting a better life can be seen in this novel. He did not want to beg for money. He has a motto that guides him, which is if he wants to have money, he has to work. Through reaction, it can be seen that he was working hard every day (Murphy: 1972), “The whole day I work at the foundry, returning only at six in the evening. And smelting metal is a tough job. The molten iron smothers you with its heat and your eyes are often blinded by the bright- orange flames” (p. 71). Working in a foundry was not easy. It needs extra energy and
tolerance. From the novel, it can be seen that it was not the job Thomas wanted, but he still worked there just to get money in order to live a long life.

The author also describes that he lived in a slum area, and it made him work even harder. The author gives more evidence about Thomas’ hard work through reaction (Murphy: 1972). His experience of working in a restaurant helped the customer get home and cleaned the customer’s mess from drinking.

“... The customer pleads and holds out his empty glass. I look at my watch. It is twelve forty-five am. Technically, the bar does not close till one. ... Now I not only have to clear up the big mess he has created, but also call taxi, help him to his feet and somehow send him home” (p. 153).

His job in the foundry was similar to the job as a laborer. He worked crucially hard and needs extra energy. He did every job he could do even serve other people.

The author describes that Thomas is a hardworking boy, through his reaction (Murphy: 1972) that he worked full time serving in Neelima’s house. “I do every job that other servants do not do in that house. I do the dusting, cleaning, ironing cloth, make evening tea, errands outside the house, buy milk and pay all the utility bills” (pp. 246-247).

The author even gives more evidence that Thomas is a hardworking boy. He worked as a guide in Taj Mahal even though he knew that he had no knowledge in this field. His hard work was started by joining other guide discreetly, learning intimate details about the life of Muntaz Mahal, memorizing detail accounts of the constructions of the Taj, such as the State Treasury supplied 466.55 kilograms of pure gold, etc” (p. 289). He is an uneducated orphan boy but he can memorize all the constructions of the Taj Mahal in detail within four days.
“Anyway, by the fourth day I had picked up enough knowledge about the Taj Mahal to aspire to join the ranks of the hundreds of unlicensed guides in Agra” (p. 288). For children of his age, it might be difficult memorizing every single account of the construction and the story behind them. Taking extra time and energy, Thomas tried to memorize it as well as he could. Moreover, Thomas was able to speak English fluently. “The fact that I spoke fluent English immediately gave me a head start” (p. 289). He learnt English very quickly by guiding the tourists and not because he had been to school.

4.2. The Way Ram Mohammad Thomas, the “slumdog”, Become a Billionaire in the Novel

The way Thomas becomes a billionaire can be found out through his motivation. His motivation can be divided into literal and true meanings. Literal meaning or in Freud’s theory known as ego, describes individual’s action and manipulates the environment or it is also known as a motivation that manipulated by the environment. True meaning or in Freud’s theory known as id talks about instincts, which is the source for the ego and the superego.

4.2.1. Literal Meaning

In his book, Freud describes that superego tries to satisfy the desires of the id, to anticipate the consequences of a particular means of gratification, and sometimes to delay gratification in order to achieve long-range goals. The ego takes for itself part of the energy of the id and proceeds to serve as the mediator
between the *id* and reality (Braun, Jay 1938); this is a matching to Thomas’ literal meaning becoming a billionaire that he didn’t come in the quiz to win money, but to take revenge.

Living as a servant with a low-class social status gives Thomas experiences to be brave to make any decision for him and others. Living in a church taught him to be a loyal, kind and softhearted person. As a young man with a softheart, Thomas could not see people around him being tortured with all their body burned. It becomes the reason why he took revenge. It also had changed his characterization from a kind boy to be a brutal boy.

Neelima was Thomas’ boss whose death was caused by her boyfriend in his making love. It was similar to what happened to Nita, Thomas’ love that was tortured by her customer. Prem Kumar was Neelima’s boyfriend, and at the same time, he was also Nita’s customer. He was the same man who tortured them.

The author gives description about the literal meaning of Thomas’ motivation, which was taking revenge. The first reason he took revenge was because of seeing the one he loves, Nita, had difficulty in speaking. She had been hospitalized because her customer in prostitution had tortured her. She was behind a curtained partition, lying on a trolley. She had livid bruises all over her face and her lips. Her lips were peculiarly twisted as if her jaw has been dislocated. Thomas saw there was blood on two of her teeth and her left eye was blackened (p. 328). One looking at her, Thomas almost fainted from shock. He said “who… who has done this to you?” I ask, barely recognizing my own voice” (p. 328). He was very angry for what had happened to Nita.
Moreover, the second shock was on seeing the condition of the drawing room. There were cigarette butts and ash everywhere. There was a strong smell of alcohol in the room. He found Neelima Kumari had bruises all over her face and had a black eye (p. 259). It can be seen from Thomas’ shock and unbelief at what he saw, as proven below.

“Oh my God, Madam, what happened to you?” I cry. ‘Nothing, Thomas. I slipped from my bed and hurt myself. Nothing to worry about’” (p. 259).

“Madam, I feel very sad seeing you in this condition. Who is doing this to you?” I ask her” (p. 259).

Thomas knew she was lying. That man he saw leaving the flat had done this to her. Thomas felt pained, angry, and powerless to protect Neelima after he knew that the man who tortured Neelima was her boyfriend.

What had happened to Neelima and Nita affected him to be an evil boy.

“My blood begins to boil. ‘I know who has done this to you. Did he say his name? I will kill him” (p. 329). After Nita gave him a description of the man who had tortured her, immediately Thomas recognized that the man who tortured Neelima and Nita was the same man.

Somehow in hospital, he saw a soggy newspaper lying on the floor. It had an advertisement showing the face of a man who was grinning and holding several thousand rupees notes in his fingers. Thomas knew that the man was the same man who came to Neelima’s house and tortured her to death. Underneath the picture, there was a caption saying, “welcome to the greatest show on the television. Welcome to W3B – Who will Win a Billion? Phone lines are open” (p. 333). In the newspaper, he saw Prem Kumar’s face written as the host of the quiz. This was his first way to get revenge.
Every day he waited for a letter to arrive from the $W3B$ people, to tell him if he had been selected to participate in the show. But the policeman delivered nothing (p. 159). After waiting a long time for the letter, he almost gave up, but he must wait for it for a reason.

“A sense of defeat has begun to cloud my mind. I feel that the specific purpose for which I came to Mumbai is beyond me. That I am swimming against the tide. Those powerful currents are at work which I cannot overcome. But then I hear my beloved Nita’s cries and Neelima Kumari’s sob and my willpower returns. I have to get on that show” (pp. 158-159).

From the statement above, it can be seen that Thomas was crucially angry for what happened to Neelima and Nita, and he wants to take revenge on the host of the quiz. What happened to them had affected him. That Thomas could not live happily had also motivated him to take revenge.

After getting on the quiz show, he joined the quiz until the last two questions. In the break time when Prem Kumar and Thomas were in the wash room, Thomas became brutal. They were the only people there. Prem told him that Thomas would not be able to answer the next question and he offered Thomas to make a deal. Prem promised to give him a thousand rupee tip when he came to the restaurant where Thomas worked. But Thomas rejected what Prem offered, and he became more brutal. He had a gun in his hand and ready to shoot Prem Kumar. He told Prem Kumar his reason for coming to the quiz, which was not for money but to take revenge.

“Prem Kumar looks at me sharply. ‘What do you mean?’
‘What I mean, Mr. Prem Kumar, is that I did not come on your show to win money. No, far from it.’ I shake my head exaggeratedly. ‘No, I come on your quiz show to take revenge.’” (p. 348)
Prem Kumar’s peeing was cut short midstream. He zipped up his trousers hastily and looked at Thomas sidelong. He did not realize all that happened in the wash room. He was surprised to know Thomas’ reason for coming to the quiz was to take revenge (p. 348).

“Revenge? What do you mean? Revenge on whom?” ‘On you,’ I say defiantly. I step backwards and pull a gun from the waistband of my trousers. It is small, snub-nosed revolver, very compact, no bigger than my fist. I grip it tightly in my hand and point it at him” (p. 348).

Actually he had already made Prem afraid. Prem was turning paler and holding out his hand defensively. “Please, don’t pull the trigger. Look, the moment you kill me you will be arrested. And then you will be hanged. You will die, too.” “So what? The only thing I live for is revenge” (p. 350). From the conversation, it can be seen that Thomas did not care to the die after he killed Prem Kumar. He explained clearly that he came to take revenge.

Until finally Prem asked forgiveness and offered him to win the quiz and become the biggest winner, Thomas changes his mind immediately.

“Please reconsider the situation, Thomas. I swear to you, spare my life and I will tell you the answer to the last question. You will be the biggest winner” (p. 350). “I am not returning to the quiz show, and neither are you’, I say and remove the safety catch” (p. 350).

Realizing that his real motivation was to win the quiz, he reached his intention to take revenge. The true meaning of Thomas’ motivation had beaten its literal meaning. Finally he accepted what Prem offered. Then he canceled killing him and joined the last question of the quiz.

According to Braun, Jay (1938), the ego takes for itself part of the energy of the id and proceeds to serve as the mediator between the id and reality. The
reality here is that Thomas was angry because the same man had tortured Neelima and Nita. In addition, the *id* here is Thomas’ real motivation, which is he wanted to be a billionaire in order to change his life and save his love and also helps his friend. Taking revenge is the mediator to achieve his long-range goal that is to have a lot of money.

### 4.2.2. True Meaning

In his book, Freud describes that the *id*, that all the instincts together are the energy source for the *ego* and the *superego*, which develops later in childhood. Freud defines the instinct as the psychological expression of a biologically based on physical need. These needs can be for food, sex, elimination of waste, or any other bodily requirement. In response to these needs, human being develops wishes that motivate and direct someone’s behavior to satisfy the specific need that has been aroused. The instinct provides physics energy that powers the entire personality (Braun, Jay 1938). This is a matching to true meaning of Thomas’ motivation in joining the quiz that he comes to the quiz to win money. He wanted to be a Billionaire in order to change his life, get a better life, save his love from prostitution, and also help Salim to realize his dream to be an artist.

#### 4.2.2.1. Getting a Better Life

One of the true meanings of Thomas’ motivations to become a billionaire is to get a decent life and to be appreciated and not to be underestimated anymore. Thomas was a servant. According to Highways LLC (2008) as retrieved on
September 21, 2011 from http://www.india9.com/i9show/Sudras-47540.htm, a servant belongs to the lower castes whose duty is to serve upper community in Indian castes. Definition of caste is explained in the quotation below,

“From those four castes, Shudra is believed to be the lowest caste. Their duty was to serve the upper communities. Shudra is not permitted to perform any sacrifice or read and learn the Vedas or chant the mantras. Sudra treated as outcastes or untouchables” (Highways LLC: 2008).

Thomas was a feisty young man who had lived in an orphanage, a church compound, the Mumbai slums, and in diplomat’s house. He was smooth talking con-artist tourist guide as well as a hard-working man. Exploited by a gangster, he was treated as weak and underestimated by others. He was also underestimated by the police when he was being interrogated. “How can you expect him to speak English? He’s just a dumb waiter in some godforsaken restaurant, for Chrissake!” (p. 15).

Throughout his life, Thomas worked hard in order to earn money and got respect. He also worked hard to fight for life. A better life was just a dream for him, so that by having lots of money he could leave his bad life.

“Every half -hour or so he comes up with a new instrument of torture. First, he inserted a wooden rod into my anus. With chili powder smeared on it. It felt as if a molten, searing spike was being driven through my backside. I choked and gagged with pain. Then he thrust my head into a bucket of water and held it there till my lungs were about to explode” (p. 23).

The desire to leave underestimated life had motivated Thomas’ fight to get billions. He lives in a slum area and was treated like an animal. He was tortured and even forced to admit mistakes he never did. In the place where he lived, money was everything. Certain groups who had lots of money even could bribe
police institution. For the poor, the police was no longer a place to complain about cases but it had been like hell. The police officers were brutal. They could be purchased with money. They also blame the innocent person. They irritated Thomas as they irritate animals. It provoked Thomas and triggered motivation to change his life.

Abandoned as a baby, he grew up in the orphanage until he was adopted by an Indian Christian couple. Finally, for some reasons the couple split and left him in the care of the parish priest. “I was put up for adoption, together with a clutch of other orphan babies” (p. 49). Thomas was another poor orphan who experienced ups and downs in life. He was a poor waiter from the slums of Mumbai with no formal education. “He’s never been to school. He’s never even read a newspaper” (p. 18). Thomas was always being underestimated because he comes from the lower caste in his society.

It was not only the upper-middle-class society who underestimated him, but other servants who work in Taylor’s house also underestimated him. Thomas worked in Taylor’s house and he met other orphan, Jai, who was responsible for cooking. Even though Jai was new chef in Taylor’s house, Jai also underestimated him. He did not like Thomas and considered Thomas as a poor servant with no ambition. Thomas instantly disliked him. Jai smokes secretly in Taylor’s residence, which is prohibited (p.139). Moreover, Jai treated him like a servant. Thomas’ desire to be respected is also shown through his conversation with Jai. “What is your ambition in life?” he asks me like the teacher in the Juvenile Home. “To own a red Ferrari,” I lie. What is your?” (p. 139).
The conversation above indicates that Thomas dreams to become a rich person. He told Jai about his dream. He wanted to tell Jai that even though he was just an orphan, he had a dream to achieve. Becoming a rich person is the true meaning of Thomas’ motivation, because by having a lot of money, people will not underestimate him anymore. Thomas realizes that he has a dream, but dreams without money are useless. Only with money, he would be able to realize his dreams.

Thomas desire to be appreciated by society or respected by others is also seen when he had fifty rupees for the very first time in his pocket. On his train journey to Mumbai, he met the typical middle-class family scene in front of him. The brother and the sister tire of their board game. The boy came and sat next to him and began talking. They came to Mumbai to attend their uncle’s wedding. That boy, named Askhay, was excited about Playstation 2 and his computer game. When he asked Thomas about MTV and surfing the internet, Thomas told him that he speaks English, reads Australian Geographic, play Scrabble and many other activities that are usually done by rich people (p. 179). Thomas did not permit others to know that he was just poor of low caste. Thomas covered up that he was just a servant who had fled to Mumbai to run away, not due to meet his friend, Salim. “I tell him that I am going to Mumbai to meet my best friend, Salim” (p. 179). Thomas was lying in order to be acceptable among the middle class and not to be underestimated again. “And I will be taking a taxi from Airport Terminus to Ghatkoper” (p. 180). Thomas was no longer willing to admit that in fact he had no money for a cab.
Nevertheless, Akshay did not believe what Thomas talked about. He knew that Thomas comes from the very lower class society and never performed activities of the rich person as he explained earlier. Thomas tried harder to make Akshay believe him. It can be seen that Thomas no longer wants to be underestimated, especially by a child of Akshay’s age. Thomas tried to explain that he had a lot of money. He showed his money that he had saved in his pocket. And says “I have fifty thousand rupees in my pocket. Have you ever seen so much money in your live?” (p. 180). Immediately Akshays’ eyes literally popped out of their pockets. In addition, for the first time Thomas was getting respect because of having money.

“For the first time in my life, I had something more tangible than dream to back up a claim. And for the first time in my life, I saw something new reflected in the eyes that saw me. Respect. It taught me a very valuable lesson. That dreams have power only over your own mind. But with money you can power over the minds of others. And once again it made the fifty thousand inside my underwear feel like fifty million” (p. 180).

From the quotation above, it is clearly seen that Thomas had a dream to become a billionaire in order to get respect. He realized that dreams without money would be just dreaming, but by having money, he was not only able to achieve his dream but he could also change others biased perception of him.

The author shows that after he got a billion, Thomas’ life totally changes. His dream has come true. Long time ago, he realized that dreams had power only over mind, but with money, people had power over the minds of others. Nevertheless, what he discovered after receiving the payout was that with money he has power even over the police. Furthermore accompanied by sizeable police contingent, he now is able to pay the police.
“I paid a visit to Geregaon last month, to a large decrepit building set in a courtyard with a small garden and two plant trees. The police arrested five people and freed thirty-five crippled children. They are all now in the care of a well-known international child-welfare agency” (p. 359).

It has been proven that by winning the quiz he is able to change his life, even now he is able to pay the police power.

4.2.2.2. Saving Nita from Prostitution

Thomas is nevertheless wiser than his age, larger than life, a hero who wants to save the prostitute he has fallen in love with. Thomas had a recurring dream of a tall woman with a beautiful face and black hair. Thomas likes Nita since the first time he met her in a brothel. Nita is the kind of woman that Thomas dreamed about. She has a beautiful face and black hair (p. 301). Thomas had more sympathy for her after they made love for the first time. It made him find new sensation in life. His breathing became shallow and his mouth became dry. His heart also started hammering against his ribs. Thomas would never forget this moment. It made him come back to this place to meet Nita (p. 302).

Thomas began to visit Nita every Monday when he finished work. After his five visits to Nita, Thomas succeeded in breaking down her defenses and they became closer to each other. Without realizing it, in their long conversation, Thomas has fallen in love with Nita.

“I know you will find your prince one day,’ I declare, with tears in my eyes. She doesn’t accept any tip from me that day. I reflect on my conversation with Nita and wonder why I had lied to her. I don’t really want her to find any other prince. Without even realizing it, I had fallen in love with her” (p. 306).
The evidence above shows us how he really loves Nita and how love changes his life. Falling in love with Nita made him forget his vague life and his bad life condition in slum area. His life became colorful and his dream was fulfilled. It seems that there was no more happiness than being with Nita. It was similar to the moment when Thomas and Nita were sitting under the moonlit, Taj Mahal. He forsook the world of poetry and films that he saw with Salim long time ago.

“Do you love me?” And she replies with just one word, “yes”. That one word holds more meaning for me that all the books on poetry and all the guidebooks on Agra. And when I hear it my heart takes a joyous leap. My mighty love breaks free of the earth, take wings and soars into the sky, like a kite. And for the first time, the Taj Mahal feels like a living house instead of an impersonal tomb.....” (p. 312).

The sentences above portray how he was really falling in love with Nita. Thomas’s life seemed to change. He was finding new things that he never found before. Nita had colored Thomas’ life. Thomas would be able to do anything to be with Nita including to have a lot of money and even to kill someone else to save Nita.

Nita was a kind young girl who worked as a prostitute. She worked in order to fulfil her family need. In her conversation with Thomas, she explained,

“It gives me enough to feed me and my entire family. If I was not doing this, my family would have died from hunger long ago. We prostitutes know about AIDS. But it is better to die of diseases tomorrow than hunger today, don’t you agree? Now are you just going to ask questions or are you going to do something? Don’t blame me later if your time runs out and Shankar sends in the next customer. I am much in demand” (p. 300).

From the sentences above it can be seen that the one whom Thomas loves lived in an ironic situation. She believes that to die of AIDS is better than to die of
hunger. Moreover, Nita worked as a prostitute not because she enjoyed it. It was a family tradition that she had to do. She would never marry although she really wanted it, as she explained to Thomas, “My mother had the right to decide which of her two daughters would marry and which one would become a prostitute” (p. 305). What Nita did was a family tradition she had to do. She was the only one in her family who worked as a head of household. There was no reason for her to marry except if someone who proposes her would pay a lot for her. This situation made Thomas eager to save Nita from the prostitution. However, he could not do anything because he had no money to fulfil Nita’s and her family daily needs.

Actually Nita did not want to become a prostitute. She did not want to die at a young age. She asked Thomas to bring her whenever he go. Nita said, “I do not want to die before I am twenty like Radha. Take my way from here Raju” (p. 315). Because Nita really wanted to leave prostitution, it made Thomas want to help her. He told the pimp that he wanted to marry Nita and brought her with him. However, the pimp did not permit him.

“I speak to the pimp the same evening. ‘Look, Shyam, I am in love with Nita and I want to marry her. She will no longer work in the brothel.’ Shyam looks me up and down as if I am an insect. ‘I see, so you have been giving her all these stupid ideas. Listen, you bastard, nobody tells Nita to stop working. Only I can tell her that. And I don’t want her to stop working. She is the goose which lays the golden eggs. And I want those eggs to keep coming for a long, long time’” (p. 315).

From the conversation above, it can be seen that Shyam would never let Nita go because she was the gold eggs. The one who brought her was the rich person who pays much for her, so Shyam would not suffer a financial loss. It means Thomas had to be rich if he wanted to save Nita.
Because Nita was a valuable asset for Shyam, he would not release his assets easily, so Shyam would only release Nita from prostitution when a high price is paid. Here is Thomas and Shyam conversation,

“That means you will never allow her to marry?”
“I can allow her to marry, but only one condition. That the man who marries her agrees to compensate me for my loss of earnings.”
“And how much is your estimates loss of earnings?”
“Let’s say… four lakh rupees. Can you get me that sum of money?” he laughs and dismisses me.
“I check my saving that night. I have total of 480 rupees. Leaving a shortfall of only Rs. 399, 250.
“I feel so angry I want to strangle the pimp. “Shyam will never agree to you marrying me,” I tell Nita the next day. The only option for us is to run away” (p. 315).

The sentence above is a proof that Thomas regretted the fact that he did not have enough money. It was hard for Thomas to have a lot of money instantly. Every time he wanted to meet Nita, the pimp never allowed him except he would pay for it. This situation motivated Thomas to earn much money so that he would be happy with Nita. That was why Thomas had to win the quiz to save Nita from prostitution.

The second reason why Thomas was eager to win the quiz was that he could not see his love one being tortured much longer in the prostitution. Thomas’s and Nita’s happiness turned into sorrow when there was a customer who had sex with Nita by torturing her. Thomas was shocked discovering Nita at the hospital with a weak voice. She was behind a curtain partition, lying on a trolley. She had livid bruises all over her face and her lips. There was blood on two of her teeth and her left eye had blackened. Thomas’ blood began to boil
knowing this incident. Nevertheless, he could not do anything because her pimp does not allow him to meet Nita.

“… Now let me tell you something. If you want to see Nita again, then come to me with four lakh rupees. If you cannot produce this sum, then forget Nita. If I see you even lurking about the hospital, I will have you killed, understand? Now get out” (p. 329).

In the above conversation, Thomas is angry. He wanted to kill the pimp. But he had to forget it and thought about how to earn money to save Nita. As he did not have much money to save Nita from the pimp, Thomas planned to steal Swapna Devi’s money, mother of his friend who died because of rabies. After he got the money, Thomas brought four laks rupees to the hospital and gave it to the pimp (p. 333). Nevertheless, the pimp asked much more than he brought.

“I know then that Nita will never be mine. That Shyam will never let her go. That even if I somehow bring six lakhs, Shyam will increases the demand to ten lakhs. My mind seems to go numb and I see blackness all around me. A wave of nausea assails me. It recover, I see a soggy newspaper lying on the floor. It has an advertisement showing the face of a man who is grinning and holding several thousand -rupees notes in his fingers. Underneath the picture is a caption that says, “Welcome to the greatest show on the television. Welcome to W3B – Who will Win a Billion? Phone lines are open” (p. 333).

The sentence above proves that Thomas truly wanted to save Nita whatever happens, even stealing Swapna Devi’s money. Because the money he brought to Shyam was not enough for Nita’s freedom, so he was eager to win the quiz. Thomas knew well that Shyam would not allow him to marry Nita because Thomas was only a waiter who did not have anything. Only by following the quiz “Who will Win a Billion?” he would be a billionaire, so that he would be able to bring Nita with him.
Thomas was eager to win the quiz and to save Nita because he really loves her. After winning the quiz and getting a lot of money, Thomas was then able to do anything including getting married and living happily with Nita. “The love of my life has joined me in Mumbai. She is now lawfully wedded wife, with a proper surname. Nita Mohammad Thomas” (p. 360). That sentence gives enough prove that he tried harder to win the quiz in order to save his love.

4.2.2.3. Helping Others

Thomas is a kind person since he cares for others. He helped others without any hesitancy. He helped others even if he knew that person would not give him anything back.

Lajwanti is a friend he met when he worked as a tour guide in Taj Mahal. Lajwanti worked as a servant in Swapna Devi’s house, place where Thomas stayed in. Lajwanti was arrested by the police office because she stole her master’s money. She did it in order to make her sister happy by giving lavish wedding and expensive dowries. Thomas was upset knowing that Lajwanti’s only problem was that she could help her sister to live happily. The other reason he worked hard to get more money was to help his friend in solving her problems. Thomas was shocked when he found that his friend was arrested by the police office.

“Abdul, why are the police taking Lajwanti away? Why doesn’t Rani Sahiba do something? After all, Lajwanti is the best maid she has ever had.”

Abdul grins. “Madam has herself called the police to arrest Lajwanti.”

“But why?”
“Because Lajwany stole the necklace from her save. The police searched her house in the village and found it today” (p. 317).

Thomas was regretful that he could not help his friend. There was nothing to do because he had nothing. All his hard worked to help his friend was in vain because his friend has already gone to jail. There was nothing he could do because it was difficult to help Lajwany get out from the jail. The only one condition to save Lajwany was by earning lots of money. At the time, police was the only authority. Moreover, the only thing that could buy police power was money.

Thomas’ tenderness, in which he could not see his friend live miserably, also motivated Thomas to win the quiz. He had to win the quiz in order to save his friend, Lajwany, from the jail and to help her sister’s wedding with all the great facilities that she would never forget.

“Lajwany’s release from jail was also secured last month and she is now staying with me in Mumbai. In fact, she returned just last week from her sister Lakshmi’s weeding in Delhi to a top-level officer in the Indian Administrative Service. The groom’s family made no demand for dowry, but Lajwany gave her sister Toyota Corolla car, a thirty-two-inch Sony TV, twenty Raymond suits and one kilo of gold jewelry” (pp. 359-360).

The sentence above has proved that he used some of his money to help his friend. Thomas even provided many luxurious facilities as a wedding gift to Lajwany’s sister wedding.

4.2.2.4 Helping his Best Friend, Salim, to be an Artist

Living alone without family made Thomas loves his best friend, Salim. Salim was a friend from the orphanage, who aspired to be an actor. They already knew each other. Thomas’ concern made him knew that Salim was crazy about
Arman Ali. Salim idolized Arman Ali and it made Salim love acting and having ambition to become a great actor.

The author even gives more description about Thomas’ concern to Salim. “But he is also excited about becoming a film star” (p. 100). Moreover, Salim did not care about what he had done. To achieve his dream, Salim sometimes did not realize that he was in danger. Salim was a plain boy in his age. It can be seen when he met Masterji. “Yes, Salim, what do you want to become?” ‘I will become a famous actor, Masterji. An astrologer has told me’ he says triumphantly” (p. 101). He did not care whether Masterji was a diamond merchant or a school owner. He was mainly concerned with the fact that the big man was from Mumbai the centre of the film industry.

Thomas’s selflessness made him care about his friend. He would be happy seeing his friend live happily. The only way to please Salim was to help him realize his dream to be a movie star. Thomas realized that money could help his friend to reach his dream as quickly as possible.

The author gives more description about Thomas’ concern to Salim. Here clearly describes that Thomas becomes a producer in order to help and support Salim to be film star.

“Salim has landed the role of a seventeen-year-old college hero in a comedy film directed by Chimpu Dhawan, and these days are busy shooting in Mehboob Studios. He thinks the producer is a man named Mohammad Bhatt, but it is actually me” (p. 360).

Actually, Thomas does not like acting and producing. Nevertheless, he tried to be a film producer because he knew that it was the only way to help Salim to become a big film star and become the main character in a film produced by
him. Everything he did was just because of his friend. He knows that his dark skin and curly hair did not qualify for an actor or a singer. Because having lots of money is the main requirement to be a producer, he had to win the quiz. Joining and winning the quiz is one of Thomas’ real motivations.
CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

There are two main concerns that the writer would like to discuss in this chapter. The first part is conclusion, which discusses the conclusion of the analysis in chapter four. The second part of this chapter is suggestions for future researchers and English teachers who apply this study in his or her teaching-learning activity.

5.1. Conclusion

After analyzing *Slumdog Millionaire*, the writer can draw conclusions of this thesis. This thesis has two questions as formulated in the problem formulation. The first question deals with how Thomas is described as the main character in Swarup’s *Slumdog Millionaire*. Using the theory of character, Thomas is described as a major, round and a dramatic character. Using Murphy’s theory, Thomas is described as a kind, responsible, selfless, loyal, and hardworking person. He is like a hero who is always kind and loyal to people around him, and hardworking to achieve what he wants.

His cultural background crucially influences Thomas’ motivation. His inherited culture, which always makes slum people being underestimated, is influenced his motivation. He lives among Indian society who believes that lower class hardly ever become rich. Thomas was being underestimated because he was from slum area with no education and he worked as a servant. That was why Thomas wanted to be a billionaire and have a wealthy life.
The second question deals with how Ram Mohammad Thomas, the “slumdog” becomes a billionaire in the novel. The way Ram becomes a billionaire can be found out through his motivation. Based on Freud’s theory, his motivation is divided into its literal and true meaning. The literal one is that he did not come for money, he came for taking revenge because his boss and also his love were being tortured by the host of the quiz “Who will Win a Billion?” (W3B). He came and joined the quiz show in order to meet the host of the quiz, Prem Kuma, and to take revenge. Remembering his real motivation joining the quiz was to be a billionaire so it would change his life, finally he canceled to kill Prem Kumar. By having a lot of money society will not underestimate him anymore. Being wealthy would also enable him to save his friend and his lover’s life and thus make it better. He realized the only way he gets respect from society was by having a lot of money. By having a lot of money nothing is impossible in this world, such as changing his life, helping his best friend, Salim, to be an actor and saving Nita from prostitution. Nevertheless, he can also save his friend, Lajwanyt from prison and help Lajwantys’s sister wedding.

5.2. Suggestions

This part consists of two parts. They are suggestion for future researchers and suggestion for English teachers in teaching-learning activity. The first section concerns with future researchers who are interested in literary works using Slumdog Millionaire. Considering that literary work can be the mirror that shows
the condition of society, there are lots of aspects of the novel that will be very interesting to be analyzed.

The next section focuses on the implementation of literary work in teaching-learning implementation. Literature brings benefits for language teaching-learning process because of the language in use. Literature also provides the readers with knowledge, pleasure, and the value of life.

5.2.1. Suggestion for Future Researchers

*Slumdog Millionaire* is an interesting novel because it captures the life of the slums around India’s capital city, Mumbai. Thomas is one of “slumdog” who was being held after correctly answering all twelve questions on India’s biggest quiz show, “Who will Win a Billion?” It is hard to believe that a poor orphan who has never read a newspaper or gone to school could win such a contest. The analysis in this thesis is limited to Thomas’ personality before and after being a billionaire. The analysis of personality leads to the finding of Thomas’ motivation. The discussion describes Thomas’ personality and how he becomes a billionaire under his real motivation. The writer used psychological approach to analyze the problems.

Future researchers can analyze this novel based on the social response towards the reality of the main character, Ram Mohammad Thomas, in winning the quiz show, “Who Will Wins a Billion?” An Indian diplomat who wants to describe unusual things about India through the story of the novel wrote this novel. Thus future researchers can also use biographical approach in discussing author’s life, ideas and personality because there are some similarities between the
reality of setting the novel and the reality of setting in India. Moreover, future researchers can also analyze the conflicts that happen in Thomas’ mind as the topic of the research.

5.2.2. Suggestion for English Teacher

Suggestion also goes to the implementation of *Slumdog Millionaire* in teaching learning activities. Literature is able to bring a lot of benefits to the teaching-learning process. As a teaching-learning material, literature will motivate and provide students with good context in which they develop their understanding. Students can expand their language awareness and acquisition, as well as improve their interpretative abilities.

By combining the pleasure of reading literary works and the knowledge student or researcher can gain from it, literature will support teacher’s effort in helping the students to reach the goal of the learning process. However, besides assisting students’ intelligence development, the teacher should also encourage the students to be responsible for their own learning development.

5.2.2.1. The Teaching Learning Activity in Prose II Class Using *Slumdog Millionaire*

In this section, the writer suggests the procedure to present the teaching-learning activity in the prose II class using *Slumdog Millionaire*. The procedures are suggested as follow:

1. The teacher reviews the previous topic and new topic has given as students’ homework.
2. The teacher gives warming-up questions to get students’ attention.

3. The teacher asks the students to make group of five or six.

4. The teacher asks students to discuss and answer the comprehension question based on the material given in the previous meeting.

5. The teacher discusses the answers to the comprehension questions in front of the class.

6. The teacher asks the students to state their personal appreciation of the novel.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES
APPENDIX 1

The Portrait of Vikas Swarup

APPENDIX 2

The Portrait of Slum Area in Mumbai

The real Slum behind the movie

The city Mumbai is one of the largest cities in India. The lure of jobs in the city is a huge pull on those living in rural areas. Migration into the city of Mumbai continues to grow at exponential rates each year. As a result, there has been a disproportionate rise of slums and overgrowing in the city.

- Mumbai holds the dubious record of being the slum capital of the world. (Source: UN-HABITAT)

The population of Mumbai is approximately 12 million people.
- In Mumbai, almost 60% of the total population live in slums. (Source: UN Habitat)

- Some of the scenes in the movie were filmed in Dharavi, the largest slum in Mumbai. (Source: Director’s interview)

- In Mumbai, the rich own 90% of the land, while the poor are overcrowded in the remaining 10%. (Source: planet of slum by Mike Davis)

Taken from: www.educationforjustice.org (accessed on September 18, 2011)
Dharavi slum, Mumbai

Dharavi, the largest slum settlement of Asia is located in the suburban Mumbai along with the suburbs of Bandra and Kurla. You might be surprised to know that the annual turnover of this slum area of Mumbai is around 6 million dollars. The slum dwellers earn their livelihood by various ways. The main industry of this slum area is the recycle industry they recycle the waste things.

APPENDIX 3

SUMMARY OF SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

Slumdog Millionaire is a story about “slumboy”, Ram Mohammad Thomas, who participated in an Indian TV quiz show “Who Will Wina Billion?” (W3B) hosted by Prem Kumar.

Thomas is just eighteen, and yet he has experienced one hell of a roller-coaster ride of a life, and he is despite being an uneducated waiter, the first contestant to answer all twelve questions correctly and take the prize. At the beginning of the book he is arrested for this grand feat, the television producers charging that he must have cheated and that they shouldn’t have to pay up. Tortured by the police, he gets a reprieve when a lawyer is willing to at least listen to his side of the story, demanding to hear the full story of how Thomas could have answered all these questions. By telling episodes from his life Thomas slowly reveals what he has experienced and, incidentally, how he came to know the answers to these particular questions.

Thomas isn’t merely orphaned once, but several times. He has to fend for himself from a relatively early age, and every time he seems to have found a place where he is safe catastrophe strikes. From the spectacular murder-suicide of the
priest who had raised him as a young child to his going to work for someone he
discovers is a contract killer, there’s blood and gore and danger everywhere.

Ram makes some good friends and inevitably falls in love with a prostitute
and he tries to do good and sometimes winds up doing bad (there’s quite a bit of
blood dripping from his hands too, by the end). There are many scenes from the
life of the poor and their particular hard lives.

Taken from: ALiterary SaloonSite of Review. 2005.http://www.complete-
review.com/reviews/india/swarupv.htm (Accessed on 19, 2012)
APPENDIX 4

Vikas Swarup’s Biography

Vikas Swarup was born in Allahabad (India) in a family of lawyers. Vikas attended Allahabad University and studied History, Psychology and Philosophy after his schooling. Swarup also made his mark as a champion debater, winning National level competitions. After graduating with distinction, he joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986, motivated by an interest in international relations and a desire to explore different cultures.

In his diplomatic career, Vikas has been posted to various countries such as Turkey (1987-1990), the United States (1993-1997) Ethiopia (1997-2000), the United Kingdom (2000-2003) and South Africa (2006-2009). Since August 2009, he is the Consul General of India in Osaka-Kobe, Japan.

He penned his first novel, Q&A, in two months, when he was posted in London. Published in 2005 by Doubleday/Random House (UK & Commonwealth), Harper Collins (Canada) and Scribner (US) it has been published in 42 languages. It was short listed for the Best First Book by the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and won South Africa’s Exclusive Books Boeke Prize 2006 as well as the Paris Book Fair's Reader's Prize, the Prix Grand Public, in 2007. It was voted the Most Influential Book of 2008 in Taiwan, and winner of the Best Travel Read (Fiction) at the Heathrow Travel Product Award 2009.
Harper Collins brought out the audio book, read by Kerry Shale, which won the award for Best Audio Book of the Year 2005. The BBC produced a radio play based on the book which won the Gold Award for Best Drama at the Sony Radio Academy Awards 2008 and the IVCA Clarion Award 2008. The film version of Q&A, titled ‘Slumdog Millionaire’, directed by Danny Boyle, took the world by storm, winning more than 70 awards including four Golden Globes, 7 BAFTAs and a staggering 8 Oscars, including Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Picture.

Vikas’s second novel, Six Suspects, was released in the UK & Commonwealth by Transworld in August 2008. Published by Harper Collins in Canada and St Martin’s Press in the US, it has sold translation rights in 30 languages. Radio 4 commissioned a radio play based on the novel. It has been optioned for a film by the BBC and Starfield productions and John Hodge, who wrote the script for films like Trainspotting, Shallow Grave and The Beach, has been commissioned to write the screenplay.

Vikas contributed a short story titled ‘A Great Event’ to ‘The Children’s Hours: Stories of Childhood’, a bold and moving anthology of stories about childhood to support Save the Children and raise awareness for its fight to end violence against children.

Vikas has participated in the Oxford Literary Festival, the Turin International Book Fair, the Auckland Writers’ Conference, the Sydney Writers’ Festival, the Kitab Festival in New Delhi, the St. Malo International Book & Film Festival in France, the 'Words on Water' Literary Festival at the University of the
Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, the Jaipur Literature Festival, the Franschhoek Literary Festival in South Africa, the Ubud Writer’s Festival in Bali, the Emirates Airlines Festival of Literature in Dubai, the Manila International Literary Festival and the Seoul Digital Forum. He was also an invitee to the Reader’s Forum of World Expo 2010 in Shanghai and attended the 33rd Cairo International Film Festival as a jury member for the International Competition for Feature Digital Films. He is one of the three judges for the Man Asian Literary prize 2011.

Vikas is the recipient of the US-India Business Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award for “Contributing to the Cultural Ties that Bind” and received the award from USIBC Chairman Indra K. Nooyi at the USIBC’s 34th Anniversary Gala Reception in Washington D.C. on June 16, 2009.

He is also the recipient of a degree of Doctor of Literature & Philosophy (honoriscausa) from the University of South Africa (UNISA), the largest university in South Africa and one of the largest distance education institutions in the world.

He has written for TIME, The Guardian, The Telegraph (UK), The Financial Times (UK), British Airway’s in-flight magazine HighLife, DNA (India), Outlook (India) and Liberation (France).

Apart from reading, Vikas enjoys listening to music and playing cricket, tennis and table tennis. His wife Aparna is an artist who has held exhibitions in India and abroad. They have two sons Aditya and Varun.

Taken from: http://www.vikasswarup.net/index_files/Page607.htm(accessed on 19 Desember 2011)
APPENDIX 5

The Implementation of Teaching Prose II Using Part of the Novel *Slumdog Millionaire* for the Fourth Semester Students of English Language Education Study Program

**LESSON PLAN TO TEACH PROSE II**

I. **Course Identity**
   a. **Subject**: Prose II
   b. **Level of Students**: 4th semester of English Language Education Study Program
   c. **Time Allocation**: 2 x 50’
   d. **Materials**: Chapter Three (5,000) of *Slumdog Millionaire* (68-89)

II. **Standard Competence**
   Students are able to appreciate unabridged or original novels and to put forward their own opinions concerning the contents of the novel

III. **Basic Competence**
   Students are able to understand the story and to state their opinion about the issue mentioned in the story

IV. **Objectives**
   On completing the course students will be able to:
   a. Analyzed and appreciate novels using principles of literary analysis
   b. Express their opinion and critical evaluation on the novels orally and in written form
   c. Develop sensibility to others and personal maturity.

V. **Indicators**
   - Students are able to retell the whole incidents which are described in the passage
   - Students are able to answer the comprehension questions
   - Students are able to state their own opinions as the appreciation on the story

VI. **Approach and method**
   - Reading, discussion, and group works
VII. Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher’s Activity</th>
<th>Students’ Activity</th>
<th>Time Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Pre Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>A. Pre Activity</strong></td>
<td>15’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The teacher greets the students</td>
<td>• The students answer the greeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The teacher reviews the previous topic (chapter two)</td>
<td>• Students review previous topic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The teacher gives explanation about the topic given as homework (chapter three), the objectives of the lesson and class activity</td>
<td>• Students listen to the explanation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher gives warming up session</td>
<td>• Students join the warming up session</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B. Whilst Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>B. Whilst Activity</strong></td>
<td>70’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher asks the students to make group of five or six</td>
<td>• Students divided themselves into group of five or six</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher gives comprehension questions related to the material given in previous meeting to be discussed in group</td>
<td>• Students read the comprehension questions and answer it based on the material given in the previous meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teacher assists students’ discussion</td>
<td>• Students are involved in group discussion to answer the comprehension question</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher asks the students to share their answer in front of the class</td>
<td>• Some students give their answers and other students share their opinion about the answers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C. Post Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>C. Post Activity</strong></td>
<td>15’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher makes a conclusion on today’s material</td>
<td>• Students listen to next explanation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teacher gives the students homework to read the next chapter (chapter four) of the novel for the week material.</td>
<td>• Students take note on the homework</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VIII. Evaluation: The students’ competence is evaluated through the answers given by them and participation in the group and class discussion.

IX. References
PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI
A. Comprehension Questions

Work in group and answer the following questions!

1. What is Thomas’ real motivation for his activity? Give the evidence!

2. In telling Gudiya’s story, Thomas asks “But what was Gudiya’s crime? Simply that she was born as a girl and Shantaram was her father?” Thomas cannot stop thinking of Gudiya. Why? Give your evidence!

3. Did Thomas have other options besides throwing Shantaram down the stairs?

4. How would you describe Thomas’ relationships with women?

5. What is the message of this chapter?
APENDIX 6

Material to Teach Prose II Using *Slumdog Millionaire*

Chapter Three

5,000

A BROTHER’S PROMISE

You should take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. Put something away in case of an emergency. New neighbors will bring good cheer. A small problem may occur at home base, but you will solve it quickly and correctly. Don't offer smart advice unless you are really asked to comment.

This is what the daily horoscope in the Maharashtra Times has predicted today for those who are Capricorns like me, born in the last week of December.

I don't read the Maharashtra Times. In fact, I don't read any newspaper. But I occasionally pilfer a copy from Mr Barve's rubbish bin. It is useful for stoking the fire in the kitchen, and sometimes, when I have nothing else to do, I flip through its pages as a time pass before they are reduced to ash.

I also don't believe in horoscopes. If I did, I should be dead by now, as per the prediction made by Pandit Ramashankar Shastri. But today's daily horoscope does appear to contain a kernel of truth. New neighbors are moving into the room next door and there is indeed a small problem at home base.

We have just returned from the matinee at Regal Talkies and Salim is in a blind rage. He is tearing down all the posters of Armaan Ali which have adorned the walls of our small room for nearly three years. The poster of Armaan in a leather jacket has been torn to shreds. Armaan on a motorbike has been
dismembered with a knife. Armaan with his shirt off, baring his hairy chest is now in the bin. Armaan with a gun has been diced into tiny pieces and Armaan and his horse have both been roasted over the fire. With all the posters gone, our room, with just two beds, is suddenly looking even barer than before, and the mildew patches on the whitewashed walls are no longer hidden.

Despite the warning in the daily horoscope, I cannot resist offering some smart advice to Salim. 'Do you now realize the truth of what I told you ten months ago, when you were busy trying to fix Armaan's relationship with Urvashi? I told you not to poke your nose into other people's affairs, or make other people's troubles your own. Remember this as a lesson for the future.'

Salim hears me sullenly as he stomps on the poster of Armaan in a pool surrounded by a bevy of beauties.

I hear footsteps and voices outside the room. It looks as if the new tenants are finally moving into the room next to ours. I am excited. It is always good to meet new people. I hope the new tenants have boys of my age. Putul and Dhyanesh are good company, but they rarely get permission from their parents to come and play with me on Sundays, which is the only day I don't have to go to work. Ajay, the show-off, is also getting on my nerves. He made fun of me in front of the whole chawl when I told him I had joined a foundry. I know working in a foundry is not half as exciting as working for a film star, but at least it is better than sitting in the street.

***

After the time I spent with the actress Neelima Kumari, living in her flat, I had almost forgotten life in a chawl. A bundle of one-room tenements occupied by the lower-middle classes, chawls are the smelly armpit of Mumbai. Those who live here are only marginally better off than those who live in slums like Dharavi. As MrBarve told me once, the rich people, those who live in their marble and granite four-bedroom flats, they enjoy. The slum people, who live in squalid, tattered huts, they suffer. And we, who reside in the overcrowded chawls, we simply live.
Living in a chawl does have certain advantages. What happened to Neelima Kumari would never happen here, because in a chawl everyone knows everything that is going on. All the residents have a common roof over their heads and a common place where they shit and bathe. The residents of the chawl may not meet each other for social occasions, but they have to meet while standing in a queue outside the common lavatories. In fact, it is rumoured that Mr Gokhale met Mrs Gokhale while waiting outside the latrine and fell in love. They got married within a month.

There is no chance of my falling in love with any girl in the chawl. They are all fat and ugly, not even remotely like my favourite actress, Priya Kapoor. Besides, they all like stupid things like dolls and cannot play any decent games like boxing and kabaddi. Not that I get much time to play these games. The whole day I work at the foundry, returning only at six in the evening. And smelting metal is a tough job. The molten iron smoothers you with its heat and your eyes are often blinded by the bright-orange flames.

'Thomas!' I hear a voice. It is Mr Ramakrishna, the administrator of the chawl, calling me. He is a very important man. We go to Mr Ramakrishna whenever the bulb goes out or the water pressure becomes low. We beg Mr Ramakrishna when we don’t have enough money to pay the monthly rent. We have been after Mr Ramakrishna to repair a section of the first-floor wooden railing which has become weak and wobbly and poses a safety hazard.

I come out of the room and see Mr Ramakrishna standing with a short, middle-aged man who frowns and looks as though he has not gone to the toilet for a long time. 'Thomas, meet Mr Shantaram. He is our new tenant, who will be staying in the flat next to yours. I have told Mr. Shantaram that you are a very responsible boy, so please help him and his wife and daughter settle down. OK, Mr Shantaram, I will now take my leave.'

'Oh no,' I think to myself. 'No boys.' I try to see his wife and daughter, but only catch a fleeting glimpse of a woman with grey hair, and a girl, older than me, with long black hair tied back, sitting on the bed. Shantaram sees me peering into his flat and hastily closes the front door.
'What do you do?' I ask Shantaram.

'I am a scientist, an astronomer. You won't understand. But these days I am taking a break. I am working as the sales manager in the Vimal showroom. This room here is a very temporary arrangement. We will be shifting to a de luxe apartment in Nariman Point very soon.'

I know Mr. Shantaram is lying. Those who can afford to live in Nariman Point never stay in chawls, not even temporarily.

***

The walls of the rooms inside the chawl are very thin. If you put your ear against the common wall and concentrate hard or, even better, if you put an inverted glass against the wall and put your ear against it, you can listen to almost everything going on in the next room. Salim and I do this often with our neighbors on the left, whose room adjoins our kitchen wall. Mr. and Mrs.Bapatare not a young couple any more. It is rumored that Mr. Bapat even beats Mrs. Bapat, but they obviously make up at night because Salim and I often hear their heavy breathing and panting, their 'oohs' and 'aahs', and we snicker.

I adjust a stainless-steel cup against the wall adjoining Mr. Shantaram's room and bury my ear in it. I can hear Shantaram speaking.

'This place is nothing less than a black hole. It is totally beneath my dignity to be staying here, but just for the sake of you two, I will endure this humiliation till I get a proper job. Listen, I don't want any of the street boys to enter the house. God knows what hell holes they have come from. There are two right next to us. Rascals of the highest order, I think. And Gudiya, if I catch you talking to any boy in the chawl, you will receive a hiding with my leather belt, understood?' he thunders. I drop the cup in panic.

***
Over the next couple of weeks, I hardly see Shantaram and I never see his wife or daughter. She probably goes to college every day, but by the time I return home from the foundry, she is inside her house and the door is always firmly shut.

Salim doesn't even notice that we have new neighbours. He hardly gets any spare time from his work as a tiffin delivery boy. He wakes up at seven in the morning and gets dressed. He wears a loose white shirt, cotton pyjamas and puts a white Nehru cap on his head. The cap is the badge of identification of all dabbawallahs in Mumbai, and there are nearly five thousand of them. Over the next two hours he collects home-cooked meals in lunch boxes from approximately twenty-five flats. Then he takes them to the Ghatkopar local train station. Here the tiffins are sorted according to their destination, each with colour-coded dots, dashes and crosses on the lids, and then loaded on to special trains to be delivered promptly at lunch time to middle-class executives and blue-collar workers all over Mumbai. Salim himself receives tiffins by another train, which he delivers in the Ghatkopar area after deciphering the dots and dashes which constitute the address. He has to be very careful, because one mistake could cost him his job. He dare not hand over a container with beef to a Hindu, or one with pork to a Muslim or one with garlic and onions to a Jain vegetarian.

* * *

It is nine at night. Salim is flipping through the pages of a film magazine. I am kneeling on my bed with my left ear inside a stainless-steel cup held to the wall. I hear Shantaram speaking to his daughter. 'Here, Gudiya, see through the eyepiece. I have adjusted the telescope now. Can you see the bright-red object in the middle? That is Mars.'

I whisper to Salim, 'Quick, get a cup. You must hear this.'

Salim also glues his ear to the wall. Over the next thirty minutes, we listen to a running commentary on the state of the sky. We hear about stellar constellations and galaxies and comets. We hear about the Great Bear and the
Little Bear. We hear of something called the Milky Way and the Pole Star. We learn about the rings of Saturn and the moons of Jupiter.

Listening to Shantaram, I am filled with a strange longing. I wish I too had a father who would teach me about stars and planets. The night sky, which till now was just a big black mass to me, suddenly becomes a place of meaning and wonder. As soon as Shantaram's tutorial ends, Salim and I crane our necks out of our first-floor window and try to find the celestial landmarks pointed out by him. Without the aid of a telescope we see only little white dots in the dark sky, but we squeal with delight when we recognize the seven stars of the Great Bear, and even the knowledge that the dark patches on the moon are not blemishes but craters and seas fills us with a sense of satisfaction, as though we have unlocked the mysteries of the universe.

That night I don't dream about a woman in a fluttering white sari. I dream about rings around Saturn and moons around Jupiter.

* * *

A week later, I am alerted by a totally new sound coming from Shantaram's room.

'Meow!' I scramble to the wall with my stainless-steel listening device in hand.

I hear Gudiya speaking. 'Papa, look, I've got a cat. Isn't he lovely? My friend Rohini gave him to me from her cat's new litter. Can I keep him?'

'I am not in favour of any pets,' MrsShantaram grumbles. 'There's hardly space in this room for humans – where will we keep an animal?'

'Please, Mummy, he is such a tiny thing. Papa, please agree,' she pleads.

'OK, Gudiya,' says Shantaram. 'You can keep him. But what will you call him?'

'Oh, thank you, Papa. I was thinking of calling him Tommy.'

'No, that is such a commonplace name. This cat is going to live in an astronomer's family, so it should be named after one of the planets.'

'Which one? Should we call him Jupiter?'
'No. He is the smallest in the family, so he can only be called Pluto.'

'Great, I love the name, Papa. Here, Pluto! Pluto, come and have some milk.'

'Meow!' says Pluto.

* * *

These little snippets force me to reconsider my opinion of Shantaram. Perhaps he is not so bad after all. But, once again, I learn that appearances can be deceptive and the dividing line between good and bad is very thin indeed.

I see Shantaram come home one evening, completely drunk. His breath stinks of whisky. He walks with unsteady steps and needs help to climb up the flight of stairs. This happens the next day, and the day after that. Pretty soon it is common knowledge in the chawl that Mr. Shantaram is a drunkard.

Drunkards in Hindi films are invariably funny characters. Think of KeshtoMukherjee with a bottle and you cannot help bursting out laughing. But drunkards in real life are not funny, they are frightening. Whenever Shantaram comes home in a stupor, we don't need listening devices. He hurls abuses at the top of his voice and Salim and I quiver with fear in our room as if we are the ones being shouted at. His swearing becomes such a ritual that we actually wait for the sound of his snoring before falling asleep ourselves. We come to dread the interval between Shantaram's return from work and his crashing out in bed. This interval is, for us, the zone of fear.

We think this is a passing phase and that Shantaram will eventually recover. But it actually gets worse. Shantaram begins drinking even more and then he starts throwing things. He begins with plastic cups and books, which he throws at the wall in disgust. Then he starts breaking pots and pans. The ruckus he creates makes living next door very difficult. But we know complaining to Mr Ramakrishna is out of the question. The voices of a thirteen-year-old and an eleven-year old habitual rent offender do not carry much weight. So we simply
duck in bed whenever an object thuds on to our common wall and cringe in fear whenever we hear the sound of a plate crashing or china breaking.

Even this phase does not last long. Pretty soon, Shantaram starts throwing objects at people. Mainly his family members. He reserves maximum ire for his wife. 'You bloody bitch! You are the one who has brought me down in life. I could be writing research papers on black holes, and instead I am showing blouse pieces and saris to wretched housewives. I hate you! Why don't you die?' he would holler, and throw a peppershaker, a glass, a plate. At his wife, his daughter, her cat.

One night he exceeds all limits and throws a piping-hot cup of tea at his wife. Gudiya tries to shield her mother and the burning liquid falls on her instead, scalding her face. She shrieks in agony. Shantaram is so drunk he doesn't even realize what he has done. I rush out to get a taxi for Mrs. Shantaram to take her daughter to hospital. Two days later, she comes to me and asks whether I will go with her to visit Gudiya. 'She gets very lonely. Perhaps you can talk to her.'

So I accompany MrsShantaram on my first-ever visit to a hospital.

***

The first thing that assails your senses when you enter a hospital is the smell. I feel nauseated by the cloying, antiseptic smell of disinfectant, which permeates every corner of the dirty wards. The second thing that strikes you is that you don't see any happy people. The patients lying on their green beds are moaning and groaning and even the nurses and doctors seem grim. But the worst thing is the indifference. No one is really bothered about you. I had imagined there would be doctors and nurses swarming all over Gudiya, but I find her lying all alone on a bed inside the Burns Unit with not a single nurse on duty. Her face is completely bandaged; only her black eyes can be seen.

'Gudiya, look who has come to see you,' MrsShantaram says, beaming at me.
I feel diffident approaching the girl. She is obviously much older than me. I am just a voyeur who has heard some snippets from her life; I hardly know her. I don't see her lips, but I can see from her eyes that she is smiling at me and that breaks the ice between us.

I sit with her for three hours, talking about this and that. Gudiya asks me, 'How did you get such an unusual name – Ram Mohammad Thomas?'

'It is a very long story. I will tell you when you are well.'

She tells me about herself. I learn that she is about to finish her Intermediate and start University. Her ambition is to become a doctor. She asks me about myself. I don't tell her anything about Father Timothy or what happened to me later, but I recount my experiences in the chawl. I tell her about life as a foundry worker. She listens to me with rapt attention and makes me feel very important and wanted.

A doctor comes and tells MrsShantaram that her daughter is lucky. She has received only first-degree burns and will not have any permanent scars. She will be discharged within a week.

The three hours that I spend with Gudiya enable me to learn a lot about her father. Mrs. Shantaram tells me, 'My husband is a famous space scientist. Rather, he was a scientist. He used to work in the Aryabhatta Space Research Institute, where he investigated stars with the help of huge telescopes. We used to live in a big bungalow on the Institute's campus. Three years ago he discovered a new star. It was a very important scientific discovery but one of his fellow astronomers took credit for it. This shattered my husband completely. He started drinking. He started having fights with his colleagues and one day he got so angry with the director of the Institute he almost beat him to death. He was thrown out of the Institute immediately and I had to beg the director not to have him arrested by the police. After leaving the Institute, my husband got a job as a physics teacher in a good school, but he could not keep his drinking and his violent temper in check. He would thrash boys for minor lapses and was kicked out in just six months. Since then he has been doing odd jobs, working as a canteen manager in an office,
as an accountant in a factory, and now as a sales assistant in a clothes showroom. And because we have exhausted all our savings, we are forced to live in a chawl.'

'Can't Mr. Shantaram stop drinking?' I ask her.

'My husband swore to me he would not touch alcohol again and I had begun to hope that the worst was over. But he couldn't stick to his promise, and look what has happened.'

'Do me a favour, Ram Mohammad Thomas,' Gudiya says. 'Please look after Pluto till I return home.'

'Definitely,' I promise.

Suddenly she stretches out her arm and takes my hand in hers. 'You are the brother I never had. Isn't he, Mummy?' she says. MrsShantaram nods her head.

I do not know what to say. This is a new relationship for me. In the past, I have imagined myself as someone's son, but never as someone's brother. So I just hold Gudiya's hand and sense an unspoken bond pass between us.

That night I dream of a woman in a white sari holding a baby in her arms. The wind howls behind her, making her hair fly across her face, obscuring it. She places the baby in a laundry bin and leaves. Just then, another woman arrives. She is also tall and graceful, but her face is swathed in bandages. She plucks the baby from the bin and smothers him with kisses. 'My little brother,' she says. 'S-i-s-t-e-r,' the baby gurgles back. 'Meeew!' A strangled cry from a cat suddenly pierces the night. I wake up and try to figure whether the cry I heard came from the dream or the adjacent room.

I discover Pluto's limp and mangled body the next morning, lying in the same dustbin in which MrBarve disposes of his copy of the Maharashtra Times. The cat's neck has been broken and I can smell whisky on his furry body. Shantaram tells his wife that Pluto has run away. I know the truth, but it is pointless mentioning it. Pluto has indeed run away. To another, better world, I think.

'I like Gudiya very much,' I tell Salim. 'I have to ensure that Shantaram does not repeat what he did to her.'

'But what can you do? It is his family.'
'It is our business as well. After all, we are neighbours.'

'Don't you remember what you told me once? That it's not a good idea to poke your nose into other people's affairs, or make other people's troubles your own, Mohammad?'

I have no response to this.

* * *

Gudiya comes home, but I don't get to see her because Shantaram will not permit a boy to enter his house. MrsShantaram tells me that her husband has realized what he has done and will now reform, even though in her heart of hearts she knows that Shantaram is beyond redemption. But even she did not know the depths to which her husband could descend.

Barely a week after Gudiya returns from the hospital, he does something to her again. He tries to touch her. But not like a father. At first, I don't understand. All I hear is some references to Gudiya being his moon and then MrsShantaram crying, and Gudiya screaming, 'Papa, don't touch me! Papa, please don't touch me!'

Something snaps in my brain when I hear Gudiya's plaintive cry. I want to rush into Shantaram's room and kill him with my bare hands. But even before I can gather my courage, I hear Shantaram's loud snores. He has crashed out. Gudiya is still weeping. I don't need a glass to hear her sobbing.

Her crying affects me in a strange way. I don't know how a brother should react on listening to his sister's sorrow, because I have no experience of being a brother. But I know that somehow I have to comfort her. Unfortunately, it is not very easy to comfort someone when there is a wall, howsoever thin, between you. I notice then that right at the bottom of the wall, where the water pipes go into the other flat, there is a small circular opening, large enough to thrust an arm through. I jump down from the bed and, lying spreadeagled on the ground, push my hand through the opening. 'Sister, don't weep. Here, hold my hand,' I cry. And someone does grasp my hand. I feel fingers caress my arm, my elbow, my wrist, like a
blind man feeling someone's face. Then fingers interlock with mine and I feel a magical transference of power, energy, love, call it what you will; the fact is that in that instant I become one with Gudiya and I feel her pain as if it is my own.

Salim, meanwhile, is still sitting on his bed, watching the scene in amazement. 'Are you mad, Mohammad? Do you realize what you are doing?' he admonishes me. 'This hole through which you have pushed your hand is the same hole through which rats and cockroaches come into our room.'

But I am oblivious to Salim and to everything else. I don't know how long I hold Gudiya's hand, but when I wake up the next morning I find myself lying on the ground with my hand still thrust through the hole and a family of cockroaches sleeping peacefully inside my shirt pocket.

* * *

The next night, Shantaram again comes home in a drunken stupor and tries to molest Gudiya. 'You are more beautiful than all the stars and planets. You are my moon. You are my Gudiya, my doll. Yesterday you evaded me, but today I will not let you leave me,' he says.

'Stop behaving like this!' MrsShantaram cries, but her husband takes no notice.

'Don't worry, Gudiya, there is nothing wrong in my love for you. Even Shahjahan, the great emperor, fell in love with his own daughter, JahanAra. And who can deny a man the privilege of gathering fruit from a tree he himself has planted.'

'You are a demon,' MrsShantaram yells, and Shantaram hits her. I hear a bottle break.

'No!' I hear Gudiya scream.

I feel as though an oxyacetylene torch has pierced my brain and molten metal has been poured over my heart. I can tolerate it no more. I run to Mr Ramakrishna's room and tell him that Shantaram is doing something terrible to his
own wife and daughter. But Ramakrishna behaves as if I am talking about the weather.

'Look,' he tells me. 'Whatever happens inside the four walls of a home is a private matter for that family and we cannot interfere. You are a young orphan boy. You have not seen life. But I know the daily stories of wife-beating and abuse and incest and rape, which take place in chawls all over Mumbai. Yet no one does anything. We Indians have this sublime ability to see the pain and misery around us, and yet remain unaffected by it. So, like a proper Mumbaikar, close your eyes, close your ears, close your mouth and you will be happy like me. Now go, it is time for my sleep.'

I rush back to my room. I hear Shantaram snoring and Gudiya screaming that she is dirty. 'Don't touch me! Nobody touch me! I will infect whoever comes near me.'

I think she is losing her mind. And I am losing mine.

'Infect me,' I say, and thrust my hand through the hole in the wall.

Gudiya catches it. 'I will not live much longer, Ram Mohammad Thomas,' she sobs. 'I will commit suicide rather than submit to my father.' Her pain floats through the hole and envelops me in its embrace.

I begin crying. 'I will never allow this to happen,' I tell her. 'This is a brother's promise.'

Salim gives me a dirty look, as if I have committed a criminal act by making this promise. But I am beyond right and wrong. I feel Gudiya's bony fingers, the flesh on her hands, and know that we are both hunted animals, partners in crime. My crime was that I, an orphan boy, had dared to make other people's troubles my own. But what was Gudiya's crime? Simply that she was born a girl and Shantaram was her father.

***

I carry out my promise the next evening, when Shantaram returns from work and climbs the rickety stairs to the first floor. He walks with slow, bumbling steps.
Even his clothes reek of whisky. As he is about to pass that section of the railing which has not yet been fixed by Mr Ramakrishna, I charge at him from behind. I slam into his back and he slams into the wooden railing. The railing is already weak and wobbly. It cannot take his weight. It cracks and splinters. Shantaram loses his balance and topples to the ground below.

In films, they show a villain falling from the roof of a skyscraper and it seems as if he is floating in the air; he twists his legs and flaps his arms and screams, 'Aaaaaaaah!' In real life, it doesn't happen like that at all. Shantaram drops down like a rock. There is no flapping of hands or legs. He hits the ground facedown and lies spread-eagled, hands and legs outstretched.

Only when I see Shantaram's limp body on the ground do I realize what I have done. And then I visualize the consequences of my act.

The crime-scene officers arrive in a jeep with a flashing red light and make a nice neat outline in chalk. They take photos and say, 'This is where the body fell.' Then they look up and see me on the first floor. The inspector points at me. 'That is the boy who pushed him down. Arrest him!' I am taken to jail, where I am stripped and beaten. Then I am presented in court, where a stern-faced judge sits in a black robe with a ceiling fan above him. A faded and dusty golden sign with the words SatyamevaJayate – Truth Always Prevails – is fixed on the wall behind him. The judge takes one look at me and pronounces his verdict. 'Ram Mohammad Thomas, I find you guilty of the premeditated murder of MrShantaram. Under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, I hereby sentence you to death by hanging.'

'No!' I cry and try to run, but my legs are shackled and my wrists are handcuffed. I am blindfolded and led to the execution cell. A noose is placed around my neck, a lever is pulled. I shriek in pain as my legs suddenly dangle in the air and the breath is choked from my lungs. I open my eyes and find that I am in heaven. But heaven seems just like the chawl and I look down and see the body of Shantaram lying spread-eagled on the ground. People are gathering around it now. Someone shouts, 'Call the police!'
I don't wait another moment. I scramble down the stairs and start running. I run past the gate and the milk booth and the multi-storey building. I run to the local station and take the Express to Victoria Terminus. I search every platform for a particular train. I find it at last and jump inside just as it is pulling away.

I left Mumbai, I left Gudiya, I left Salim, and ran away to the only other city I knew. Delhi.

***

Throughout this story, Smita remains perfectly silent. I can see now that she has been deeply affected. I detect a hint of a teardrop in the corner of her eye. Perhaps, being a woman, she can relate to Gudiya's torment.

I pick up the remote. 'Let us see question number three,' I say, and press 'Play'.

***

Prem Kumar swivels on his chair and addresses me. 'Mr Thomas, you have answered two questions correctly to win two thousand rupees. Now let us see whether you can answer the third question for five thousand rupees. Are you ready?'

'Ready,' I reply.

'OK. Question number three. This is from the field of—' Just then the central spotlight goes off, plunging Prem Kumar and me into darkness. 'Oops! Houston, we have a problem,' says Prem Kumar. The audience laughs. I don't get the joke.

'What did you just say?' I ask Prem Kumar.

'Oh, that is a famous line from the film Apollo Thirteen. I am sure you don't see English films. You use this line when you suddenly have a major problem, and we do have a major problem here. The show cannot proceed till we fix the spotlight.'
As the technicians start checking out the wiring of the spotlight, Prem Kumar listens to a voice on his headset. Then he leans forward and whispers in my ear, 'OK, buster, your golden run has lasted all of two questions and is now about to end. The next question is really tough, especially for a waiter. I would love to help you win more, but the producer has just informed me he wants to move on to the next contestant, a maths professor. Sorry, tough luck!' He takes a sip of lemonade and smacks his lips.

The spotlight is now fixed. The studio sign changes to 'Applause'.

As the clapping dies down, Prem Kumar looks at me. 'Mr Thomas, you have answered two questions correctly to win two thousand rupees. Now let us see whether you can answer the third question for five thousand rupees. Are you ready?'

'Ready,' I reply.

'OK. Our next question is from the world of astronomy. Tell me, Mr Thomas, do you know how many planets there are in our solar system?'

'What are my choices?'

'That is not the question, Mr Thomas. I am just asking whether you know the number of planets in the solar system.'

'No.'

'No? I hope you know the name of the planet we are living on.'

The audience laughs.

'Earth,' I reply sullenly.

'Good. So you do know the name of a planet. OK, are you ready for question number three?'

'Ready,' I reply.

'OK. Here is question number three. Which is the smallest planet in our solar system? Is it a) Pluto, b) Mars, c) Neptune or d) Mercury?'

A sound escapes my lips even before the music can commence, and it is 'Meow!'

'Excuse me?' says Prem Kumar in astonishment. 'What did you say? For a moment I thought I heard a meow.'
'What I said was "A".'
'A?'
'Yes. The answer is A. Pluto.'
'Are you absolutely, one hundred per cent sure that it is A?'
'Yes.'
There is a crescendo of drums. The correct answer flashes.
'Absolutely, one hundred per cent correct! Pluto is indeed the smallest planet in our solar system. Mr Thomas, you have just won five thousand rupees!'

The audience are impressed with my general knowledge. Some people stand up and clap.

But Smita is still silent.

* * *

Taken from: Q & A Vikas Swarup (Slumdog Millionaire)pdf.Foxit Reader
APPENDICES
APPENDIX 1

The Portrait of Vikas Swarup

APPENDIX 2

The Portrait of Slum Area in Mumbai

The real Slum behind the movie

The city Mumbai is one of the largest cities in India. The lure of jobs in the city is a huge pull on those living in rural areas. Migration into the city of Mumbai continues to grow at exponential rates each year. As a result, there has been a disproportionate rise of slums and overgrowing in the city.

- Mumbai holds the dubious record of being the slum capital of the world.

(Source: UN-HABITAT)
The population of Mumbai is approximately 12 million people.

- In Mumbai, almost 60% of the total population live in slums. (Source: UN Habitat)

- Some of the scenes in the movie were filmed in Dharavi, the largest slum in Mumbai. (Source: Director’s interview)

- In Mumbai, the rich own 90% of the land, while the poor are overcrowded in the remaining 10%. (Source: planet of slum by Mike Davis)

Taken from: www.educationforjustice.org (accessed on September 18, 2011)
Dharavi slum, Mumbai

Dharavi, the largest slum settlement of Asia is located in the suburban Mumbai along with the suburbs of Bandra and Kurla. You might be surprised to know that the annual turnover of this slum area of Mumbai is around 6 million dollars. The slum dwellers earn their livelihood by various ways. The main industry of this slum area is the recycle industry they recycle the waste things.

APPENDIX 3

SUMMARY OF SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

Slumdog Millionaire is a story about “slumboy”, Ram Mohammad Thomas, who participated in an Indian TV quiz show “Who Will Win Billion?” (W3B) hosted by Prem Kumar.

Thomas is just eighteen, and yet he has experienced one hell of a roller-coaster ride of a life, and he is despite being an uneducated waiter, the first contestant to answer all twelve questions correctly and take the prize. At the beginning of the book he is arrested for this grand feat, the television producers charging that he must have cheated and that they shouldn’t have to pay up. Tortured by the police, he gets a reprieve when a lawyer is willing to at least listen to his side of the story, demanding to hear the full story of how Thomas could have answered all these questions. By telling episodes from his life Thomas slowly reveals what he has experienced and, incidentally, how he came to know the answers to these particular questions.

Thomas isn’t merely orphaned once, but several times. He has to fend for himself from a relatively early age, and every time he seems to have found a place where he is safe catastrophe strikes. From the spectacular murder-suicide of the priest
who had raised him as a young child to his going to work for someone he discovers is a contract killer, there’s blood and gore and danger everywhere.

Ram makes some good friends and inevitably falls in love with a prostitute and he tries to do good and sometimes winds up doing bad (there’s quite a bit of blood dripping from his hands too, by the end). There are many scenes from the life of the poor and their particular hard lives.

APPENDIX 4

Vikas Swarup’s Biography

Vikas Swarup was born in Allahabad (India) in a family of lawyers. Vikas attended Allahabad University and studied History, Psychology and Philosophy after his schooling. Swarup also made his mark as a champion debater, winning National level competitions. After graduating with distinction, he joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986, motivated by an interest in international relations and a desire to explore different cultures.

In his diplomatic career, Vikas has been posted to various countries such as Turkey (1987-1990), the United States (1993-1997) Ethiopia (1997-2000), the United Kingdom (2000-2003) and South Africa (2006-2009). Since August 2009, he is the Consul General of India in Osaka-Kobe, Japan.

He penned his first novel, Q&A, in two months, when he was posted in London. Published in 2005 by Doubleday/Random House (UK & Commonwealth), Harper Collins (Canada) and Scribner (US) it has been published in 42 languages. It was short listed for the Best First Book by the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and won South Africa’s Exclusive Books Boeke Prize 2006 as well as the Paris Book Fair's Reader's Prize, the Prix Grand Public, in 2007. It was voted the Most Influential Book of 2008 in Taiwan, and winner of the Best Travel Read (Fiction) at the Heathrow Travel Product Award 2009.
Harper Collins brought out the audio book, read by Kerry Shale, which won the award for Best Audio Book of the Year 2005. The BBC produced a radio play based on the book which won the Gold Award for Best Drama at the Sony Radio Academy Awards 2008 and the IVCA Clarion Award 2008. The film version of Q&A, titled ‘Slumdog Millionaire’, directed by Danny Boyle, took the world by storm, winning more than 70 awards including four Golden Globes, 7 BAFTAs and a staggering 8 Oscars, including Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Picture.

Vikas’s second novel, Six Suspects, was released in the UK & Commonwealth by Transworld in August 2008. Published by Harper Collins in Canada and St Martin’s Press in the US, it has sold translation rights in 30 languages. Radio 4 commissioned a radio play based on the novel. It has been optioned for a film by the BBC and Starfield productions and John Hodge, who wrote the script for films like Trainspotting, Shallow Grave and The Beach, has been commissioned to write the screenplay.

Vikas contributed a short story titled ‘A Great Event’ to ‘The Children’s Hours: Stories of Childhood’, a bold and moving anthology of stories about childhood to support Save the Children and raise awareness for its fight to end violence against children.

Vikas has participated in the Oxford Literary Festival, the Turin International Book Fair, the Auckland Writers’ Conference, the Sydney Writers’ Festival, the Kitab Festival in New Delhi, the St. Malo International Book & Film Festival in France, the 'Words on Water' Literary Festival at the University of the Witwatersrand
in Johannesburg, the Jaipur Literature Festival, the Franschhoek Literary Festival in South Africa, the Ubud Writer’s Festival in Bali, the Emirates Airlines Festival of Literature in Dubai, the Manila International Literary Festival and the Seoul Digital Forum. He was also an invitee to the Reader’s Forum of World Expo 2010 in Shanghai and attended the 33rd Cairo International Film Festival as a jury member for the International Competition for Feature Digital Films. He is one of the three judges for the Man Asian Literary prize 2011.

Vikas is the recipient of the US-India Business Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award for “Contributing to the Cultural Ties that Bind” and received the award from USIBC Chairman Indra K. Nooyi at the USIBC’s 34th Anniversary Gala Reception in Washington D.C. on June 16, 2009.

He is also the recipient of a degree of Doctor of Literature & Philosophy (honoriscausa) from the University of South Africa (UNISA), the largest university in South Africa and one of the largest distance education institutions in the world.

He has written for TIME, The Guardian, The Telegraph (UK), The Financial Times (UK), British Airway’s in-flight magazine HighLife, DNA (India), Outlook (India) and Liberation (France).

Apart from reading, Vikas enjoys listening to music and playing cricket, tennis and table tennis. His wife Aparnais an artist who has held exhibitions in India and abroad. They have two sons Aditya and Varun.

Taken from: http://www.vikasswarup.net/index_files/Page607.htm(accessed on Desember19th 2011)
APPENDIX 5

The Implementation of Teaching Prose II Using Part of the Novel Slumdog Millionaire for the Fourth Semester Students of English Language Education Study Program

LESSON PLAN TO TEACH PROSE II

I. Course Identity
   a. Subject : Prose II
   b. Level of Students : 4th semester of English Language Education Study Program
   c. Time Allocation : 2 x 50’
   d. Materials : Chapter Three (5,000) of Slumdog Millionaire (68-89)

II. Standard Competence
    Students are able to appreciate unabridged or original novels and to put forward their own opinions concerning the contents of the novel

III. Basic Competence
    Students are able to understand the story and to state their opinion about the issue mentioned in the story

IV. Objectives
    On completing the course, students will be able to:
    a. Analyzes and appreciate novels using principles of literary analysis
    b. Express their opinion and critical evaluation on the novels orally and in written form
    c. Develop sensibility to others and personal maturity

V. Indicators
   - Students are able to retell the whole incidents which are described in the passage
   - Students are able to answer the comprehension questions
   - Students are able to state their own opinion as the appreciation on the story

VI. Approach and method
    - Reading, discussion, and group works
### VII. Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher’s Activity</th>
<th>Students’ Activity</th>
<th>Time Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Pre Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>A. Pre Activity</strong></td>
<td>15’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The teacher greets the students</td>
<td>• The students answer the greeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The teacher reviews the previous topic (chapter 2)</td>
<td>• Students review previous topic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The teacher gives explanation about the topic given as homework (chapter 3), the</td>
<td>• Students listen to the explanation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>objectives of the lesson and class activity</td>
<td>• Students join the warming up session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher gives warming up session</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Whilst Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>B. Whilst Activity</strong></td>
<td>70’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher asks the students to make group of five or six</td>
<td>• Students divided themselves into group of five or six</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher gives comprehension questions to be discussed in group</td>
<td>• Students read the comprehension questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher assists students’ discussion</td>
<td>• Students are involved in group discussion to answer the comprehension question</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher asks the students to share their answer in front of the class</td>
<td>• Some students give their answers, other students share their opinion about the answers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. Post Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>C. Post Activity</strong></td>
<td>15’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher makes a conclusion on today’s material</td>
<td>• Students listen to next explanation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teacher gives the students homework to read the next chapter (chapter four) of the</td>
<td>• Students take note on the homework</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>novel for the week material</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**VIII. Evaluation:** The students’ competence is evaluated through the answers given by them and participation in the group and class discussion.

**IX. References**

MATERIAL

A. Comprehension Questions

Work in group and answer the following questions!

1. What is Thomas’ real motivation for his activity? Give the evidence!

2. In telling Gudiya’s story, Thomas asks “But what was Gudiya’s crime?

   Simply that she was born as a girl and Shantaram was her father?”

   Thomas cannot stop thinking of Gudiya. Why? Give your evidence!

3. Did Thomas have other options besides throwing Shantaram down the stairs?

4. How would you describe Thomas’ relationships with women?

5. What is the message of this chapter?
APENDIX 6

Material to Teach Prose II Using *Slumdog Millionaire*

Chapter Three

A BROTHER’S PROMISE

You should take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. Put something away in case of an emergency. New neighbors will bring good cheer. A small problem may occur at home base, but you will solve it quickly and correctly. Don't offer smart advice unless you are really asked to comment.

This is what the daily horoscope in the Maharashtra Times has predicted today for those who are Capricorns like me, born in the last week of December.

I don't read the Maharashtra Times. In fact, I don't read any newspaper. But I occasionally pilfer a copy from Mr Barve's rubbish bin. It is useful for stoking the fire in the kitchen, and sometimes, when I have nothing else to do, I flip through its pages as a time pass before they are reduced to ash.

I also don't believe in horoscopes. If I did, I should be dead by now, as per the prediction made by Pandit Ramashankar Shastri. But today's daily horoscope does appear to contain a kernel of truth. New neighbors are moving into the room next door and there is indeed a small problem at home base.

We have just returned from the matinee at Regal Talkies and Salim is in a blind rage. He is tearing down all the posters of Armaan Ali which have adorned the
walls of our small room for nearly three years. The poster of Armaan in a leather jacket has been torn to shreds. Armaan on a motorbike has been dismembered with a knife. Armaan with his shirt off, baring his hairy chest is now in the bin. Armaan with a gun has been diced into tiny pieces and Armaan and his horse have both been roasted over the fire. With all the posters gone, our room, with just two beds, is suddenly looking even barer than before, and the mildew patches on the whitewashed walls are no longer hidden.

Despite the warning in the daily horoscope, I cannot resist offering some smart advice to Salim. 'Do you now realize the truth of what I told you ten months ago, when you were busy trying to fix Armaan's relationship with Urvashi? I told you not to poke your nose into other people's affairs, or make other people's troubles your own. Remember this as a lesson for the future.'

Salim hears me sullenly as he stomps on the poster of Armaan in a pool surrounded by a bevy of beauties.

I hear footsteps and voices outside the room. It looks as if the new tenants are finally moving into the room next to ours. I am excited. It is always good to meet new people. I hope the new tenants have boys of my age. Putul and Dhyanesh are good company, but they rarely get permission from their parents to come and play with me on Sundays, which is the only day I don't have to go to work. Ajay, the show-off, is also getting on my nerves. He made fun of me in front of the whole chawl when I told him I had joined a foundry. I know working in a foundry is not half as exciting as working for a film star, but at least it is better than sitting in the street.

***

After the time I spent with the actress Neelima Kumari, living in her flat, I had almost forgotten life in a chawl. A bundle of one-room tenements occupied by the lower-middle classes, chawls are the smelly armpit of Mumbai. Those who live here are only marginally better off than those who live in slums like Dharavi. As MrBarve
told me once, the rich people, those who live in their marble and granite four-bedroom flats, they enjoy. The slum people, who live in squalid, tattered huts, they suffer. And we, who reside in the overcrowded chawls, we simply live.

Living in a chawl does have certain advantages. What happened to Neelima Kumari would never happen here, because in a chawl everyone knows everything that is going on. All the residents have a common roof over their heads and a common place where they shit and bathe. The residents of the chawl may not meet each other for social occasions, but they have to meet while standing in a queue outside the common lavatories. In fact, it is rumoured that MrGokhale met MrsGokhale while waiting outside the latrine and fell in love. They got married within a month.

There is no chance of my falling in love with any girl in the chawl. They are all fat and ugly, not even remotely like my favourite actress, Priya Kapoor. Besides, they all like stupid things like dolls and cannot play any decent games like boxing and kabaddi. Not that I get much time to play these games. The whole day I work at the foundry, returning only at six in the evening. And smelting metal is a tough job. The molten iron smother you with its heat and your eyes are often blinded by the bright-orange flames.

'Thomas!' I hear a voice. It is Mr Ramakrishna, the administrator of the chawl, calling me. He is a very important man. We go to Mr Ramakrishna whenever the bulb goes out or the water pressure becomes low. We beg Mr Ramakrishna when we don't have enough money to pay the monthly rent. We have been after Mr Ramakrishna to repair a section of the first-floor wooden railing which has become weak and wobbly and poses a safety hazard.

I come out of the room and see Mr Ramakrishna standing with a short, middle-aged man who frowns and looks as though he has not gone to the toilet for a long time. 'Thomas, meet Mr Shantaram. He is our new tenant, who will be staying in the flat next to yours. I have told Mr. Shantaram that you are a very responsible boy, so please help him and his wife and daughter settle down. OK, Mr Shantaram, I will now take my leave.'
'Oh no,' I think to myself. 'No boys.' I try to see his wife and daughter, but only catch a fleeting glimpse of a woman with grey hair, and a girl, older than me, with long black hair tied back, sitting on the bed. Shantaram sees me peering into his flat and hastily closes the front door.

'What do you do?' I ask Shantaram.

'I am a scientist, an astronomer. You won't understand. But these days I am taking a break. I am working as the sales manager in the Vimal showroom. This room here is a very temporary arrangement. We will be shifting to a de luxe apartment in Nariman Point very soon.'

I know Mr. Shantaram is lying. Those who can afford to live in Nariman Point never stay in chawls, not even temporarily.

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The walls of the rooms inside the chawl are very thin. If you put your ear against the common wall and concentrate hard or, even better, if you put an inverted glass against the wall and put your ear against it, you can listen to almost everything going on in the next room. Salim and I do this often with our neighbors on the left, whose room adjoins our kitchen wall. Mr. and MrsBapatare not a young couple any more. It is rumored that Mr. Bapat even beats Mrs. Bapat, but they obviously make up at night because Salim and I often hear their heavy breathing and panting, their 'ooohs' and 'aahs', and we snicker.

I adjust a stainless-steel cup against the wall adjoining Mr. Shantaram's room and bury my ear in it. I can hear Shantaram speaking.

'This place is nothing less than a black hole. It is totally beneath my dignity to be staying here, but just for the sake of you two, I will endure this humiliation till I get a proper job. Listen, I don't want any of the street boys to enter the house. God knows what hell holes they have come from. There are two right next to us. Rascals of the highest order, I think. And Gudiya, if I catch you talking to any boy in the
chawl, you will receive a hiding with my leather belt, understood?’ he thunders. I drop the cup in panic.

* * *

Over the next couple of weeks, I hardly see Shantaram and I never see his wife or daughter. She probably goes to college every day, but by the time I return home from the foundry, she is inside her house and the door is always firmly shut.

Salim doesn't even notice that we have new neighbours. He hardly gets any spare time from his work as a tiffin delivery boy. He wakes up at seven in the morning and gets dressed. He wears a loose white shirt, cotton pyjamas and puts a white Nehru cap on his head. The cap is the badge of identification of all dabbawallahs in Mumbai, and there are nearly five thousand of them. Over the next two hours he collects home-cooked meals in lunch boxes from approximately twenty-five flats. Then he takes them to the Ghatkopar local train station. Here the tiffins are sorted according to their destination, each with colour-coded dots, dashes and crosses on the lids, and then loaded on to special trains to be delivered promptly at lunch time to middle-class executives and blue-collar workers all over Mumbai. Salim himself receives tiffins by another train, which he delivers in the Ghatkopar area after deciphering the dots and dashes which constitute the address. He has to be very careful, because one mistake could cost him his job. He dare not hand over a container with beef to a Hindu, or one with pork to a Muslim or one with garlic and onions to a Jain vegetarian.

* * *

It is nine at night. Salim is flipping through the pages of a film magazine. I am kneeling on my bed with my left ear inside a stainless-steel cup held to the wall. I hear Shantaram speaking to his daughter. 'Here, Gudiya, see through the eyepiece. I
have adjusted the telescope now. Can you see the bright-red object in the middle?
That is Mars.'

I whisper to Salim, 'Quick, get a cup. You must hear this.'

Salim also glues his ear to the wall. Over the next thirty minutes, we listen to
a running commentary on the state of the sky. We hear about stellar constellations
and galaxies and comets. We hear about the Great Bear and the Little Bear. We hear
of something called the Milky Way and the Pole Star. We learn about the rings of
Saturn and the moons of Jupiter.

Listening to Shantaram, I am filled with a strange longing. I wish I too had a
father who would teach me about stars and planets. The night sky, which till now was
just a big black mass to me, suddenly becomes a place of meaning and wonder. As
soon as Shantaram's tutorial ends, Salim and I crane our necks out of our first-floor
window and try to find the celestial landmarks pointed out by him. Without the aid of
a telescope we see only little white dots in the dark sky, but we squeal with delight
when we recognize the seven stars of the Great Bear, and even the knowledge that the
dark patches on the moon are not blemishes but craters and seas fills us with a sense
of satisfaction, as though we have unlocked the mysteries of the universe.

That night I don't dream about a woman in a fluttering white sari. I dream
about rings around Saturn and moons around Jupiter.

***

A week later, I am alerted by a totally new sound coming from Shantaram's room.

'Meow!' I scramble to the wall with my stainless-steel listening device in
hand.

I hear Gudiya speaking. 'Papa, look, I've got a cat. Isn't he lovely? My friend
Rohini gave him to me from her cat's new litter. Can I keep him?'

'I am not in favour of any pets,' MrsShantaram grumbles. 'There's hardly space
in this room for humans – where will we keep an animal?'
'Please, Mummy, he is such a tiny thing. Papa, please agree,' she pleads. 'OK, Gudiya,' says Shantaram. 'You can keep him. But what will you call him?'

'Oh, thank you, Papa. I was thinking of calling him Tommy.'

'No, that is such a commonplace name. This cat is going to live in an astronomer's family, so it should be named after one of the planets.'

'Which one? Should we call him Jupiter?'

'No. He is the smallest in the family, so he can only be called Pluto.'

'Great, I love the name, Papa. Here, Pluto! Pluto, come and have some milk.'

'Meow!' says Pluto.

***

These little snippets force me to reconsider my opinion of Shantaram. Perhaps he is not so bad after all. But, once again, I learn that appearances can be deceptive and the dividing line between good and bad is very thin indeed.

I see Shantaram come home one evening, completely drunk. His breath stinks of whisky. He walks with unsteady steps and needs help to climb up the flight of stairs. This happens the next day, and the day after that. Pretty soon it is common knowledge in the chawl that Mr. Shantaram is a drunkard.

Drunkards in Hindi films are invariably funny characters. Think of KeshtoMukherjee with a bottle and you cannot help bursting out laughing. But drunkards in real life are not funny, they are frightening. Whenever Shantaram comes home in a stupor, we don't need listening devices. He hurls abuses at the top of his voice and Salim and I quiver with fear in our room as if we are the ones being shouted at. His swearing becomes such a ritual that we actually wait for the sound of his snoring before falling asleep ourselves. We come to dread the interval between Shantaram's return from work and his crashing out in bed. This interval is, for us, the zone of fear.
We think this is a passing phase and that Shantaram will eventually recover. But it actually gets worse. Shantaram begins drinking even more and then he starts throwing things. He begins with plastic cups and books, which he throws at the wall in disgust. Then he starts breaking pots and pans. The ruckus he creates makes living next door very difficult. But we know complaining to Mr Ramakrishna is out of the question. The voices of a thirteen-year-old and an eleven-year old habitual rent offender do not carry much weight. So we simply duck in bed whenever an object thuds on to our common wall and cringe in fear whenever we hear the sound of a plate crashing or china breaking.

Even this phase does not last long. Pretty soon, Shantaram starts throwing objects at people. Mainly his family members. He reserves maximum ire for his wife. 'You bloody bitch! You are the one who has brought me down in life. I could be writing research papers on black holes, and instead I am showing blouse pieces and saris to wretched housewives. I hate you! Why don't you die?" he would holler, and throw a peppershaker, a glass, a plate. At his wife, his daughter, her cat.

One night he exceeds all limits and throws a piping-hot cup of tea at his wife. Gudiya tries to shield her mother and the burning liquid falls on her instead, scalding her face. She shrieks in agony. Shantaram is so drunk he doesn't even realize what he has done. I rush out to get a taxi for Mrs. Shantaram to take her daughter to hospital. Two days later, she comes to me and asks whether I will go with her to visit Gudiya. 'She gets very lonely. Perhaps you can talk to her.'

So I accompany MrsShantaram on my first-ever visit to a hospital.

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The first thing that assails your senses when you enter a hospital is the smell. I feel nauseated by the cloying, antiseptic smell of disinfectant, which permeates every corner of the dirty wards. The second thing that strikes you is that you don't see any happy people. The patients lying on their green beds are moaning and groaning and
even the nurses and doctors seem grim. But the worst thing is the indifference. No one is really bothered about you. I had imagined there would be doctors and nurses swarming all over Gudiya, but I find her lying all alone on a bed inside the Burns Unit with not a single nurse on duty. Her face is completely bandaged; only her black eyes can be seen.

'Gudiya, look who has come to see you,' MrsShantaram says, beaming at me.

I feel diffident approaching the girl. She is obviously much older than me. I am just a voyeur who has heard some snippets from her life; I hardly know her. I don't see her lips, but I can see from her eyes that she is smiling at me and that breaks the ice between us.

I sit with her for three hours, talking about this and that. Gudiya asks me, 'How did you get such an unusual name – Ram Mohammad Thomas?'

'It is a very long story. I will tell you when you are well.'

She tells me about herself. I learn that she is about to finish her Intermediate and start University. Her ambition is to become a doctor. She asks me about myself. I don't tell her anything about Father Timothy or what happened to me later, but I recount my experiences in the chawl. I tell her about life as a foundry worker. She listens to me with rapt attention and makes me feel very important and wanted.

A doctor comes and tells MrsShantaram that her daughter is lucky. She has received only first-degree burns and will not have any permanent scars. She will be discharged within a week.

The three hours that I spend with Gudiya enable me to learn a lot about her father. Mrs. Shantaram tells me, 'My husband is a famous space scientist. Rather, he was a scientist. He used to work in the Aryabhata Space Research Institute, where he investigated stars with the help of huge telescopes. We used to live in a big bungalow on the Institute's campus. Three years ago he discovered a new star. It was a very important scientific discovery but one of his fellow astronomers took credit for it. This shattered my husband completely. He started drinking. He started having fights with his colleagues and one day he got so angry with the director of the Institute he
almost beat him to death. He was thrown out of the Institute immediately and I had to beg the director not to have him arrested by the police. After leaving the Institute, my husband got a job as a physics teacher in a good school, but he could not keep his drinking and his violent temper in check. He would thrash boys for minor lapses and was kicked out in just six months. Since then he has been doing odd jobs, working as a canteen manager in an office, as an accountant in a factory, and now as a sales assistant in a clothes showroom. And because we have exhausted all our savings, we are forced to live in a chawl.'

'Can't Mr. Shantaram stop drinking?' I ask her.

'My husband swore to me he would not touch alcohol again and I had begun to hope that the worst was over. But he couldn't stick to his promise, and look what has happened.'

'Do me a favour, Ram Mohammad Thomas,' Gudiya says. 'Please look after Pluto till I return home.'

'Definitely,' I promise.

Suddenly she stretches out her arm and takes my hand in hers. 'You are the brother I never had. Isn't he, Mummy?' she says. MrsShantaram nods her head.

I do not know what to say. This is a new relationship for me. In the past, I have imagined myself as someone's son, but never as someone's brother. So I just hold Gudiya's hand and sense an unspoken bond pass between us.

That night I dream of a woman in a white sari holding a baby in her arms. The wind howls behind her, making her hair fly across her face, obscuring it. She places the baby in a laundry bin and leaves. Just then, another woman arrives. She is also tall and graceful, but her face is swathed in bandages. She plucks the baby from the bin and smothers him with kisses. 'My little brother,' she says. 'S-i-s-t-e-r,' the baby gurgles back. 'Meeow!' A strangled cry from a cat suddenly pierces the night. I wake up and try to figure whether the cry I heard came from the dream or the adjacent room.
I discover Pluto's limp and mangled body the next morning, lying in the same dustbin in which MrBarve disposes of his copy of the Maharashtra Times. The cat's neck has been broken and I can smell whisky on his furry body. Shantaram tells his wife that Pluto has run away. I know the truth, but it is pointless mentioning it. Pluto has indeed run away. To another, better world, I think.

'I like Gudiya very much,' I tell Salim. 'I have to ensure that Shantaram does not repeat what he did to her.'

'But what can you do? It is his family.'

'It is our business as well. After all, we are neighbours.'

'Don't you remember what you told me once? That it's not a good idea to poke your nose into other people's affairs, or make other people's troubles your own, Mohammad?'

I have no response to this.

***

Gudiya comes home, but I don't get to see her because Shantaram will not permit a boy to enter his house. MrsShantaram tells me that her husband has realized what he has done and will now reform, even though in her heart of hearts she knows that Shantaram is beyond redemption. But even she did not know the depths to which her husband could descend.

Barely a week after Gudiya returns from the hospital, he does something to her again. He tries to touch her. But not like a father. At first, I don't understand. All I hear is some references to Gudiya being his moon and then MrsShantaram crying, and Gudiya screaming, 'Papa, don't touch me! Papa, please don't touch me!'

Something snaps in my brain when I hear Gudiya's plaintive cry. I want to rush into Shantaram's room and kill him with my bare hands. But even before I can gather my courage, I hear Shantaram's loud snores. He has crashed out. Gudiya is still weeping. I don't need a glass to hear her sobbing.
Her crying affects me in a strange way. I don't know how a brother should react on listening to his sister's sorrow, because I have no experience of being a brother. But I know that somehow I have to comfort her. Unfortunately, it is not very easy to comfort someone when there is a wall, however thin, between you. I notice then that right at the bottom of the wall, where the water pipes go into the other flat, there is a small circular opening, large enough to thrust an arm through. I jump down from the bed and, lying spreadeagled on the ground, push my hand through the opening. 'Sister, don't weep. Here, hold my hand,' I cry. And someone does grasp my hand. I feel fingers caress my arm, my elbow, my wrist, like a blind man feeling someone's face. Then fingers interlock with mine and I feel a magical transference of power, energy, love, call it what you will; the fact is that in that instant I become one with Gudiya and I feel her pain as if it is my own.

Salim, meanwhile, is still sitting on his bed, watching the scene in amazement. 'Are you mad, Mohammad? Do you realize what you are doing?' he admonishes me. 'This hole through which you have pushed your hand is the same hole through which rats and cockroaches come into our room.'

But I am oblivious to Salim and to everything else. I don't know how long I hold Gudiya's hand, but when I wake up the next morning I find myself lying on the ground with my hand still thrust through the hole and a family of cockroaches sleeping peacefully inside my shirt pocket.

***

The next night, Shantaram again comes home in a drunken stupor and tries to molest Gudiya. 'You are more beautiful than all the stars and planets. You are my moon. You are my Gudiya, my doll. Yesterday you evaded me, but today I will not let you leave me,' he says.

'Stop behaving like this!' MrsShantaram cries, but her husband takes no notice.
'Don't worry, Gudiya, there is nothing wrong in my love for you. Even Shahjahan, the great emperor, fell in love with his own daughter, JahanAra. And who can deny a man the privilege of gathering fruit from a tree he himself has planted.'

'You are a demon,' MrsShantaram yells, and Shantaram hits her. I hear a bottle break.

'No!' I hear Gudiya scream.

I feel as though an oxyacetylene torch has pierced my brain and molten metal has been poured over my heart. I can tolerate it no more. I run to Mr Ramakrishna's room and tell him that Shantaram is doing something terrible to his own wife and daughter. But Ramakrishna behaves as if I am talking about the weather.

'Look,' he tells me. 'Whatever happens inside the four walls of a home is a private matter for that family and we cannot interfere. You are a young orphan boy. You have not seen life. But I know the daily stories of wife-beating and abuse and incest and rape, which take place in chawls all over Mumbai. Yet no one does anything. We Indians have this sublime ability to see the pain and misery around us, and yet remain unaffected by it. So, like a proper Mumbaiker, close your eyes, close your ears, close your mouth and you will be happy like me. Now go, it is time for my sleep.'

I rush back to my room. I hear Shantaram snoring and Gudiya screaming that she is dirty. 'Don't touch me! Nobody touch me! I will infect whoever comes near me.'

I think she is losing her mind. And I am losing mine.

'Infect me,' I say, and thrust my hand through the hole in the wall.

Gudiya catches it. 'I will not live much longer, Ram Mohammad Thomas,' she sobs. 'I will commit suicide rather than submit to my father.' Her pain floats through the hole and envelops me in its embrace.

I begin crying. 'I will never allow this to happen,' I tell her. 'This is a brother's promise.'
Salim gives me a dirty look, as if I have committed a criminal act by making this promise. But I am beyond right and wrong. I feel Gudiya's bony fingers, the flesh on her hands, and know that we are both hunted animals, partners in crime. My crime was that I, an orphan boy, had dared to make other people's troubles my own. But what was Gudiya's crime? Simply that she was born a girl and Shantaram was her father.

***

I carry out my promise the next evening, when Shantaram returns from work and climbs the rickety stairs to the first floor. He walks with slow, bumbling steps. Even his clothes reek of whisky. As he is about to pass that section of the railing which has not yet been fixed by Mr Ramakrishna, I charge at him from behind. I slam into his back and he slams into the wooden railing. The railing is already weak and wobbly. It cannot take his weight. It cracks and splinters. Shantaram loses his balance and topples to the ground below.

In films, they show a villain falling from the roof of a skyscraper and it seems as if he is floating in the air; he twists his legs and flaps his arms and screams, 'Aaaaaaaaaaaah!' In real life, it doesn't happen like that at all. Shantaram drops down like a rock. There is no flapping of hands or legs. He hits the ground facedown and lies spread-eagled, hands and legs outstretched.

Only when I see Shantaram's limp body on the ground do I realize what I have done. And then I visualize the consequences of my act.

The crime-scene officers arrive in a jeep with a flashing red light and make a nice neat outline in chalk. They take photos and say, 'This is where the body fell.' Then they look up and see me on the first floor. The inspector points at me. 'That is the boy who pushed him down. Arrest him!' I am taken to jail, where I am stripped and beaten. Then I am presented in court, where a stern-faced judge sits in a black robe with a ceiling fan above him. A faded and dusty golden sign with the words
SatyamevaJayate – Truth Always Prevails – is fixed on the wall behind him. The judge takes one look at me and pronounces his verdict. 'Ram Mohammad Thomas, I find you guilty of the premeditated murder of MrShantaram. Under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, I hereby sentence you to death by hanging.'

'No!' I cry and try to run, but my legs are shackled and my wrists are handcuffed. I am blindfolded and led to the execution cell. A noose is placed around my neck, a lever is pulled. I shriek in pain as my legs suddenly dangle in the air and the breath is choked from my lungs. I open my eyes and find that I am in heaven. But heaven seems just like the chawl and I look down and see the body of Shantaram lying spread-eagled on the ground. People are gathering around it now. Someone shouts, 'Call the police!'

I don't wait another moment. I scramble down the stairs and start running. I run past the gate and the milk booth and the multi-storey building. I run to the local station and take the Express to Victoria Terminus. I search every platform for a particular train. I find it at last and jump inside just as it is pulling away.

I left Mumbai, I left Gudiya, I left Salim, and ran away to the only other city I knew. Delhi.

* * *

Throughout this story, Smita remains perfectly silent. I can see now that she has been deeply affected. I detect a hint of a teardrop in the corner of her eye. Perhaps, being a woman, she can relate to Gudiya's torment.

I pick up the remote. 'Let us see question number three,' I say, and press 'Play'.

* * *

Prem Kumar swivels on his chair and addresses me. 'Mr Thomas, you have answered two questions correctly to win two thousand rupees.
Now let us see whether you can answer the third question for five thousand rupees. Are you ready?'

'Ready,' I reply.

'OK. Question number three. This is from the field of—' Just then the central spotlight goes off, plunging Prem Kumar and me into darkness. 'Oops! Houston, we have a problem,' says Prem Kumar. The audience laughs. I don't get the joke.

'What did you just say?' I ask Prem Kumar.

'Oh, that is a famous line from the film Apollo Thirteen. I am sure you don't see English films. You use this line when you suddenly have a major problem, and we do have a major problem here. The show cannot proceed till we fix the spotlight.'

As the technicians start checking out the wiring of the spotlight, Prem Kumar listens to a voice on his headset. Then he leans forward and whispers in my ear, 'OK, buster, your golden run has lasted all of two questions and is now about to end. The next question is really tough, especially for a waiter. I would love to help you win more, but the producer has just informed me he wants to move on to the next contestant, a maths professor. Sorry, tough luck!' He takes a sip of lemonade and smacks his lips.

The spotlight is now fixed. The studio sign changes to 'Applause'.

As the clapping dies down, Prem Kumar looks at me. 'Mr Thomas, you have answered two questions correctly to win two thousand rupees. Now let us see whether you can answer the third question for five thousand rupees. Are you ready?'

'Ready,' I reply.

'OK. Our next question is from the world of astronomy. Tell me, Mr Thomas, do you know how many planets there are in our solar system?'

'What are my choices?'

'That is not the question, Mr Thomas. I am just asking whether you know the number of planets in the solar system.'

'No.'

'No? I hope you know the name of the planet we are living on.'
The audience laughs.

'Eart,' I reply sullenly.

'Good. So you do know the name of a planet. OK, are you ready for question number three?'

'Ready,' I reply.

'OK. Here is question number three. Which is the smallest planet in our solar system? Is it a) Pluto, b) Mars, c) Neptune or d) Mercury?'

A sound escapes my lips even before the music can commence, and it is 'Meow!'

'Excuse me?' says Prem Kumar in astonishment. 'What did you say? For a moment I thought I heard a meow.'

'What I said was "A".'

'A?'

'Yes. The answer is A. Pluto.'

'Are you absolutely, one hundred per cent sure that it is A?'

'Yes.'

There is a crescendo of drums. The correct answer flashes.

'Absolutely, one hundred per cent correct! Pluto is indeed the smallest planet in our solar system. Mr Thomas, you have just won five thousand rupees!'

The audience are impressed with my general knowledge. Some people stand up and clap.

But Smita is still silent.

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