

English 105

**Essay # 3**

**Final Research Paper:** The God of Small Things

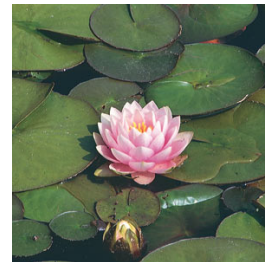
Min 7 pages, typed, double-spaced, MLA format

**20% of your grade**

The Novel:

*The God of Small Things* Arundhati Roy

they  
all  
tampere<sup>d</sup>  
with the  
laws  
that  
lay  
down  
who  
should be  
loved.  
and how.  
and how much.  
—the god of small things by arundhati roy



In *The God of Small Things*, Arundhati Roy depicts a broken country, a country that has been irretrievably scarred by the effects of colonialism. For many of the characters within the novel, the West has become an idealistic yet unattainable identity and way of life. Colonialism's contempt for people of color both mirrors and perpetuates India's caste system in which there is a profound hatred for the untouchable Paravans. The story evolves by trespassing so many of the love laws, particularly the laws of love, finally leading to the disintegration of one family in central Kerala, it lifts the veil on many universal concerns: the pains and pleasures of family ties, structures of domination, barriers to freedom, suppressed desires, and the mysterious thing called love.

For this paper, you will incorporate outside research to support an argument you make about the book.

- This paper must be ***at least 7 pages, excluding the works cited page, and it must make reference to at least 5 sources, including the book (This means you need to find 4 on your own).***
- **You may use sources that your classmates share on Discussion board and you may use the outside source that I have given you**
- Remember that the point of this paper is not to simply string together quotations from critics. Rather, your main purpose is to use the outside research to back up the claims that you are making
- **One of the easiest ways to ensure this** is to go to the library and check out a book, or you can simply go the Mesa College's library website and its article database to search for scholarly, peer-reviewed articles:  
<http://www.sdmesa.edu/library/database.cfm>

**Some ideas to get you started thinking about a thesis:**

- What do you think Roy's main purpose for writing this novel is? Who do you think her intended audience is?
- How does Roy use "Love Laws"(which dictate whom one can love and how and how much one can do so) to connect relevant issues in India with the characters of the novel?
- By connecting a large number of seemingly unconnected small incidents leading to fateful consequences, the book points to the power of small things, reflecting imperceptible laws. Make an argument in how and why she does this
- What is Velutha's purpose in the novel? You could connect this character to Roy's statement of the caste system and the love laws in India
- Explore the way that gender is portrayed throughout the novel (Mamachi's relationship with her husband and her son, Chaco, Ammu's relationship with her abusive husband etc)

- Explore how Roy makes statements through her novel about the cultural transformation of India in the Post-Colonial Era. How does Roy make clear that India has been influenced by the colonizer? Why does she do this?
- How do Estha and Rahel maintain their identities rather than becoming consumed by the dominant Western influence?
- The twins experience a multitude of traumatic events throughout the novel, ultimately leading to loss of innocence and irreparable grief. The end of the novel is controversial and shocking. Create an argument for why Roy includes this ending that breaks all of the love laws
- Choose any of the characters and argue how they allow us to make sense of Roy's overall message / purpose / other themes displayed throughout
- Of course you can come up with your own argument; These are just ideas to help get you started!

<b>RUBRIC</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Introduction and clearly stated thesis	10		
Well-developed support (analysis) that is accurate, clear and relevant (to thesis)- textual evidence is used to back up claims and significance of quotes / examples are discussed thoroughly <i><u>At least 4 credible sources in addition to the book</u></i>	40		
Organization: Uses an effective structure that carefully guides the reader from one idea to the next- paragraphs are distinct, unified, coherent	15		
Grammar and Language: sentence structure, punctuation, academic voice- language is concise	15		
Conclusion	5		
Min 7 pgs, MLA Format with Works Cited Page	15		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>		