

## Abol tabol as a Nonsense Literature.

"**Abol Tabol**" is a collection of Bengali poems written by Sukumar Ray, widely regarded as a masterpiece of nonsense literature. Published in 1923, it remains a classic of Bengali children's literature and has captivated readers of all ages with its whimsical language, playful imagination, and satirical undertones. Here's an exploration of "Abol Tabol" as a work of nonsense literature:

### 1. Playful Language and Wordplay:

- The poems in "Abol Tabol" are characterized by inventive wordplay, puns, and whimsical use of language. Sukumar Ray creates words that have no literal meaning but evoke vivid images and emotions. The title itself, "Abol Tabol," can be loosely translated as "The Weird and the Absurd," setting the tone for the entire collection.

### 2. Absurd Situations and Characters:

- The poems are filled with absurd and fantastical scenarios. Characters like "Huko Mukho Hangla" (a creature with a bizarre face and endless appetite) and "Kumro Potash" (a pumpkin-headed creature) exist in a world where logic and reason are turned upside down. These characters often defy conventional behavior and expectations, creating a sense of delightfully surreal chaos.

### 3. Satirical Elements:

- Beneath the surface of nonsense, Sukumar Ray often embeds satire and social commentary. He humorously critiques societal norms, human behavior, and bureaucracy through his seemingly nonsensical verses. For example, the poem "Gomrath" mocks the self-important and officious behavior of certain individuals, using absurdity to highlight their foolishness.

### 4. Blurring the Line Between Sense and Nonsense:

- One of the hallmarks of nonsense literature is its ability to blur the line between sense and nonsense. In "Abol Tabol," Ray creates a world where the nonsensical becomes meaningful in its own right. The poems invite readers to suspend their disbelief and enter a realm where the absurd is celebrated, and the boundaries of reality are joyfully expanded.

### 5. Visual Imagery and Illustration:

- The poems are often accompanied by illustrations drawn by Sukumar Ray himself. These illustrations enhance the surreal and nonsensical nature of the poems, bringing the strange characters and situations to life. The visual elements complement the text, creating a holistic experience of nonsense that engages both the imagination and the intellect.

### 6. Cultural and Linguistic Playfulness:

- "Abol Tabol" is deeply rooted in Bengali culture and language, yet it transcends cultural boundaries with its universal appeal. The playful manipulation of Bengali idioms, expressions, and phonetics adds an extra layer of delight for native speakers, while the humor and creativity of the poems can be appreciated by a global audience.

**Conclusion:**

"Abol Tabol" is a quintessential example of nonsense literature, where the absurd and the fantastical are not just for amusement but also serve to challenge the reader's perceptions of reality. Sukumar Ray's work is celebrated for its linguistic creativity, its satirical edge, and its ability to captivate the imagination with its joyful embrace of the nonsensical. Even a century after its publication, "Abol Tabol" continues to be beloved by readers of all ages, standing as a testament to the enduring power of nonsense in literature.

## Character of Shen Te.

Shen Te (or Shen Teh), the protagonist in Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Woman of Setzuan," is a complex and multifaceted character that embodies the central themes of the play. Her character is used by Brecht to explore the tensions between goodness and practicality, as well as the social and economic pressures that shape human behavior. Here is a detailed analysis of Shen Te's character:

### 1. Goodness and Altruism:

Shen Te is initially presented as an epitome of goodness and altruism. She is the only person willing to offer shelter to the gods when they visit Setzuan, despite her own poverty and hardships. This act of kindness leads the gods to reward her with money, allowing her to buy a small tobacco shop.

- **Compassionate Nature:** Shen Te's compassion extends to all those around her, often to her own detriment. She takes in the needy and helps those in distress, showcasing her selflessness and innate goodness.

### 2. Struggle for Survival:

Despite her good intentions, Shen Te quickly realizes that being purely good is not sustainable in a world driven by selfishness and exploitation. Her generosity is exploited by others, leading her into debt and endangering her business.

- **Economic Realities:** The play highlights how economic pressures force Shen Te to compromise her values. Her struggle to maintain her goodness while facing financial ruin is a central conflict in the narrative.

### 3. Dual Identity:

To cope with the demands and exploitation she faces, Shen Te creates an alter ego, Shui Ta, her ruthless and pragmatic "cousin."

- **Shui Ta:** As Shui Ta, Shen Te adopts a more hard-nosed and businesslike approach, allowing her to protect her interests and keep her shop running. Shui Ta's actions are often in stark contrast to Shen Te's, demonstrating the duality required to navigate a harsh world.

### 4. Moral Dilemma:

Shen Te's transformation into Shui Ta illustrates the moral dilemma at the heart of the play. She embodies the conflict between maintaining one's ethical principles and ensuring one's survival.

- **Internal Conflict:** Shen Te is constantly torn between her desire to be good and the necessity to be practical. This internal conflict is a microcosm of the larger societal critique Brecht is making.

### 5. Symbolic Representation:

Shen Te's character serves as a symbol of the play's exploration of goodness and its feasibility within a capitalist society. Her dual identities reflect the broader human condition and the compromises people must make in a flawed world.

### 6. Development and Resolution:

Throughout the play, Shen Te's character undergoes significant development. Her journey from an idealistic, self-sacrificing woman to someone who must resort to deception and toughness reflects the transformative impact of societal pressures.

- **Resolution:** The play's ending leaves Shen Te's fate ambiguous, highlighting the unresolved nature of the central conflict. The gods fail to provide a solution, emphasizing Brecht's message about the complexities of morality in an unjust world.

### **Conclusion:**

Shen Te in "The Good Woman of Setzuan" is a richly developed character that encapsulates the themes of morality, survival, and the human condition. Her duality as Shen Te and Shui Ta serves to illustrate the play's critique of societal structures and the often impossible demands placed on individuals striving to be good in a world that rewards self-interest. Through Shen Te, Brecht challenges the audience to reflect on the nature of goodness and the social conditions that make it so difficult to achieve.

## **Comment on the ending scene of the play GHOST.**

The ending scene of Henrik Ibsen's play *Ghosts* is both powerful and tragic, encapsulating the themes of the play in a heart-wrenching moment. The play concludes with Mrs. Alving, the protagonist, facing the devastating consequences of her decisions and the social conventions she adhered to.

In the final scene, her son, Oswald, who has inherited syphilis from his father, is on the verge of complete mental collapse. As the sun rises—a symbol of truth and revelation throughout the play—Oswald succumbs to his illness, begging his mother to give him morphine so that he can end his suffering. This request forces Mrs. Alving to confront the ultimate moral dilemma: whether to grant her son's wish and free him from his torment, or to let him live in a vegetative state, which could be seen as a continuation of the "ghosts" of the past haunting her life.

The ambiguity of the ending, where Mrs. Alving hesitates with the morphine in her hand as Oswald stares blankly, leaves the audience in a state of profound unease. This unresolved tension reflects Ibsen's critique of societal norms, the repression of truth, and the inescapable consequences of past actions. The "ghosts" of the title come to represent not only the haunting legacy of Oswald's father but also the societal expectations and moral compromises that have led to this tragic conclusion.

## Consider The Good Woman of Setzuan as an epic theater.

Bertolt Brecht's play "The Good Woman of Setzuan" (often spelled "The Good Person of Szechwan") is a prime example of epic theater, a style of theater that Brecht developed to provoke rational self-reflection and a critical view of the action on the stage. Here are key elements that illustrate how "The Good Woman of Setzuan" embodies epic theater:

### 1. Alienation Effect (Verfremdungseffekt):

Brecht aimed to prevent the audience from becoming emotionally absorbed in the narrative. He wanted them to remain detached and critical. In "The Good Woman of Setzuan," this is achieved through:

- **Direct Address:** Characters frequently break the fourth wall to speak directly to the audience, reminding them they are watching a play.
- **Songs and Music:** The use of songs interrupts the action to comment on the events, providing a critical perspective rather than emotional engagement.
- **Non-Realistic Set Design:** The settings and props are often suggestive rather than realistic, encouraging the audience to focus on the play's themes and ideas rather than the illusion of reality.

### 2. Didactic Purpose:

Epic theater is meant to educate and inspire social change. "The Good Woman of Setzuan" explores themes of morality, goodness, and the socio-economic conditions that make it difficult to remain good. The play questions:

- How can a person remain good in a corrupt society?
- What is the cost of maintaining one's goodness?

### 3. Narrative Techniques:

Brecht uses a non-linear narrative structure to disrupt the conventional storytelling flow. In "The Good Woman of Setzuan," the plot is episodic, with each scene standing on its own while contributing to the overall message.

### 4. Characterization:

Characters in epic theatre are often presented as archetypes rather than fully developed individuals to emphasize social roles and relationships over personal psychology. In "The Good Woman of Setzuan":

- Shen Teh represents goodness and altruism, while her alter ego Shui Ta represents pragmatism and survival.
- The gods symbolize societal and moral expectations.

### 5. Historical and Social Context:

Epic theater often places its stories in specific historical or social contexts to highlight contemporary issues. "The Good Woman of Setzuan" is set in China but addresses universal issues of poverty, exploitation, and morality.

#### **6. Gestus:**

Brecht's concept of "gestus" involves the use of physical gestures and attitudes to reveal social relations and character traits. In the play, the actions of characters often reveal the socio-economic pressures they face and their moral dilemmas.

#### **Conclusion**

"The Good Woman of Setzuan" serves as a quintessential example of epic theater through its use of alienation techniques, didactic aims, and critical engagement with social and moral issues. Brecht's methods compel the audience to reflect on the nature of goodness and the societal conditions that challenge it, aligning with his vision of theater as a tool for social critique and change.

## Discuss briefly the role of the Corinthian messenger in *Oedipus the king*?

The Corinthian messenger in *Oedipus the King* plays a pivotal role in advancing the plot and deepening the tragedy of the story. He arrives in Thebes from Corinth with the news that King Polybus, whom Oedipus believes to be his father, has died of natural causes. This news initially brings relief to Oedipus, as it seems to disprove the prophecy that he would kill his father. However, the messenger's subsequent revelations lead to the unravelling of Oedipus' true identity.

### 1. Revealing Oedipus' Origins:

- The messenger discloses that Oedipus is not the biological son of Polybus and Merope, the rulers of Corinth. He was, in fact, given to them as a baby by the messenger himself. This revelation is a critical turning point in the play, as it prompts further investigation into Oedipus' true parentage.

### 2. Linking Oedipus to Laius:

- The messenger explains that he received the infant Oedipus from a shepherd, who found the baby with his ankles bound on Mount Cithaeron. This shepherd turns out to be the very servant of Laius who had been ordered to abandon Oedipus to die, thus linking Oedipus directly to the house of Laius and the fulfilment of the prophecy.

### 3. Catalyzing the Climax:

- The messenger's revelations are crucial in bringing Oedipus to the realization that he has indeed fulfilled the prophecy of killing his father, Laius, and marrying his mother, Jocasta. This discovery leads to the tragic climax of the play, where Oedipus blinds himself and Jocasta takes her own life.

### Thematic Importance:

- **Fate and Irony:** The Corinthian messenger's role underscores the inescapability of fate. What begins as seemingly good news—that Polybus has died naturally—soon spirals into the devastating revelation of Oedipus' true identity.
- **Truth and Knowledge:** The messenger inadvertently helps Oedipus uncover the truth, highlighting the tragic irony that knowledge, while sought after, can lead to destruction rather than enlightenment.

In summary, the Corinthian messenger is a key figure in unravelling the mystery of Oedipus' birth and identity, driving the plot toward its tragic conclusion.



# Existentialism in the play *Waiting for Godot*

**Existentialism** is a central theme in Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*, manifesting in the characters' struggle with meaning, identity, and purpose in a seemingly absurd and indifferent world. The play embodies many of the core principles of existential philosophy, particularly through its portrayal of human existence as inherently meaningless, with individuals left to create their own sense of meaning in an uncertain universe.

Here are a few ways existentialism is expressed in *Waiting for Godot*:

## 1. Absurdity of Life

In *Waiting for Godot*, the characters Vladimir and Estragon spend their days waiting for someone named Godot, who never arrives. This endless waiting can be seen as symbolic of the human search for meaning in an absurd universe where no definite answers are provided. The lack of explanation for who Godot is or why they are waiting for him echoes the existential belief in the absurdity of life, where individuals are left to grapple with a universe that offers no clear purpose.

## 2. Meaninglessness and Despair

The characters express a sense of futility and hopelessness, frequently questioning the purpose of their waiting. Estragon and Vladimir often seem unsure of what they are doing or why they are even waiting for Godot. Their repetitive and pointless conversations mirror existential notions of the inherent meaninglessness of existence. They try to pass the time through various diversions, reflecting existentialists' idea that many human activities are distractions from the underlying emptiness of life.

## 3. Freedom and Responsibility

Existentialism posits that, in the absence of a predetermined meaning, humans are free to define their own purpose, but with that freedom comes responsibility. In *Waiting for Godot*, however, the characters fail to take action, representing the paralysis that often accompanies existential freedom. Despite their freedom to leave, they remain waiting, trapped in a cycle of indecision. This could symbolize the existential angst that comes from having to choose and create meaning in a world that offers none.

## 4. Isolation and Alienation

The characters experience isolation not only from the world but also from each other. Although Vladimir and Estragon share a close relationship, they often seem emotionally distant and disconnected, underscoring existentialism's focus on the individual's alienation from others. Their interactions with Pozzo and Lucky are similarly fragmented and absurd, further reflecting the lack of genuine connection in an indifferent world.

## 5. Time and the Human Condition

Time in *Waiting for Godot* is cyclical and disjointed, with no clear sense of progress. The characters often seem to lose track of time, unsure of how many days they have been waiting. This reflects existential concerns with the passage of time and the ultimate futility of human endeavors in the face of mortality. The play suggests that time, like life itself, is directionless and meaningless unless individuals ascribe their own purpose to it.

## 6. Godot as a Metaphor

Many interpretations of *Waiting for Godot* suggest that Godot represents God or some form of salvation, which aligns with existentialism's focus on the absence of a divine plan. The fact that Godot never arrives can be seen as Beckett's commentary on the human tendency to wait for external forces—be it God, destiny, or some other entity—to provide meaning. In the existential worldview, this external force never materializes, and individuals must confront the reality that they are responsible for their own lives.

In sum, *Waiting for Godot* reflects existential themes of absurdity, alienation, and the quest for meaning in a meaningless world. Through the characters' repetitive dialogue, purposeless waiting, and uncertain existence, Beckett explores the human condition in a way that resonates deeply with existentialist thought.

Funny boy as a Bildungsroman novel.

"Funny Boy" by Shyam Selvadurai is a significant example of a Bildungsroman, a genre that focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from youth to adulthood. The novel, set in Sri Lanka during the 1970s and 1980s, narrates the coming-of-age story of Arjie Chelvaratnam, a young Tamil boy discovering his sexual identity in a society marked by rigid social norms and ethnic tensions.

### **Key Elements of "Funny Boy" as a Bildungsroman:**

#### **1. Personal Growth and Identity:**

- Arjie's journey is central to the novel, as he navigates the complexities of his sexual identity in a conservative and traditional family. His love for feminine activities, like dressing up as a bride, sets him apart from other boys and places him at odds with societal expectations. As he grows older, he gradually comes to understand and accept his sexual orientation.

#### **2. Conflict with Society:**

- The novel also explores Arjie's struggles against the expectations of his family and the wider community. His nonconformity is a source of conflict, particularly with his father, who is concerned about his son's behavior not aligning with traditional masculine norms.

#### **3. Cultural and Political Backdrop:**

- The novel is set against the backdrop of the escalating ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities in Sri Lanka. This external conflict mirrors Arjie's internal struggles, as he grapples with his identity in a society torn apart by violence and prejudice.

#### **4. Mentorship and Influence:**

- Arjie's interactions with characters like his aunt Radha and his first love, Shehan, play a crucial role in his development. These relationships help him gain a deeper understanding of himself and the world around him.

#### **5. Moral and Psychological Development:**

- Throughout the novel, Arjie matures emotionally and psychologically, learning to navigate the complexities of love, identity, and belonging. By the end of the novel, he emerges as a more self-aware individual, having come to terms with his identity despite the societal challenges he faces.

### **Conclusion:**

"Funny Boy" is a poignant exploration of the challenges of growing up different in a conservative society. As a Bildungsroman, it effectively portrays Arjie's journey from a confused and isolated boy to a more confident and self-assured young man, making it a powerful narrative of self-discovery and growth.

## FUNNY BOY TITLE.

The title "Funny Boy" by Shyam Selvadurai carries deep significance, reflecting the novel's exploration of identity, difference, and the struggles of growing up in a society that marginalizes those who do not conform to its norms.

1. **Exploration of Sexual Identity:** The protagonist, Arjie, is a young boy who gradually comes to terms with his homosexuality. The term "funny" in many cultures, including Sri Lanka (where the novel is set), can be a derogatory euphemism for someone who is perceived as different, particularly in terms of sexual orientation. The title thus encapsulates Arjie's journey of self-discovery and the challenges he faces as he grapples with his identity in a conservative society.
2. **Conformity and Nonconformity:** Throughout the novel, Arjie is often labeled as "funny" because he doesn't conform to traditional gender roles. His preference for playing with girls and his disinterest in typically masculine activities mark him as different, and the title highlights how society views and reacts to those who do not fit into established norms.
3. **Innocence and Coming of Age:** The term "boy" in the title emphasizes the innocence and vulnerability of Arjie as he navigates the complexities of adolescence. The novel is a coming-of-age story, and the title reflects the tensions between Arjie's innocence and the harsh realities of the world around him.
4. **Cultural and Social Commentary:** The title also alludes to the broader social and cultural context of Sri Lanka, where issues of identity, both personal and political, are central. The novel is set against the backdrop of ethnic tensions and civil unrest in Sri Lanka, and Arjie's personal struggles mirror the larger societal conflicts.

In summary, "Funny Boy" is a title that encapsulates the themes of identity, difference, and the challenges of growing up in a society that often marginalizes those who are "different." It reflects Arjie's personal journey as well as the broader social issues explored in the novel.

## **Hamartia in King Oedipus.**

In *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles, the concept of **hamartia** refers to the tragic flaw or error in judgment that leads to the protagonist's downfall. Oedipus' hamartia is a combination of his **hubris** (excessive pride) and his relentless pursuit of the truth.

### **Key Aspects of Oedipus' Hamartia:**

#### **1. Hubris (Excessive Pride):**

- Oedipus is confident in his own abilities and believes he can outwit fate. This hubris is evident when he attempts to avoid the prophecy that he will kill his father and marry his mother by fleeing from Corinth, only to unwittingly fulfill it. His pride also manifests in his interactions with other characters, such as Teiresias and Creon, where he displays arrogance and refuses to listen to warnings or consider alternative perspectives.

#### **2. Relentless Pursuit of Truth:**

- Oedipus is determined to uncover the truth about the murder of King Laius and rid Thebes of the plague, but this same determination leads him to uncover the horrifying truth about his own origins. His quest for knowledge, while noble in intent, becomes his downfall when it reveals that he is the cause of the very curse he seeks to lift.

#### **3. Impulsiveness and Anger:**

- Oedipus' impulsive nature and quick temper contribute to his tragic flaw. His rash decision to kill a man on the road (who turns out to be his father, Laius) and his quick judgment in accusing Creon and Teiresias of conspiracy further illustrate his inability to temper his actions with reason.

### **Consequences of Oedipus' Hamartia:**

Oedipus' hamartia leads directly to the fulfilment of the prophecy he tried to avoid. His hubris blinds him to the possibility that he could be wrong, and his relentless search for the truth ends in his own ruin. The discovery that he has killed his father and married his mother causes Jocasta's suicide and Oedipus' self-inflicted blindness, as well as his eventual exile.

In essence, Oedipus' hamartia lies in his inability to recognize his limitations and his overconfidence in his ability to control his destiny. This tragic flaw makes him both a great leader and the architect of his own destruction.

## Importance of The opening scene of *Oedipus Rex* .

The opening scene of *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles is crucial for setting the tone and context of the entire play. It takes place in front of the royal palace in Thebes, where Oedipus, the king, is confronted by a group of citizens led by a priest. The city of Thebes is suffering from a terrible plague, and the citizens have come to Oedipus to seek help and guidance, as they believe only their wise and powerful king can save them.

- **Setting:** Thebes, in front of Oedipus' palace.
- **Characters Present:** Oedipus, the Priest of Zeus, and a group of Theban citizens (suppliants). Creon, Oedipus' brother-in-law, also appears shortly after the scene begins.

Oedipus is depicted as a strong and compassionate leader who is deeply concerned about the welfare of his people. He has already sent Creon, his brother-in-law, to the Oracle of Delphi to find out how to end the plague.

The Priest of Zeus speaks on behalf of the suffering people of Thebes, describing the dire situation in the city—people are dying, crops are failing, and women are unable to give birth. The priest begs Oedipus to save the city, just as he once saved them from the Sphinx.

Oedipus reassures the Priest and the citizens that he is not idle. He expresses his deep concern and informs them that he has already sent Creon to consult the Oracle at Delphi, and Creon should soon return with news. Oedipus is determined to do whatever it takes to save Thebes.

Creon arrives and announces that the Oracle has decreed that the plague will end only when the murderer of the former king, Laius, is found and punished. This prophecy sets the main plot of the play into motion, as Oedipus vows to find the murderer and bring him to justice, unaware that he himself is the culprit.

## Mention the steps of publishing a book.

The steps of publishing a book typically involve the following:

### 1. Writing and Editing

- **Complete the Manuscript:** Finish writing your book, ensuring it's the best it can be.
- **Self-Editing:** Revise your manuscript for structure, clarity, and flow.
- **Professional Editing:** Hire an editor to refine the manuscript for grammar, style, and consistency.

### 2. Choosing a Publishing Path

- **Traditional Publishing:** Submit your manuscript to literary agents or directly to publishers.
- **Self-Publishing:** Choose a self-publishing platform and take on the responsibilities of publishing independently.
- **Hybrid Publishing:** A combination of traditional and self-publishing, where the author shares costs and royalties with the publisher.

### 3. Querying Literary Agents or Publishers (for Traditional Publishing)

- **Research Agents/Publishers:** Identify agents or publishers who specialize in your genre.
- **Write a Query Letter:** Craft a compelling query letter that includes a brief synopsis of your book and your writing credentials.
- **Submit Manuscripts:** Send your manuscript or sample chapters as per submission guidelines.

### 4. Book Design and Formatting

- **Cover Design:** Create a visually appealing book cover that captures the essence of your book.
- **Interior Formatting:** Format the book's interior for print and digital versions, ensuring readability and proper layout.

### 5. ISBN and Copyright

- **ISBN (International Standard Book Number):** Obtain an ISBN for your book, which is required for distribution and sales tracking.
- **Copyright Registration:** Register your book with the appropriate copyright office to protect your intellectual property.

### 6. Proofreading

- **Final Proofreading:** Conduct a thorough proofreading of the final manuscript and formatted book to catch any remaining errors.

## 7. Printing and Distribution

- **Print Copies (for Print Books):** Choose a printing option, such as print-on-demand (POD) or offset printing.
- **Ebook Conversion:** Convert your manuscript into ebook formats like EPUB and MOBI for digital distribution.
- **Distribution Channels:** Set up distribution through online retailers (e.g., Amazon, Barnes & Noble) and physical bookstores.

## 8. Marketing and Promotion

- **Build an Author Platform:** Develop a website, blog, and social media presence to connect with readers.
- **Book Launch:** Plan a book launch event, both online and offline, to create buzz around your release.
- **Promotional Strategies:** Utilize strategies such as book tours, author interviews, paid ads, and collaborations with influencers.

## 9. Sales and Royalties

- **Monitor Sales:** Track your book's sales performance across various platforms.
- **Collect Royalties:** Receive payments from book sales, whether through traditional publishers or self-publishing platforms.

## 10. Ongoing Engagement

- **Reader Interaction:** Engage with your readers through social media, book signings, and author events.
- **Future Projects:** Continue writing and publishing new works, building on your success and experience.

These steps provide a general roadmap for publishing a book, whether through traditional or self-publishing avenues.



## OEDIPUS AS A TRAGIC HERO.

Oedipus, the protagonist of Sophocles' ancient Greek tragedy "Oedipus Rex" (also known as "Oedipus the King"), is often considered one of the quintessential tragic heroes in literature. Here's an analysis of Oedipus as a tragic hero:

- 1. Noble Birth or Status:** Oedipus is born to King Laius and Queen Jocasta of Thebes, making him a prince by birth. He grows up to become the king of Thebes after solving the riddle of the Sphinx and freeing the city from the plague.
- 2. Tragic Flaw (Hamartia):** Oedipus's tragic flaw is his excessive pride and arrogance, known as hubris. He believes himself to be a wise and capable ruler who can solve any problem, leading him to relentlessly pursue the truth about the plague afflicting Thebes, even when warned against it. This hubris blinds him to the possibility that he may be the cause of the city's suffering.
- 3. Reversal of Fortune (Peripeteia):** Oedipus experiences a reversal of fortune when he discovers the truth about his identity and realizes that he has unwittingly fulfilled the prophecy he tried to avoid. He goes from being a revered and respected king to a figure of disgrace and exile.
- 4. Recognition of Fate (Anagnorisis):** Oedipus experiences a moment of recognition or realization (anagnorisis) when he discovers that he is the murderer of his father, King Laius, and the husband of his mother, Queen Jocasta. This revelation shatters his sense of identity and plunges him into despair.
- 5. Tragic Downfall:** Oedipus's tragic downfall is the result of his own actions and decisions, driven by his hubris and determination to uncover the truth. Despite his best intentions, he unwittingly fulfills the prophecy and brings about his own ruin.
- 6. Catharsis:** Oedipus's story evokes feelings of pity and fear (catharsis) in the audience as they witness the tragic consequences of his actions. His downfall serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked pride and the inevitability of fate.

In summary, Oedipus embodies the characteristics of a tragic hero through his noble birth, tragic flaw, reversal of fortune, recognition of fate, tragic downfall, and evocation of catharsis. His story serves as a timeless example of the complexities of human nature and the consequences of hubris.

## **Oswald Alving as a tragic hero.**

Oswald Alving, in Henrik Ibsen's play *Ghosts*, embodies many qualities of a tragic hero, although he is not a hero in the traditional sense. His character is deeply intertwined with the themes of hereditary sin, social hypocrisy, and the inescapable consequences of the past.

Oswald is the son of Captain Alving, a respected figure in society, which gives him a certain stature and expectation. However, the true nature of his father's life—marked by debauchery and moral corruption—casts a shadow over Oswald's life. He inherits not only the family's social standing but also the syphilis that his father contracted, which becomes a literal and metaphorical curse.

### **Tragic Flaw (Hamartia)**

Oswald's tragic flaw is his idealism and his desire to escape the shadows of the past. He seeks freedom and artistic expression in Paris, away from the constraints of his Norwegian upbringing. However, his naive belief that he can outrun his heritage and the consequences of his father's sins proves to be his undoing. His illness is the physical manifestation of the "ghosts" that haunt him, showing that no matter how far he tries to run, he cannot escape the legacy of his father.

### **Suffering and Recognition**

Throughout the play, Oswald suffers greatly as his illness progresses, and he gradually loses control of his mind and body. His suffering is not just physical but also existential, as he grapples with the realization that he is doomed by the actions of his father. In the end, Oswald comes to recognize the full extent of his tragic situation when he asks his mother to assist in his suicide. This recognition is a key aspect of the tragic hero, who must come to understand the nature of their suffering.

### **Inevitable Downfall**

Oswald's downfall is inevitable from the moment we learn of his illness. The play is structured around the slow revelation of his condition and the helplessness of both Oswald and his mother to alter the course of his fate. This sense of inevitability and the futility of trying to escape one's past are central to the tragic arc of Oswald's character.

## **Catharsis**

For the audience, Oswald's story evokes pity and fear, classic elements of catharsis in tragedy. We pity him because he is an innocent victim of his father's sins, and we fear the relentless power of the past to shape the present and future. The play forces the audience to confront uncomfortable truths about heredity, morality, and the societal structures that perpetuate suffering.

In conclusion, Oswald Alving fits the Mold of a tragic hero, not because he is a great or noble figure in the traditional sense, but because he embodies the tragedy of an individual crushed by forces beyond his control. His life is a testament to the destructive power of secrets, lies, and the past, making him one of Ibsen's most poignant tragic figures.

## POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NOVEL FUNNY BOY

The political background of *Funny Boy* by Shyam Selvadurai is deeply intertwined with the ethnic tensions and civil unrest in Sri Lanka during the late 20th century. The novel is set in Colombo, Sri Lanka, primarily during the 1970s and 1980s, a period marked by increasing hostility between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority, which culminated in the outbreak of the Sri Lankan Civil War.

### 1. Ethnic Tensions Between Sinhalese and Tamils:

- **Historical Context:** The roots of the conflict can be traced back to the British colonial period when the British favored the Tamil minority in administrative and educational roles, leading to resentment among the Sinhalese majority. After independence in 1948, successive Sinhalese-majority governments implemented policies that marginalized Tamils, such as making Sinhala the only official language and enacting discriminatory education and employment laws.
- **Rise of Tamil Militancy:** These policies led to growing discontent among the Tamil population, eventually giving rise to Tamil militant groups, most notably the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who demanded an independent Tamil state (Eelam) in the northern and eastern parts of the country.

### 2. Impact of the Political Climate on Personal Lives:

- **Interethnic Relationships:** The novel portrays how the political climate affects interpersonal relationships. The tensions between Sinhalese and Tamils seep into everyday life, influencing friendships, marriages, and family dynamics. Arjie's family, which is Tamil, is directly affected by the increasing violence and prejudice.
- **Civil Unrest:** The 1983 anti-Tamil riots, also known as Black July, are a pivotal moment in the novel. These riots were sparked by the killing of 13 Sinhalese soldiers by the LTTE, leading to widespread violence against Tamils across the country. The events of Black July lead to a significant escalation in the civil conflict and are depicted in the novel as a turning point for Arjie and his family.

### 3. Emigration and Displacement:

- **Tamil Diaspora:** The increasing violence and persecution force many Tamils to flee Sri Lanka, seeking refuge in other countries. This theme of displacement and the search for safety is reflected in the novel, as Arjie's family eventually faces the difficult decision of whether to stay in Sri Lanka or emigrate to escape the violence.
- **Loss of Homeland:** The novel captures the sense of loss and displacement that many Tamils experienced during this period. The political conflict not only disrupts their lives but also leads to a deep sense of alienation from their homeland.

### 4. Reflection on Identity:

- **Intersection of Personal and Political:** Arjie's journey of self-discovery as a gay Tamil boy is set against this backdrop of ethnic conflict, highlighting how personal identities are shaped and constrained by broader political forces. The novel suggests that both sexual and ethnic identities are marginalized in Sri Lankan society, forcing individuals to navigate multiple layers of prejudice and discrimination.

In summary, the political background of *Funny Boy* is critical to understanding the novel's exploration of identity, belonging, and the impact of societal conflicts on individual lives. The ethnic tensions and civil unrest in Sri Lanka provide a stark backdrop to Arjie's personal journey, illustrating how political and social forces shape the lives of ordinary people.

## **RHINOCEROS AS AN ABSURD DRAMA.**

"Rhinoceros" by Eugène Ionesco is often categorized as an absurd drama due to its exploration of existential themes and the use of absurdity to convey social and philosophical commentary. Here are some elements of "Rhinoceros" that align with the characteristics of absurd drama:

- 1. Absurdity and Surrealism:** The play presents a seemingly ordinary town where residents inexplicably begin turning into rhinoceroses. This absurd transformation challenges conventional logic and reality, reflecting the absurdity of human existence.
- 2. Exploration of Existential Themes:** "Rhinoceros" delves into existential themes such as individuality, conformity, and the loss of personal identity. The characters grapple with the meaning of life and the absurdity of human behavior in the face of societal pressures.
- 3. Language and Communication:** Ionesco's use of disjointed dialogue and nonsensical conversations mirrors the breakdown of meaningful communication. The characters struggle to express themselves coherently, emphasizing the absurdity and futility of human language.
- 4. Critique of Conformity and Ideology:** The play critiques the dangers of mindless conformity and ideological fanaticism. The transformation of townspeople into rhinoceroses symbolizes the dehumanizing effects of mass movements and the loss of individuality.
- 5. Humor and Irony:** Despite its serious themes, "Rhinoceros" employs dark humor and irony to highlight the absurdity of the situations and characters. The juxtaposition of comedic elements with profound philosophical questions adds to the play's absurdist nature.

Overall, "Rhinoceros" exemplifies the absurd drama genre by challenging traditional narrative structures, questioning the rationality of human behavior, and presenting a distorted reality that reflects deeper existential truths. Its blend of surrealism, philosophical inquiry, and satirical humor makes it a quintessential work of absurdist theater.

## ROLE OF JOCASTA.

Jocasta, the wife and mother of Oedipus in Sophocles' tragedy "Oedipus Rex," plays a significant role in the narrative, contributing to the unfolding of the story and the themes explored in the play. Here are some key aspects of Jocasta's role:

Jocasta is the queen of Thebes and holds a position of authority and influence in the city. As the wife of King Oedipus, she represents the royal family and is respected by the people of Thebes.

Jocasta is both the mother and wife of Oedipus, a fact that becomes a central element of the tragedy. Unbeknownst to her, she fulfills the prophecy that her son will kill his father and marry his mother. This tragic irony adds depth to her character and the overall plot.

Jocasta is depicted as a caring and protective mother figure. She shows concern for Oedipus and tries to reassure him when he becomes troubled by the prophecies surrounding his fate. However, her attempts to comfort him ultimately lead to the revelation of their true relationship.

Throughout the play, Jocasta serves as a voice of reason and skepticism, questioning the validity of prophecies and trying to dissuade Oedipus from pursuing the truth about his origins. She urges him to let go of his fears and doubts, believing that prophecies are unreliable and that humans have the power to shape their own destinies.

Jocasta's role in the tragedy is intertwined with her unwitting fulfillment of the prophecy and her tragic fate as Oedipus's mother and wife. When she learns the truth about their relationship, she is overcome with horror and shame, ultimately taking her own life in despair.

Jocasta's character serves as a symbol of blindness to the truth. Despite her attempts to avoid the prophecy and shield herself from the harsh realities of fate, she ultimately becomes a victim of her own ignorance and denial.

In summary, Jocasta's role in "Oedipus Rex" is multifaceted, encompassing her roles as queen, mother, wife, and tragic figure. Her character adds complexity to the narrative and contributes to the exploration of themes such as fate, free will, and the consequences of hubris.

Significance of the title of the play Ghosts .

The title of Henrik Ibsen's play "Ghosts" (original Norwegian title: "Gengangere") is highly significant and multifaceted. It reflects various themes and elements within the play:

The "ghosts" in the play symbolize the lingering effects of past sins, secrets, and actions that haunt the present. The characters are unable to escape the consequences of their past, particularly the moral failings and deceptions of Captain Alving.

The idea of hereditary illness and traits is central to the play. Oswald Alving inherits syphilis from his father, which is referred to as a "ghost" haunting the family. This represents the transmission of physical and moral corruption from one generation to the next.

The ghosts also symbolize the oppressive social norms and moral expectations of the time. Characters like Mrs. Alving are haunted by societal expectations and the facade of respectability, which stifles their true desires and actions.

On a psychological level, the ghosts represent the internal struggles and repressed emotions of the characters. Mrs. Alving, for instance, is haunted by the memories of her unhappy marriage and her decision to send her son away.

The title emphasizes the idea of unseen forces that shape and influence the characters' lives. These forces are not physically present but have a profound impact on the characters' actions and destinies.

Overall, the title "Ghosts" encapsulates the themes of inheritance, the impact of the past, societal constraints, and the psychological burdens carried by the characters, making it a powerful and evocative choice for the play.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE OF THE PLAY RHINICEROS.

The play "Rhinoceros" by Eugène Ionesco holds significant cultural, philosophical, and historical significance. Here are some key aspects of its importance:

"Rhinoceros" is a powerful critique of conformity and the dangers of ideological extremism. Through the transformation of townspeople into rhinoceroses, Ionesco highlights the allure of groupthink and the erosion of individuality in the face of societal pressures. The play serves as a warning against blindly following ideologies without critical thought.

As a hallmark of the Theatre of the Absurd, "Rhinoceros" exemplifies existential themes of alienation, meaninglessness, and the absurdity of human existence. The play challenges traditional narrative structures and explores the breakdown of communication and identity in a nonsensical world.

"Rhinoceros" was written in response to the rise of totalitarianism and fascism in Europe during the mid-20th century. The play reflects Ionesco's personal experiences living through World War II and witnessing the spread of extremist ideologies. The transformation of individuals into rhinoceroses metaphorically represents the dangers of political extremism and mass movements.

The play delves into fundamental questions about human nature, morality, and free will. It raises concerns about the susceptibility of individuals to herd mentality and the loss of ethical values in pursuit of collective ideals. "Rhinoceros" prompts audiences to reflect on their own capacity for resistance and moral integrity.

"Rhinoceros" has had a lasting impact on theater and literature, influencing subsequent generations of playwrights and artists. It introduced audiences to the absurd drama genre and challenged theatrical conventions, paving the way for experimental forms of storytelling.

The themes explored in "Rhinoceros" remain relevant in modern times, particularly in the context of populist movements, political polarization, and societal pressures to conform. The play continues to provoke discussions about individual autonomy, ethical responsibility, and the consequences of ideological fanaticism.

Overall, "Rhinoceros" is significant for its profound philosophical insights, artistic innovation, and enduring relevance as a cautionary tale about the human condition. It invites audiences to contemplate the complexities of human behavior and the choices we make in navigating a world fraught with conformity and existential challenges.

## **SYMBOLS IN THE PLAY RHINOCEROS.**

"Rhinoceros" by Eugène Ionesco is rich with symbolism, reflecting deeper themes and ideas through its characters, events, and imagery. Here are some key symbols found in the play:

**1. Rhinoceros:** The rhinoceros serves as a powerful symbol representing mindless conformity and the loss of individuality. As more and more townspeople transform into rhinoceroses, it symbolizes the spread of ideological extremism and the dehumanizing effects of mass movements. The rhinoceros also embodies brute strength and primal instincts, contrasting with human reason and morality.

**2. Transformation:** The process of characters transforming into rhinoceroses symbolizes the allure of herd mentality and the abandonment of personal identity. It reflects the ease with which individuals can be swept up in collective ideologies or movements without critical thought.

**3. Berenger's Green Hat:** Berenger's green hat is a recurring symbol that represents his individuality and resistance to conformity. Despite the pressures to conform and turn into a rhinoceros like everyone else, Berenger holds onto his unique identity symbolized by his green hat. It serves as a visual reminder of his defiance against the prevailing ideology.

**4. The Café:** The café in the play is a symbolic space representing societal norms and human interactions. It's where the characters gather and engage in discussions, reflecting the wider community and its attitudes towards the transformations occurring around them. The café becomes a microcosm of society where ideological shifts and human behavior are observed and critiqued.

**5. The Fire Bell:** The fire bell that goes off periodically throughout the play symbolizes impending danger and the urgency to respond. It serves as a wake-up call for characters like Berenger, signaling the need to resist the growing conformity and reclaim individual agency before it's too late.

**6. The Mirror:** The mirror in the play is used metaphorically to reflect the characters' changing selves and moral reflections. As characters grapple with their identities and choices, the mirror symbolizes self-awareness and the struggle to maintain integrity in the face of societal pressures.

These symbols in "Rhinoceros" contribute to its allegorical nature, inviting deeper interpretations about human nature, conformity, resistance, and the consequences of ideological extremism. They enhance the play's thematic complexity and highlight the absurdity of human behavior in the face of collective hysteria.

## ***SYMBOLS IN THE PLAY WAITING FOR GODOT.***

In Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," symbols abound, contributing to the play's richness and depth. Here are a few key symbols:

- 1. The Tree:** The lone tree on the stage serves as a prominent symbol throughout the play. It represents endurance, hope, and the passage of time. Despite its barrenness, the characters continually return to it, seeking solace or distraction.
- 2. Vladimir and Estragon's Hats and Boots:** These items symbolize the characters' identities and their struggles with existence. The constant changing and swapping of hats and boots mirror the characters' attempts to find purpose and meaning in their lives.
- 3. The Road:** The road represents the journey of life, with its uncertainties and hardships. Vladimir and Estragon wait for Godot beside the road, hoping for something to change, but ultimately, they remain trapped in a cycle of waiting and uncertainty.
- 4. Godot:** Perhaps the most enigmatic symbol in the play, Godot represents the elusive hope for salvation or meaning. The characters wait for him, believing he will bring purpose to their lives, yet he never arrives, leaving them in a state of perpetual anticipation.
- 5. The Boy:** The Boy who appears to inform Vladimir and Estragon that Godot will not come symbolizes the unreliable nature of hope and promises. His appearances and disappearances mirror the characters' futile attempts to find meaning and certainty in their lives.

These symbols, among others, contribute to the play's existential themes and invite various interpretations about the human condition, the nature of existence, and the search for meaning.

## The clues to the murder of Roger Ackroyd.

*The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie is one of her most famous and ingenious mystery novels, featuring the detective Hercule Poirot. The novel is known for its groundbreaking twist, where the narrator himself is revealed to be the murderer. Here are the key clues that lead to the solving of the mystery:

### 1. The Dictaphone

- **Clue:** A dictaphone is found in the room where Roger Ackroyd was murdered.
- **Significance:** Poirot deduces that the dictaphone was used to create a false alibi for the murderer. It was set to play a recorded message after the murder, making it seem as if Roger was still alive after the actual time of death.

### 2. The Chair

- **Clue:** A chair in Roger Ackroyd's study is found in an unusual position.
- **Significance:** The chair was deliberately moved to obscure the view of the dictaphone, hiding it from the eyes of anyone who entered the room after the murder.

### 3. The Telephone Call

- **Clue:** Dr. Sheppard, the narrator, receives a telephone call shortly after the murder, supposedly from the housekeeper, informing him of Roger Ackroyd's death.
- **Significance:** Poirot realizes that the phone call was a ruse orchestrated by the murderer (Dr. Sheppard) to establish a false timeline. The call never actually came from Fernly Park but was made by Dr. Sheppard himself to mislead everyone.

### 4. The Missing Forty Minutes

- **Clue:** There is a gap of approximately forty minutes between the time Ackroyd was last seen alive and when his body was discovered.
- **Significance:** This gap was crucial for the murderer (Dr. Sheppard) to commit the crime and set up the scene to mislead the investigation. Poirot focuses on this time discrepancy as a key to solving the case.

### 5. The Blackmail

- **Clue:** Mrs. Ferrars, who was romantically involved with Roger Ackroyd, had committed suicide due to blackmail over her involvement in her husband's death.
- **Significance:** Roger Ackroyd was investigating the identity of the blackmailer just before his death. This line of inquiry leads Poirot to suspect those close to Ackroyd, eventually unmasking Dr. Sheppard as the blackmailer and murderer.

### 6. The Hypodermic Syringe

- **Clue:** A hypodermic syringe is found hidden in the garden.
- **Significance:** This was the murder weapon used to kill Roger Ackroyd with poison. Its discovery in a hidden location further implicates someone with medical knowledge, narrowing down the suspects.

## 7. Dr. Sheppard's Manuscript

- **Clue:** Dr. Sheppard narrates the story, presenting himself as a trustworthy observer.
- **Significance:** The twist is that Dr. Sheppard's manuscript is actually a confession disguised as a chronicle of the investigation. His omissions and subtle hints within the narrative eventually lead Poirot to suspect him.

### **Conclusion:**

Poirot's meticulous attention to detail and his understanding of human psychology allow him to piece together these seemingly disparate clues, leading to the shocking revelation that the narrator, Dr. Sheppard, is the murderer. The novel's innovative use of the unreliable narrator was groundbreaking in the mystery genre and remains one of Christie's most celebrated works.

## **The ending of the play "Abhijnanasakuntalam" .**

The ending of the play "Abhijnanasakuntalam" (The Recognition of Shakuntala), written by the ancient Indian playwright Kalidasa, is a poignant and dramatic conclusion that ties together the themes of love, separation, and reunion.

The play narrates the love story of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala. After their secret marriage, Dushyanta leaves Shakuntala, promising to return. However, due to a curse from the sage Durvasa, Dushyanta forgets Shakuntala until he sees a ring he gave her. The curse is lifted when Dushyanta finds the ring, but Shakuntala has already left his palace, heartbroken and rejected.

In the final act, Dushyanta encounters a young boy who turns out to be his son, Bharata. This meeting leads Dushyanta to Shakuntala, who is now living in a hermitage. The recognition scene, facilitated by the ring, brings an emotional reunion. Dushyanta remembers Shakuntala and their love, and they reconcile, symbolizing the triumph of true love over obstacles. The play concludes with the united family returning to the palace, with the promise of a prosperous future for their son, Bharata, who would later become a great ruler.

## The Murder of Roger Ackroyd as a detective novel.

"**The Murder of Roger Ackroyd**" by Agatha Christie is one of the most famous detective novels ever written and a classic example of the genre. Published in 1926, it is the third book featuring Hercule Poirot, Christie's Belgian detective. The novel is celebrated for its innovative structure and the shocking twist at its conclusion. Here's an analysis of its significance as a detective novel:

### 1. Traditional Elements of a Detective Novel:

- **The Crime:** The novel revolves around the murder of Roger Ackroyd, a wealthy man living in the English village of King's Abbot. Like many traditional detective stories, the murder takes place in a seemingly peaceful setting, which contrasts sharply with the violence of the crime.
- **The Detective:** Hercule Poirot, Christie's iconic detective, is at the center of the investigation. Retired and living quietly in the village, Poirot is drawn into the case by his neighbor, Dr. Sheppard, who also serves as the novel's narrator.
- **Suspects and Clues:** The novel features a closed circle of suspects, each with potential motives, ranging from financial gain to personal grudges. Poirot methodically interviews the suspects, gathers clues, and observes behavior, all while employing his famous "little grey cells" to piece together the puzzle.

### 2. Innovative Structure and Narrative Style:

- **Narrator as a Character:** One of the novel's most groundbreaking features is its use of Dr. Sheppard as the first-person narrator. The reader follows the investigation through his eyes, which creates a sense of intimacy and reliability. However, this also sets the stage for the novel's famous twist.
- **Unreliable Narrator:** Christie's decision to make Dr. Sheppard the murderer is a bold narrative choice that subverts the conventions of detective fiction. The revelation that the narrator has been misleading the reader all along is a shock and demonstrates Christie's mastery of misdirection. This twist not only challenges the reader's assumptions but also redefines the relationship between the narrator and the audience in detective fiction.

### 3. Themes and Subversion of Genre:

- **Ethical Questions:** The novel raises questions about the ethics of storytelling, particularly in the detective genre, where the narrator is typically assumed to be trustworthy. By making Dr. Sheppard the culprit, Christie explores the idea that appearances can be deceiving, and even those who seem most trustworthy may have dark secrets.
- **Challenge to Genre Conventions:** At the time of its publication, "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" was controversial because it defied the "fair play" rule in detective fiction, which states that the reader should have all the same information as the detective. While Christie does provide clues that point to Dr. Sheppard's guilt, they are subtle and easy to overlook, especially because of the trust placed in the narrator.

### 4. Legacy and Influence:

- **Impact on Detective Fiction:** The novel's twist ending has been highly influential in the genre, inspiring numerous other works that play with the idea of the unreliable narrator. It

challenged other writers to rethink the conventions of detective fiction and pushed the boundaries of what could be done within the genre.

- **Critical Acclaim:** "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" is often cited as one of Christie's best works and has been lauded for its cleverness and originality. It has secured Christie's reputation as one of the greatest detective fiction writers of all time.

In conclusion, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* is a quintessential detective novel that not only adheres to the conventions of the genre but also subverts them in a way that was revolutionary for its time. Christie's use of an unreliable narrator and the shocking twist ending have made it a landmark in detective fiction, influencing countless other works and solidifying its place as a classic.