



# 1.1 An Astrologer's Day

- R.K. Narayan

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Std.12, English

Maharashtra State Board

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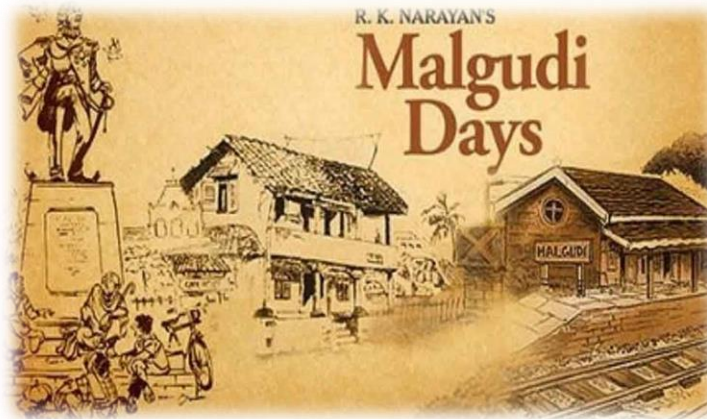
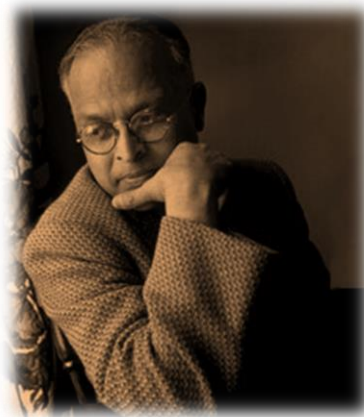
**ICE BREAKERS & BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITIES**

# R.K. Narayan

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**R.K. Narayan** (Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami) was a renowned Indian author born on October 10, 1906, in Madras (Chennai). He is best known for his works set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi, where he explores the everyday lives and struggles of its residents. His writing is characterized by its simplicity, gentle humour, and keen observation of human nature.

Notable works include “Swami and Friends,” “The Bachelor of Arts,” “The English Teacher,” and “The Guide,” which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1960 and was later adapted into a successful film. Narayan’s literary career spanned over six decades, and he received numerous accolades, including the Padma Bhushan in 1964 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001, two of India’s highest civilian honours. He passed away on May 13, 2001, leaving behind a rich legacy of Indian English literature.



# 'An Astrologer's Day'

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**An Astrologer's Day** is a thriller, suspense short story by author R. K. Narayan. While it had been published earlier, it was the titular story of Narayan's fourth collection of short stories published in 1947 by Indian Thought Publications. It was the first chapter of the world famous collection of stories 'Malgudi Days' which was later telecasted on television in 2006.

The narrative highlights a dramatic encounter between the astrologer and a man named Guru Nayak. Through this meeting, it is revealed that the astrologer has a dark past: he had once stabbed a man and left him for dead. The astrologer recognizes Guru Nayak as his former victim but keeps his identity hidden. Using his skills and intuition, he convinces Guru Nayak that the man he seeks (the astrologer himself) is dead, thus diffusing the threat and enabling both to move forward with their lives.

The story is notable for its twist ending and Narayan's characteristic blend of humour, irony, and deep insight into human nature.

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