

PAPER PRESENTATION

**RUSKIN BOND – THE POST INDEPENDENCE INDIAN LITERARY
IDENTITY AND ITS REACTION TO BRITISH INFLUENCE**

BY – MRS. JASMINE BARNABAS



**RUSKIN BOND
(1934 – PRESENT)**

**RUSKIN BOND – THE POST INDEPENDENCE INDIAN LITERARY IDENTITY AND ITS
REACTION TO BRITISH INFLUENCE**

Ruskin Bond is one of the most authentic and genuine writers of the modern era. Born as the son of a British couple when India was under colonial rule, he spent his early childhood in Jamnagar and Shimla. His childhood was marred by his parent's separation and his father's death. Thus he sought solace in reading and writing.

Today Indian English as well as Indian writing in English has got its own identity. A number of recent Indian writers have produced significant works, making a mark in the literary world. Ruskin Bond is one who encouraged by schools, and guardians as well. Several of his short stories from his collections have been incorporated in the school curriculum all over India, which includes Jewels such as 'The Night Train at Deoli', 'Time stops at Shamlī', 'The Tiger in the Tunnel', 'Our Trees still grow in Dehra' etc. All of this has established him as one of India's most beloved writers.

He focuses on entertaining young readers, his pleasant attitude towards childhood is strongly influenced by his adolescent reading of the British and Indian Romantic poets; Like Poetry of Rabindranath Tagore, simple attitude of Raja Rao, R.K.Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, etc.

We see that the young Ruskin migrated from his home in India to Britain for a short, but crucial period and back to the foothills of Himalayas, where he has stayed ever since. Along the way, he deals with his mixed British and Indian identity and perseveres in his timeless effort of writing. Bond's autobiographical work including *Room on the Roof* (1956), *The Young Vagrants* (1957) and many short stories and poems often show Bond's comparison with other post independence writers like Goodden Macfarlane. Bond preferred being called simply Indian and not Anglo Indian.

Most of his stories describe the richness of many of the fundamental Indian values found in mainstream, post independence, Indian childhood literature such as sanctity of family and respect for elders.

Bond's work reflects his Anglo-Indian experiences and the changing political, social and cultural aspects of India having been through colonial, post colonial and post independence phases of India.

He is known as the 'Indian Wordsworth'

What makes Bond a sustained success in India is his deep understanding of the country, of Indians as people, how they love and how they live, how everyone is a brother and an uncle. For Bond, 'the larger home' of India is 'a land of acceptance' and it is for this return to the country, that his book become an essential read.

REALISM

He explains that though the world is consumed by war and chaos, he didn't want to write about any of those things. He wanted to write simple, enjoyable literature about the small joys in life. Hence, his writings provide an escape from the harsh reality of life and transport us to another world without the complication and trappings of all the modern day life. All in all, Bond's writings can be considered a fun, easy to read which can be read numerous times without losing any of its charm and humour. He commands adulation across regions, age groups and gender. He is a writer who has defied genres, challenged conventions and remained enduring and endearing down the years. He is a living legend who has been portraying life and experiences.

From biographical tales, to tales of unrequited love, the cross cultural dimensions of Indian society and the power and beauty of nature, Bond opens the door to a deeper understanding of one's imagination and the deepest wisdom. He is one of the writers who is responsible for the changing trends in Indian writing in English and contributed much to this rapidly developing Indian Literature in English. Ruskin Bond is the author of over 500 stories, essays and poetry.

Bond frankly admits; “I’ve been writing stories of one kind or another. It has always been the people I’ve known and met who have given me these stories- friends, lovers, relatives, chance, acquaintances, strangers or other people’s friends and relatives.

For example :- In the Flight of pigeons, Father of Ruth Labadoor(Heroine of the novel) is murdered. This murder is committed by the Indian rebels who are a part of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and who decided to kill all the British of the small town of Shahjahanpur.

CONCLUSION

His approach to his child characters (Rusty), their activities, desire, feeling , win the favour of the readers. Thus his works are set in India, the land where he was born and grew up. Hypocrisy of the grown ups forced him to peep into the innocent world of children. He loves them because they are as natural as nature itself. His observation of adolescent pschology is unsurpassable.

