

SHORT STORY ASSIGNMENT



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The story *Rama and Sita* that R.K. Narayan wrote is about Rama, King Dasaratha's son who confronted many obstacles and overcame them in the most unexpected way through the guidance of wise men such as Viswamithra, the sage. Rama's attains a high spiritual class after killing Thataka, the fearsome goddess who lived in the desert. This discussion will examine *Rama and Sita* by R.K. Narayan and how the author has used literary elements in creating this epic yet inspiring story.

The story is set in India and is based on the Hindu religion's beliefs several centuries ago. The author used a formal tone. For example, Viswamithra addressed Dasaratha formally throughout his visit, "...what purpose, Your Majesty?"¹ The author's purpose was to elucidate how one's destiny, in Hindu religion, is inevitable.

Metaphorical language is clear when the author indicates, "...hung, like a canopy"² The author also personifies the desert when he mentions that it devoured everything that traversed the desolate tract. The author utilizes symbolism through using the elephants that died from Thataka's wickedness to symbolize how the wicked goddess was.

The major theme is perseverance. Rama and Lakshmana, his brother, persevered throughout their journey across the desert of death under Viswamithra's leadership. Also, the sages persevered many years of Thataka's torment with the hope that a time would come when the goddess would be overcome. Viswamithra informs Dasaratha, "I came here for a purpose"³

To sum up, *Rama and Sita* is a stirring story based on how the author tactically applied varied literary elements. Although the setting is in India, the theme is useful beyond India. Through this analysis, it is possible to use a critical lens in examining other literary works.

¹ Narayan, R. K., *Rama and Sita*, (London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 1740), 1111.

² Ibid., 1112.

³ Ibid., 111.

Bibliography

Narayan, R. K. *Rama and Sita*. London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 1740.

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