

## Compare and contrast the different presentations of school and schooling in 'The English Teacher'

Narayan presents school and schooling in the novel 'The English Teacher' as one of the main ideas. Firstly, at the beginning of the novel she shows the protagonist, Krishna, an English teacher, teaching his children. Krishna has no emotion when teaching his students. They sit in rows and 'take attendance' every lesson. Krishna 'doesn't care about these children. He is only there for the sake of a hundred rupees' and only 'mugs up' his students in order to pass the exam. This is a very Westernised way of portraying school and schooling and Narayan sometimes tries to mock this as it gives an impression to the reader that Narayan does not agree with this sort of schooling. The fact that Krishna 'doesn't care' for his students and the professors at the college believe that children should only learn to 'dot the i's and cross the t's' proves that they only have one way of schooling and it has to be this way for the students to have a proper education. It's only about rules and regulations.

**Comment [K1]:** Good focus on the author – and on the key terms from the question

**Comment [K2]:** Excellent smooth inclusion of quotations – lots of quotations in quick succession shows good knowledge of the text

**Comment [K3]:** Avoid this generalisation

**Comment [K4]:** Good – but this needs to be developed a little more, what does he not like about it, why are rules and routine so bad?

**Comment [K5]:** You should avoid using contractions like this when you write formal essays

On the other hand, the Headmaster who teaches Leela is fully devoted to his students. The fact that he makes up his own stories and illustrates them shows the reader already that he cares for these children. Krishna asks himself 'Does he ever sleep?' which indicates that the Headmaster is so caught up with his work he doesn't even sleep. Also he describes the children's art work as 'glittering' and always compliments them as 'wonderful creatures' which implies that he is proud to be their teacher or, in fact their student. Therefore Narayan hints that this way of schooling seems a more friendly approach to education for the children.

**Comment [K6]:** Clear contrast connective and great opening sentence which sets up the comparative structure nicely and makes the point for this paragraph really clearly

**Comment [K7]:** Good clear reference even though this is not a quotation

**Comment [K8]:** Not a very interesting explanation because I can get this just from reading the quotation

**Comment [K9]:** An excellent idea which should be explored in more detail

**Comment [K10]:** Again a good summing up of this point, although it could be explored further – exactly why is this method of teaching so good – something about it allowing the students freedom to really express themselves rather than forcing them to conform

**Comment [K11]:** Good connectives to begin each point

**Comment [K12]:** Continued use of great smooth quotations

Moreover, the effect that this type of schooling has on the children is that they become more motivated. As Leela 'left me [Krishna] without a thought' which shows how eager and disciplined she is. Additionally, when the Headmaster stopped telling the story, there was 'dead silence' amongst the children which shows that they were really into the story and understood everything fully. Indeed they even want to come to school on Sunday.

However, in contrast, when one of Krishna's students asks him a question about one of Shakespeare's plays, Krishna's reply was 'shut up and don't ask questions', which would definitely have a negative effect on the motivation of the students as they are not enjoying or fully understanding their education. Even Krishan isn't motivated because he 'hasn't even prepared one page of lecture' for his class and he was flooded with the 'greatest relief' when the bell rang which signified the end of the lesson.

**Comment [K13]:** Nice alternating structure between the two types of schooling

**Comment [K14]:** Nice development of this point in a new direction

Furthermore, Narayan portrays schools in India as a copy of the Western Society as all they are doing is 'copying, copying, copying' also they only give full attention to sports instead of giving any attention to scholars. Narayan creates the impressions that the education system in India is upside down.

**Comment [K15]:** Avoid making this Western / Eastern distinction

**Comment [K16]:** Probably correct, but far too informal – exactly what is meant by 'upside down' needs to be made really clear

**Comment [K17]:** Good conclusion word

**Comment [K18]:** This is not actually true – the headmaster occupies a very small portion of the novel in contrast, say, to Suslia or the Medium

Fundamentally, Narayan emphasises the way the Headmaster teaches his children. He gives more description and devotes a lot of his novel to this kind of teaching. In my opinion, I think Narayan is trying to prove that this way of schooling is more effective than the other and I also agree with too, as it not only teaches the students and children but it teaches adults how to life as well.

**Comment [K19]:** Good inclusion of personal opinion in the conclusion