

Explore the role that different teachers have in the novel 'The English Teacher'

The role of Brown as a teacher to Krishna in the novel 'The English Teacher' is to teach Krishna the orderly rules and routines that a 'civilised' person should follow. The quotation: 'who did not know until this day that the word honours had to be spelt with a 'u'' suggests that Brown, in addition to criticizing the student's spelling, is teaching Krishna a rule that should be followed. The rules and routines taught are further emphasised by the quotation 'the importance of English language', which evokes the idea that 'English' is the rule and law that everyone in the civilized society should follow.

Comment [K1]: Quite a sudden start but it is partially smoothed over by the reference to the English teacher and the use of words from the question

Comment [K2]: Could be more smoothly included

Comment [K3]: The less important / more obvious interpretation is dealt with quickly by putting it into a pair of commas

Comment [K4]: Good development of this point

Additionally, Susila is another teacher of Krishna, with the role, in contrast to Brown, of teaching Krishna to expose his disorderly side, which doesn't follow rules and routines. The quotation 'they are nice, why should they be only used in the bathroom?' suggests the idea that Susila is teaching Krishna to not follow the rules and basically do what he wants to do. The breaking of rules is emphasised when Susila questions 'Why are they all alike?' of the houses in the Lawley Extension, which suggests that the routines and rules established shouldn't be followed in India, where Krishna comes from. Susila as a teacher, taught Krishna to break the rules taught by Brown.

Comment [K5]: Good quotation but it needs to be made clear what is being talked about here / where this conversation occurs

Comment [K6]: Clear summing up sentence which makes the point in this paragraph very clearly

Furthermore, the role of the third teacher of Krishna, the Medium, is to teach him spirituality in addition to the foolishness of following the rules. The quotation 'Felt that the old sins from my undergraduate days of writing prose poems was returning' evokes the idea that the rule based 'poems' are a 'sin'. In addition, to the breaking of rules, the Medium also taught Krishna spirituality and belief after Susila's death, which made him more motivated in living life. This made the Medium an important teacher as his role is to 'enlighten' Krishna in the second half of the novel.

Comment [K7]: Clear connectives, although they are not always correct as these points don't always add together

Comment [K8]: Nice appreciation that a teacher can have more than one role

Comment [K9]: What makes you think that these poems are 'rule based'?

Comment [K10]: Again good summing up sentence

Moreover, Leela, as another teacher of Krishna in the novel, has the role of teaching Krishna the idea of innocence. The quotation 'What do you do when you sleep father? Why? Why?' are questions that Krishna cannot answer which suggests the innocence of Leela and the different points of view of children. Leela, as one of the many children, teaches Krishna to view life from a different perspective. In a different way, the innocence of Leela taught Krishna to break out of rules and routines. Leela said 'Where is the cat?', which suggests that, from the point of view of children, courtesy and decorum is just something made up out of rules and everyone should ask for or do what ever they want to. As a result, the role of Leela is to teach Krishna to be more 'pure' and make free choices.

Comment [K11]: Clear opening sentence to make clear the point of this paragraph

Comment [K12]: Why exactly do questions suggest this? This needs to be explained more!

Comment [K13]: Again when / where does this question arise?

Lastly, the final teacher of Krishna, the Headmaster, has a role of teaching Krishna to find a meaning in life. The soft tone when the Headmaster said 'for us elders to learn' not only suggests that children are able to teach adults, it also evokes the idea that everyone learns (or should learn) throughout their life. This helps Krishna to find an aim in life. That is why Krishna took over the Headmaster's school. The Headmaster also teaches him the sense of 'purity' when the quotation 'it's all mere copying, it's all a curse' was effectively used to suggest that the rules and the routines that everyone follows are not 'pure' or original. The purity taught to Krishna was also further effectively emphasised by the quotation 'this is the real meaning of the word joy in its purest sense' It presents to the read the idea that 'Joy' is immaterial, it is something that comes with knowing the real purpose of life.

Comment [K14]: Good specific feature identified

Comment [K15]: Good awareness that a quotation can have more than one meaning and exploration of both interpretations

Comment [K16]: Good development of ideas into detailed points

Comment [K17]: An excellent point

As a result, these teachers have different roles in the novel 'The English Teacher.' Each of them teaches Krishna a different thing. Some of them emphasise the importance of breaking the rules and routines, while some of the teachers emphasise the fact that laws must be followed in this civilized society. In general, the role that all the teachers have in the novel is this – to teach Krishna balance, a balance between beliefs, rules, wildness, innocence and spirituality, which ultimately helps Krishna to escape 'the curse of adulthood'

Comment [K18]: Nice persuasive, confident ending and beautiful final quotation