

## The Namesake

Jhumpa Lahiri 's coming to age Indian contemporary fiction - The Namesake derives insights of a very basic yet extraordinary Indian family .The novel begins in Cambridge in 1968 where Ashima Ganguli stands alone deserted in her apartment's kitchen ,making a snack for herself with an outright expectation of a child.

Though living a contended and happy life ,Ashima seems to be suffering alone ,away from her home in India ,with her husband ,Ashoke ,thus expecting a yet another moment of her family companionship during her baby's birth in a cold hospital .

However ,Ashoke's perspective to an isolated livelihood in a foreign land seems to be Everything he has ever wanted .

The development of the characters ,throughout the story is astounding when it comes to Ashoke's inference ,entrenched with the remembrance of a horrific 'near - to death accident' ,thus naming his son Gogol ,a quite absurd yet meaningful name .Later ,in high school ,Gogol grows resentful of his absurd name considering it to be " not Really Indian" ,thus leading to an official change to 'Nikhil'.Nikhil goes on to learn about the life of Nikolai Gogol ,his father's inspiration of naming him ' Gogol' ,thus ,becoming horrified with the man's bizarre ,unhappy existence .

Through multiple life experiences like any other teenager ,Gogol goes on to become an adult ,thus learning his father's near to death experience of a train wreck, during a peaceful timeout with a book of Nikolai Gogol in a trip .He deliberately ponders on the reason of his name to be associated with such a dreadful trauma of his father's life .

Later ,when Ashoke's death shocks his family to the core ,Gogol is drawn back to his

nativity ,inspite of his efforts to live his own life ,as 'Nikhil' ,away from his family , disregarding his descent - his very name 'Gogol'. The novel reaches its climax when Nikhil finds himself back to his room with a book of Nikolai Gogol in his hand ,the very essence of his late father.

Jhumpa Lahiri 's yet another book with a centralised theme of family ,tradition ,independence ,love , eccentric need to fly away from one's origin for exploring one's opportunities, identity ,name ,love and marriage, initiates the question ,if Name is really that important in characterising a person in one's fruitful life ..The 'all -round' book ,specifies the overpowering graveness of life ,descendance and nativity against the existence of just a name .

*"Pet named are a persistant remnant of childhood,a reminder that life is not always so serious ,so formal ,so complicated ."* The readers along with Nikhil driven by the free,easy flow of the story ,identifies the real meaning of life ,and

goes on to become ' Gogol' somewhere in their overwhelmed heart, thus ,justifying the title of the book " The Namesake".