

# ABSTRACT

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This thesis analyzes the concept of home with respect to Indian English children's literature and how there is an eternal longing for home by the child, the author and the genre of children's literature. It also looks into the problems and prospects of Indian English children's literature and how the genre of children's literature has remained unattended to in India.

The study is based on eleven primary texts by five authors, Ruskin Bond, Arup Kumar Dutta, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, and Salman Rushdie. It looks at the concept of home from a "home-away-home" pattern, the child's negotiation within spaces outside home, how the nation is conceptualized as home, and how the authors of Indian English children's literature try to find a home within writing.

The study shows that the fictional child is bestowed with a lot of agency to successfully conduct itself within and outside home too but in the process of doing so, the child becomes more adult-like in its demeanour rather than regaining its childhood. At the same time, those authors of children's literature who have made sincere efforts to create a home for children's literature in India are still in the margins of the literary world and those mainstream authors who have taken up writing children's literature do it only occasionally.

The study advocates that children's literature especially Indian English children's literature in India should be taken seriously as borrowed literature has for long been given to Indian children and it is time that we rise up to the challenge of producing our own children's literature.

