

Brief Questions in The God of Small Things

Writer: Arundhati Roy | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

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- **What prize was Arundhati awarded for writing The God of Small Things?**

Ans:

She won the Booker Prize in London on 14 October 1997.

- **Who are the central figures in the novel?**

Ans:

Estha and Rahel, fraternal twins living with their mother Ammu.

- **What was Pappachi's discovery as an entomologist?**

Ans:

A moth with unusually dense dorsal tufts; he thought it new.

- **How did Pappachi appear in his photograph?**

Ans:

Dapper, carefully groomed, chin hidden, proud but controlled.

- **What kind of man did Pappachi seem from the photograph?**

Ans:

Polite outwardly, yet marked by cruelty and buried violence.

- **Why was Pappachi jealous of Mammachi?**

Ans:

Her public success as a pickle maker eclipsed him.

- **How did Pappachi treat his wife?**

Ans:

He beat Mammachi nightly with a flower vase.

- **What was Chacko's view of Pappachi's attitude?**

Ans:

He called Pappachi an Anglophile who aped the English.

- **When did Mammachi start making pickles commercially?**

Ans

: After Pappachi retired and returned to Ayemenem.

- **What were Mammachi's feelings after Pappachi's death?**

Ans:

She mourned out of habit and duty, not love.

- **Why did Mammachi dislike Margaret Kochamma?**

Ans

: For her working-class background and for leaving Chacko.

- **What was Baby Kochamma's real name?**

Ans:

Navomi Ipe, daughter of Reverend E. John Ipe.

- **How did Navomi Ipe become "Baby Kochamma"?**

Ans:

Called "Baby" in youth; became "Kochamma" as an aunt.

- **In what sense did Baby Kochamma live backwards?**

Ans:

Youth renounced worldly life; old age embraced it.

- **What did Baby Kochamma do to attract Father Mulligan?**

Ans:

Publicly bathed a peasant child to appear charitable.

- **How did Baby Kochamma spend her last years?**

Ans:

Makeup, fine saris, TV serials, English films, football.

- **Who is Chacko?**

Ans:

Mammachi and Pappachi's son; Oxford-educated factory owner.

- **Why did Margaret Kochamma separate from Chacko?**

Ans:

She chose Joe, a biologist, over him.

- **How did Chacko treat pretty factory workers?**

Ans:

Lectured, flirted, drank with them, calling them comrades.

- **What were Chacko's favourite foods?**

Ans:

Chicken roast, chips, sweet corn, soup, parathas, ice cream.

- **What was the last blow for Chacko?**

Ans:

Sophie Mol's death devastated him utterly.

- **What is Chacko's attitude to life?**

Ans

: Humans are unmoored prisoners, adrift on troubled seas.

- **Who is Ammu?**

Ans:

Pappachi and Mammachi's daughter; mother of Estha and Rahel.

- **When were the twins born?**

Ans:

In 1962, during the Sino-Indian war.

- **Why did Ammu divorce her husband?**

Ans:

He demanded she sleep with his boss to keep work.

- **Why did Ammu get angry with Margaret Kochamma?**

Ans:

A rude cultural remark made Ammu storm off.

- **Why did Ammu love Velutha by night?**

Ans:

Lonely divorcee, she found forbidden love with Velutha.

- **Where did Ammu die?**

Ans:

In a grimy room at Bharat Lodge, Alleppey.

- **In what sense is Velutha a social rebel?**

Ans:

He defied caste barriers and chose personal dignity.

- **Is Velutha a tragic hero?**

Ans:

Yes; brutally killed by police, a martyr.

- **Who is Sophie Mol?**

Ans:

Chacko and Margaret's daughter; Estha and Rahel's cousin.

- **What did Sophie Mol wear?**

Ans:

Yellow bellbottoms and a Made-in-England go-go bag.

- **Why did Sophie Mol love Joe more than Chacko?**

Ans:

Joe raised her; Chacko left earlier; Joe died later.

- **What relation did Sophie Mol form with the twins?**

Ans:

She quickly became their close friend.

- **Where did the three children go on excursion?**

Ans:

Boating on the nearby Meenachal River.

- **How did the boat capsize?**

Ans:

It struck a floating log in the darkness.

- **What was the irony of Sophie Mol's life?**

Ans:

She loved family members the elders disliked.

- **Who is Estha?**

Ans:

Ammu's son and Rahel's twin brother.

- **What is Estha's long name, and who gave it?**

Ans:

"Esthapappychachen Peter Mon," whispered by Rahel.

- **When did the twins come to Ayemenem house?**

Ans:

After Ammu divorced, when they were two.

- **Who oversaw the twins' education?**

Ans:

Baby Kochamma, often unkind and strict.

- **What work did Estha prefer over college?**

Ans:

Housework—sweeping, laundry, cooking, shopping.

- **What happened to Rahel after Ammu's death?**

Ans:

She drifted through schools, largely neglected.

- **Whom did Rahel marry?**

Ans:

Larry McCaslin, an architecture researcher in Delhi.

- **Why did Rahel's marriage end?**

Ans:

Larry sensed her detachment, eyes searching for Estha.

- **What is the novel's setting?**

Ans:

Ayemenem (Aymanam) in Kerala, Roy's childhood place.

- **Why did Ammu choose Velutha as lover?**

Ans:

Both were untouchable in society's eyes.

- **Who molested Estha?**

Ans:

The Orangedrink Lemondrink man at the cinema.

- **Whom did Chacko marry at Oxford?**

Ans:

Margaret Kochamma, then a café waitress.

- **Which film did the family watch in Cochin?**

Ans:

The Sound of Music.

- **Which university did Chacko attend?**

Ans:

Undergraduate at Delhi; Rhodes Scholar at Oxford.

- **Why did Baby Kochamma convert to Roman Catholicism?**

Ans:

To win Father Mulligan's affection.

- **Who is Pappachi?**

Ans:

Ammu and Chacko's father; a noted entomologist.

1. **Who was Baby Kochamma?**

Ans:

Pappachi's sister, the children's grandaunt.

- **What was Velutha's political ideology?**

Ans:

He was an active Marxist Communist party worker.

- **How did Pappachi treat his wife?**

Ans:

Abusively; he beat her with a brass vase.

- **What is entomology?**

Ans:

The scientific study of insects.

- **How did Sophie Mol die?**

Ans:

She drowned after the boat struck a floating log.

- **What made Pappachi unhappy in marriage?**

Ans

: His age gap; feeling old while Mammachi seemed young.

- **Why did Baby Kochamma fail in love?**

Ans:

Conversion and becoming a nun still couldn't win the priest.

- **Whom did Ammu see in her dream?**

Ans:

A man she called "the god of small things," Velutha.

- **Who or what is the "God of Small Things"?**

Ans:

Velutha, the tender god of forbidden, small things.