

The God of Small Things Key Facts

Writer: Arundhati Roy | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Title:** *The God of Small Things*
- **Author:** Arundhati Roy
- **Published:** 1997
- **Genre:** Fiction / Political Novel / Family Saga / Postcolonial Literature
- **Setting:** Ayemenem, Kerala, India - mainly during the 1960s, with shifts between past and present.
- **Narrative Style:** Non-linear; poetic and fragmented storytelling blending memory, time, and emotion.
- **Themes:**
 - Caste discrimination and social injustice
 - Forbidden love and family tragedy
 - Colonial and postcolonial identity
 - Gender inequality and repression
 - Childhood innocence and loss
- **Symbolism:**
 - "Small Things" – signify unnoticed emotions and minor events shaping destiny
 - River Meenachal – symbolizes purity, danger, and fate
 - History House – represents memory, guilt, and forbidden truth
- **Language:** English, interwoven with Malayalam words and rhythms
- **Significance:** The novel portrays how love, politics, and caste laws destroy a family, exposing how society dictates "who should be loved, and how, and how much."