

A House in the Country

Context

Sri Lanka - A Brief History

If you were asked to write down everything you know about Sri Lanka, it probably wouldn't take you very long before you ran out of ideas - more than likely in a matter of seconds! You might, therefore, think that you won't be able to do any of the following quiz about Sri Lanka and its history. However, you might be able to make a few intelligent guesses from the choices you are offered.

1. Try the quiz like this: do it on your own, and then work with a partner to see if you can complete more of the quiz. Then you and your partner should join with another pair of students to see if you can increase the number of questions answered. Don't worry if you don't agree about the answers!
2. Read the text 'A Brief History of Sri Lanka' which your teacher gives you and check your answers.

QUIZ

1. The first settlers in Sri Lanka were
 - a) nomadic Veddahs
 - b) Portuguese merchants
 - c) Irish football supporters
2. In the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, Sri Lanka was
 - a) a series of separate kingdoms
 - b) a city state
 - c) a republic
3. The first Europeans to have a significant presence in Sri Lanka were
 - a) the Dutch
 - b) the Portuguese
 - c) the British
4. The first European power to rule the entire island were the
 - a) the Dutch
 - b) the Portuguese
 - c) the British
5. Sri Lanka used to be known as
 - a) Siam
 - b) the Maldives
 - c) Ceylon
6. In the 19th century the national language which was introduced, in addition to the native Sinhalese, was
 - a) Dutch
 - b) English
 - c) Portuguese
7. In politics, Sri Lanka is renowned for having
 - a) the highest number of political assassinations in the world
 - b) the world's first woman Prime Minister
 - c) never formed a majority Government
8. The two main religious groups, and one cause of conflict, are
 - a) Christian- Muslim
 - b) Muslim-Buddhist
 - c) Christian-Buddhist
9. The rebel group which has been at war, on and off, with the government since the 1970s is known as
 - a) the Tamil Panthers
 - b) the Tamil Kittens
 - c) the Tamil Tigers
10. The country which tried to help Sri Lankans find peace was
 - a) Iraq
 - b) Afghanistan
 - c) Norway

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Context

A Brief History of Sri Lanka

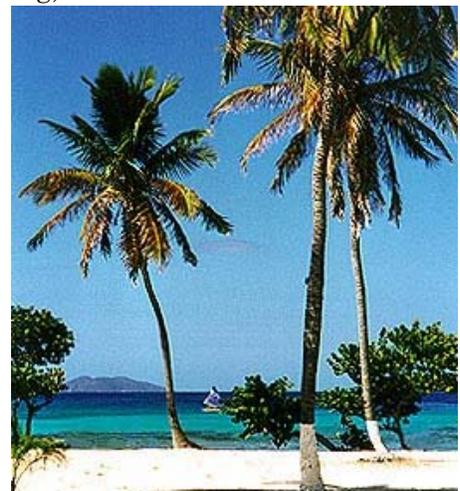
Sri Lanka's first settlers were the nomadic Veddahs. Legend relates them to the Yakkhas, demons conquered by the Sinhalese around the 5th or 6th century BC. A number of Sinhalese kingdoms, including Anuradhapura in the north, took root across the island during the 4th century BC. Buddhism was introduced by Mahinda, son of the Indian Mauryan emperor Ashoka, in the 3rd century BC, and it quickly became the established religion and the focus of a strong nationalism. Anuradhapura was not impregnable. Repeated invasions from southern India over the next 1000 years left Sri Lanka in an ongoing state of dynastic power struggles.

The Portuguese arrived in Colombo in 1505 and gained a monopoly on the invaluable spice trade. By 1597, the colonisers had taken formal control of the island. However, they failed to dislodge the powerful Sinhalese kingdom in Kandy which, in 1658, enlisted Dutch help to expel the Portuguese. The Dutch were more interested in trade and profits than religion or land, and only half-heartedly resisted when the British arrived in 1796. The British wore down Kandy's sovereignty and in 1815 became the first European power to rule the entire island. Coffee, tea, cinnamon and coconut plantations (worked by Tamil labourers imported from southern India) sprang up and English was introduced as the national language.

Then known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka finally achieved full independence as a dominion within the British Commonwealth in 1948. The government adopted socialist policies, strengthening social services and maintaining a strong economy, but also disenfranchising 800,000 Tamil plantation workers. Sinhalese nationalist Solomon Bandaranaike was elected in 1956 and pushed a 'Sinhala Only' law through parliament, making Sinhalese the national language and effectively reserving the best jobs for the Sinhalese. This was partly instituted to address the imbalance of power between the majority Sinhalese and the English-speaking, Christian-educated elite. However, it enraged the Tamil Hindu minority who began pressing for a federal system of government with greater autonomy in the main Tamil areas in the north and east.

The country's ethnic and religious conflicts date from this time and they escalated as competition for wealth and work intensified. Bandaranaike was assassinated by a Buddhist monk in 1959, when he attempted to reconcile the two communities. He was replaced by his widow, Sirimavo, who became the world's first female prime minister. She continued her husband's socialist policies, but the economy went from bad to worse. A poorly organised revolt by the Sinhalese Maoist JVP in 1971 led to the death of thousands. One year later, the country became a republic and made Sri Lanka its official name.

In 1972 the constitution formally made Buddhism the state's primary religion, and Tamil places at university were reduced. Subsequent civil unrest resulted in a state of emergency in Tamil areas. The Sinhalese security forces faced off against young



Tamils, who began the fight for an independent homeland. Junius Richard Jayewardene was elected in 1977 and promoted Tamil to the status of a 'national language' in Tamil areas. He also granted Tamils greater local government control, but violence spiralled out of control.

When Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) secessionists massacred an army patrol in 1983, Sinhalese mobs went on a two-day rampage, killing several thousand Tamils and burning and looting property. This marked the point of no return. Many Tamils moved north into Tamil-dominated areas, and Sinhalese began to leave the Jaffna area. Tamil secessionists claimed the northern third of the country and the eastern coast. They were clearly in the majority in the north but proportionately equal to the Sinhalese and Muslims in the east. Violence escalated with both sides guilty of intimidation and massacres, now known as 'ethnic cleansing.'

A truce agreed to in early 1995 was unilaterally broken by the Tigers. The government responded with a massive military operation that seized the Jaffna peninsula and dislodged both the Tigers and the Tamil population of the city. With government initiatives aimed at appeasing the Tamil population relatively well received and the Tigers apparently quashed, it seemed that Sri Lanka was on the path to lasting peace. But the Tigers regrouped and, by mid-1996, were able to launch damaging attacks on government troops stationed in northern Sri Lanka and terrorist strikes in Colombo. The violence renewed Sinhalese opposition to peace with the Tamils, which in turn disillusioned the Sri Lankan majority that was desperate for an end to violence.

As the new millennium came and went, the Tamil Tigers were still trying to retake the Jaffna Peninsula and their suicide bombers were still blowing themselves and bystanders up all over the island, particularly in Colombo. The massacre in mid-October 2000 of 26 unarmed Tamil prisoners by a crowd of Sinhalese in the hill country town of Bandarawela showed the depth (or lack) of feeling between some of the combatants - the killings resulted in violent demonstrations and retaliatory attacks which dragged Sri Lanka's relatively peaceful central region into the conflict. Some hope was offered by Norway's attempts to broker peace talks between the government and the Tigers in Nov-Dec 2000 - in a diplomatic first, their peace envoy met individually with leaders of both groups - but it currently looks as if the only good stance in Sri Lanka is a hardline stance.

Peace talks brokered by a Norwegian delegation inspired a one-month cease-fire beginning 24 December 2001 (the first in seven years), which was bilaterally renewed in January 2002. Sri Lanka's government also lifted a seven-year-old embargo on LTTE-controlled territory. Whether this round of talks leads to the peace so many people on either side desire remains to be seen, but things are more hopeful in this, the Pearl of the Orient, than they have been in a very long time.

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Sri Lanka - Background Reading

The story is set in Sri Lanka. Following are 9 extracts from texts about the country. The extracts are taken from the following sources:

- *Introduction to University prospectus*
- *A holiday brochure*
- *A report on Human Rights*
- *A specialist guide book*
- *A report from a sporting body*
- *A technical report*
- *An introduction to a general travel guide*
- *A newspaper article*
- *A report on a new business venture*

Decide which extract comes from which source.

1.

Introduction Sri Lanka

Background: The Sinhalese arrived in Sri Lanka late in the 6th century B.C., probably from northern India. Buddhism was introduced beginning in about the mid-3rd century B.C. and a great civilization developed at such cities as Anuradhapura (kingdom from c. 200 B.C. to c. 1000 A.D.) and Polonnaruwa (c. 1070 to 1200). In the 14th century, a south Indian dynasty seized power in the north and established a Tamil kingdom. Occupied by the Portuguese in the 16th century and by the Dutch in the 17th century, the island was ceded to the British in 1796 and became a crown colony in 1802. As Ceylon it became independent in 1948; its name was changed in 1972. Tensions between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil separatists erupted in violence in the mid-1980s. Tens of thousands have died in an ethnic war that continues to fester.

Geography Sri Lanka

- Location: Southern Asia, island in the Indian Ocean, south of India
- Geographic coordinates: 7 00 N, 81 00 E
- Map references: Asia
- Area: *total*: 65,610 sq km
water: 870 sq km
land: 64,740 sq km
- Area - comparative: slightly larger than West Virginia
- Land boundaries: 0 km
- Coastline: 1,340 km
- Maritime claims: *contiguous zone*: 24 NM
territorial sea: 12 NM
exclusive economic zone: 200 NM
continental shelf: 200 NM or to the edge of the continental margin
- Climate: tropical monsoon; northeast monsoon (December to March); southwest monsoon (June to October)
- Terrain: mostly low, flat to rolling plain; mountains in south-central interior



2.

Marco Polo considered Sri Lanka the finest island of its size in all the world, and you'll likely agree after exploring the country's fabled delights. What takes your fancy? Beaches? The coastal stretch south of Colombo offers palm-lined sandy expanses as far as the eye can see. Culture? Try the Kandyan dances, a procession of elephants or the masked devil dances. Ruins? You'll find enough ancient and inspiring architecture in the cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa to satisfy that inner archaeologist, we promise. And then there's the natural wealth for which Sri Lanka is rightly renowned. Head for the hill country to escape the heat of the plains, where the coast fades away to reveal gorgeous rolling hills often carpeted with tea plantations. The entire island is teeming with bird life and exotics like elephants and leopards are not uncommon. To top it all off, the people are friendly, the food is delicious and costs are low.

3.

398 km. from Colombo, Jaffna has an austere kind of beauty that is vastly different from the rest of the island. Its virgin beaches and coralline coast, off shore islets, and the peninsula's very distinctive way of life can be an enigmatic experience for the individual traveller. Not to be missed are the sand dunes of Manalkadu - a miniscule desert whose sheer wildness will impress you. Casuarina Beach is situated at Karainagar and there are good beaches also at Santhakulam and Thondaimannar.

4.



The abundance of Sri Lanka's birdlife makes it an ornithologist's paradise. Of the 431 recorded species 251 are resident and no less than 21 are endemic to the island. Most of the endemic birds are restricted to the wet zone, e.g. the Ceylon Grackle or to the hill - country, e.g. the Ceylon Whistling Thrush, the Yellow-eared Bulbul etc. Some, such as the striking Redfaced Malkoha and the shy brown-capped Babbler can be found through out the island although confined to small areas of forests, National Parks and Forest Reserves. Among the best areas for these birds are the Sinharaja Forest Reserve and the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary. Around mid August the first flocks of the species begin to arrive with large numbers of sandpipers, stilts, plovers, terns, etc. coming from Siberia, Scandinavia and Western Europe. In the forested areas migratory tree warblers, thrushes, cuckoos etc. can be seen. The large 'tanks' (reservoirs) in the dry zone attract numerous types of ducks, while the large water birds - the storks, herons and egrets - can be easily spotted in the National Parks. The Kumana Bird Sanctuary in the Eastern Province and Bundala, Kalametiya and Wirawila in the south, abound in these aquatic birds. Bundala is especially famous for its flocks of visiting flamingoes.

5.

Whereas the old calculations were based on simple series win/draw/loss points, the new Championship relies on a complex weighting system, and each Test will count rather than just the series result.

"The original ICC Test Championship was launched in May 2001 and we stated at the time that we would monitor its application," Malcolm Speed, president of the ICC told reporters at Lord's for the relaunch. "That process has now been completed and the revised points system provides a fair reflection of the achievements of all ten full members."

6.

A suitable land for the exchange was obtained through the good offices of the Divisional Secretary. A special feature of this project is that the entire establishment of the new exchange was undertaken solely by the staff belonging to the Uva Province. Ministers Ranjith Madduma Bandara and Suranimala Rajapakse graced the occasion.

7.

Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer arrived in Sri Lanka last afternoon on his way back from the Middle East and was received at the Katunayake International Airport by Minister Assisting Foreign Affairs, Lal Dharmapriya Gamage. Downer, met Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe at Temple Trees last evening.

8.

Well known is the case of Sarathammal of Pungudutivu who was raped and murdered on 28th December 1999 by four personnel from the local naval detachment. The Navy denied responsibility and the judicial process appears to be stymied. Some of the indiscipline in Mannar comes from corrupt practices to do with smuggling to the LTTE controlled area. On 28th February, the Navy at 10.00 PM detained Kandiah Uthayakumar (42), father of seven, of Chavatkadu, Mannar, strangled him to death in the presence of his daughter, and delivered his body to Mannar Hospital at 3.00 AM.

9.

As the name indicates, the department consists of an unusual combination of two disciplines covering engineering mathematics and the philosophy of engineering, of which the latter is broadly defined to include most of the issues, related to the impact of science and technology on human society and the biosphere.

This department primarily conducts various courses for the more traditional departments such as Mechanical, Electrical, Computer, and Civil, in their undergraduate diploma and degree programs. In addition it has consistently contributed to all major research undertaken in the faculty by bringing an interdisciplinary approach to these efforts

Now answer these questions

1. What did the 'Divisional Secretary' help with?
2. What are the two disciplines which are considered to be 'unusual'?
3. Who was strangled?
4. Where is the desert?
5. What was relaunched in May 2001?
6. Who were the three European occupying powers of Sri Lanka before independence?
7. Where will you find impressive architecture?
8. In terms of size, which US state is Sri Lanka compared with?
9. Who did Lal Dharmapriya Gamage meet?

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Context

English from the Indian Sub-Continent

1. In general, the English spoken in the Indian sub-continent (including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) is so distinct that it is recognised as a dialect of English in its own right. However, it is a myth to think that English is the national language. Hindi is the national language of India, while Urdu is the national language for Pakistan, Sinhala in Sri Lanka and Bengali (Bangla) in Bangladesh. There are more than 150 indigenous languages spoken on the sub-continent, and in some places English is a safer language to use because of ethnic and religious divides: everyone despises 'the English' equally, while attitudes towards the government in New Delhi can vary!



Advertising in English - inventing new verbs!

2. The education system is a relic of British colonialism and largely (especially at tertiary or Higher Education levels) given in English. So if you are college educated you will be literate in English. English is therefore something of a symbol of being well-educated and having good prospects, making it a highly desirable commodity.

3. It can be difficult to understand what people from South Asia are saying when they speak English quickly because the way they speak is with 'syllabic rhythm' (like the Spanish and Italian languages) rather than 'stress-timed' (as in British and American English, for example, as well as Portuguese).

4. The grammar of Indian English can vary considerably from British or American English.

a) For example, there are variations in noun number and determiners. Complete the following by writing the British English equivalent of the Indian. (Note: 'charity' in British English is an uncountable noun)

Indian: "He performed many charities"
 British: _____

Indian: "She loves to pull your legs"
 British: _____

b) Prepositions can change.

Indian: "Pay attention on your teacher"
 British: _____

Indian: "I want you to discuss about the poem"
 British: _____

Indian: "Please convey him my greetings"
 British: _____

c) Question tags can also be different:

Indian: "You're going, isn't it?"

British: _____

Indian: "She's here, no?"

British: _____

d) In some cases, even the word order is different.

Indian: "Who you have come for?"

British: _____

Indian: "They're late always"

British: _____

Indian: "My all friends are waiting"

British: _____

e) Yes and No agree to the form of the question, not just its content:

Indian: "You didn't come on the bus? "Yes, I didn't."

British: _____

Indian: "You haven't eaten yet?" "Yes, I haven't".

British: _____

f) One of the most obvious differences is in the use of verbs that in British English are 'stative' verbs (verbs that don't take the continuous or 'ing' forms).

Indian: "I am understanding what you are saying"

British: _____

Indian: "She is knowing the answer to all the questions"

British: _____

5. There are also some vocabulary differences, for example 'lakhe' means one hundred thousand, and clearly does not have its roots in English. However, some English derived words have taken a direction of their own. Can you match these English derived words in box A with the words in British English in Box B?

A	
cousin-brother	Eve-teasing
godown	Himalayan blunder
opticals	hotel bearer
freeship	cent percent eartops

B	
restaurant	serious mistake
male cousin	harassment of women
earrings	scholarship waiter
100 percent	eyeglasses warehouse

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Context

English in Sri Lanka - a Poem

Your chance to show your rhyming skills! This anonymous poem from Sri Lanka has the last word of every second line missing. The word missing rhymes with the last word of the line before it. Can you choose the most suitable rhyme from the box? Work in pairs.

English Teachers

Everyday when papers looki'n, I am very sad,
They are telling in Sri Lanka, English very _____,
Is this all a humbug mister, sometimes very true,
So I want to tell and give you, exactly what to _____.

Olden times when we were children, in the village school,
Pappa tole muss learn the English, otherwise you _____,
Those days teachers taking trouble, taught the English well,
If I do not do the homework, they are playing the _____.

Nowadays have Shermadana, in the sun muss dig,
Other times too much torking, classes very _____,
Principal is absent always, teachers putting part,
Boys are taking O/L, but only pass in _____.

You must tell our Minister, soon to put a rule,
Give the English Education, nicely in the _____,
Then the children will improve, learning very well you see,
Getting jobs and easy money, happy just like _____.

Now I am an English teacher, I can now enjoy,
So I am doing better job, than any other _____,
I am engaged to Burgher lady, torking English well,
How to twist and do the Cha Cha, she is going to _____.

Pappa putting sarong only, simply village clerk,
now I am putting trousers and walking in the _____,
So I'm telling without English, useless you will be,
Like a buffalo in the village, married to a _____.

school
big
bad
park
tell
do
hell
tree
boy
art
me
fool

Notes on reading this poem:

1. the strange spelling of some words is because it is supposed to reflect the way that English is spoken in Sri Lanka by some people. Try saying the words out loud and hearing what familiar English words they sound like. For example 'Pappa tole.'. We know that 'tole' must be a verb, but which verb? Out loud it sounds like 'told' with the 'd' sound left off. This is precisely the word it is, so 'Pappa tole muss learn the English...' means 'Papa told (me I) must learn English...'
2. O/L reference to state school exams ('O' or 'Ordinary' level, taken usually at the age of 16)
3. 'Burgher lady' a woman of higher social standing (from the Dutch word)
4. The word 'clerk' is pronounced the British English not the American English, so sounds like 'Clark' as in 'Clarke Kent'

A House in the Country

Context

Civil War (1)

In Northern Ireland, there has been conflict for decades between those who want to remain politically with mainland Britain and those who want to join the rest of the island of Ireland. These differences have often been expressed violently. Below are the voices of some people who, as children, experienced some of the horror. You will need to answer the questions that follow.

Joe

It began as a normal evening trip into town. I left Beechmount Parade and flagged down a black taxi at the corner of Beechmount Avenue and Falls Road. As I sat down in the door side seat of the empty back, I saw that the driver and his companion in the front were both dressed in black gear and were not to be described as small men. I thought it a bit of a risk on their part to shoot the traffic lights at Broadway at high speed. Beyond the light, they increased speed, doing well over fifty mph along the Children's Hospital area. This was odd, and I began to think things were not right. I became sure of it as the driver overtook and I began to believe I was in a serious position, and I was going cold and shivery, but I had a very heightened sense of my surroundings. I knew something was wrong now. This was NOT the normal Falls Road black taxi ride. What was it?

Suddenly I had a suspicion that I knew. As the taxi raced through the lights at the Royal Victoria junction, I sat well forward, both hands on the door bar and opening handle. I tried to estimate how I could open the door and throw myself out, accepting some serious injury, but with a hope of staying alive in hospital. I now knew I was in the kind of taxi that the Falls Road people had been warned about. It was being driven by either a UDA or UVF men, and I was in danger of being the next Catholic victim of a series of deaths caused by being trapped in a black taxi.

I next began to watch the road very carefully to pick my spot to jump. I did not have to do so. As we raced up to the Clonard Street/Falls Road Junction, a private car shot out in front of us and our taxi braked suddenly to avoid a crash. I had all I needed. As the braking shot me forward I jerked the door open and hit the street running, almost fell twice and collapsed on the steps of the Hibernian Hall. The taxi I had left disappeared down the Falls at about seventy mph, and I lit a fag and sat until my pulse and nerves settled. I was very lucky to be alive.

To this day I don't recall what I did with the rest of the night.

Street mural in Northern Ireland



Kathleen

You lived for 11 days after the bomb. They say your arms and legs fell off when you died. I was only 14 years old and very frightened. Frightened to look at your charred face, your badly swollen lips and eyes, the tubes in your throat. Amazingly I remember a few jokes you tried to tell me before the end. I think you knew how very scared I was. The smell of burning flesh never really goes away. God, how you must have felt knowing that your own child, the little girl you used to hold in your arms, was now afraid to hug you, to even be left alone with you.

When you died I wasn't there. I was huddled up with your other children at home praying. It was a quarter past six in the morning. The dockers were all going to work. They walked past the house, tipped their hats and nodded sympathetically. Nobody said anything, but they knew anyway. The whole of Creggan seemed to know, seemed to have been waiting and praying with us.

I made a scene when they tried to take me in to see you in the coffin. I was at that age, afraid again to look at your face. My poor mother, she pleaded with me, "You have to say goodbye, love. You'll never forgive yourself if you don't. Your daddy's smiling now - he looks fine." She was right. I edged into the room holding tightly to someone's hand and you looked peaceful. Still burnt, not so much like a horror movie. Peaceful.

The rest of the wake was exhausting. They say you knew one half of Derry, and the other half knew you. You had a military funeral, the Chapel and the grounds were packed. The heavens opened up as your own flag, the one you so lovingly flew outside the house every Easter for twenty odd years to commemorate the Easter Rising, was now draped over the coffin. Even the British Army stopped to give you a salute. I remember wondering at the time how you would feel about that.

For days afterwards the same reporters who stayed in the house, who accepted your hospitality during the Civil Rights campaign, now tore our lives apart, invaded all our memories of you, ignored our grief. It was a long time afterwards when all the furore had died down that the reality sunk in. I didn't know that mum and Rosaleen found you at the bottom of a neighbour's garden, that you had tried to save the children from the bomb. They died anyway.

I know you suffered the worst kind of pain in those 11 days before you died. Your name is still on posters, plaques, the 'Roll of Honour'. Mum lived for 24 years after you, reared a good family. She died a few days before your shared birthday.

Sandra

There's a blindness, I think, about what has actually happened to people in this conflict. People will often say to me that they're a three-day wonder. They're the focus of attention for three days in terms of the media and then forgotten. I'm conscious myself that there were instances which happened that I thought were utterly horrific. You'd think about those people for a few days and then ordinary life took over again. You didn't remember these people's needs at all. Or if you did, it was for a very short time. So that's one thing that struck me about coming to work here - the massive needs that people had and their need to be able to talk about what had happened to them. People feel very censored within some communities. They're also concerned to talk about things that might be painful for others also.

I often think of the troubles as being like a massive block of ice. If you like, the change in the political environment has caused the ice to melt slightly around the edges, which is where you find people are coming forward. But there's still a hardened core in the middle where people are caught in fear. Caught in terms of being concerned about what happens if they begin to talk about their experiences. What will it do? It's like opening the lid of Pandora's Box.

Mina

I wouldn't wish to have been born anywhere else than West Belfast and personally feel grateful that I was visited by conflict on so many occasions, and have been given the benefit, first hand, a lot of experiences. I used to ask the question, "Why me, Lord?" Now I answer that question by saying every event in my life has been an education and that has been used in turn to help other people, which is the most important thing about suffering.

But you don't stop being a victim. I've no problem with the term 'victim' and I've no problem with the word 'survivor', but you never stop being these things. Take Omagh. I wasn't there on that day. I didn't see a thing in Omagh, but I had my witness for myself in another time and another place.

I saw a woman running round in circles, not knowing what to do, reaching out for someone, anyone. You saw people. You saw awful smoke. You could even smell it coming out of the TV. You could smell it. I had been there. I had witnessed. I had done it in another time and another place. That's when you become a victim again, 'until you get your thoughts gathered again, you can see yourself as that person who's running. You can see yourself in that situation, in that street and for a couple of hours you see yourself as a victim again. Then when you get your practical head on, you phone Omagh and all you can say at the time is, 'Im sorry.' But you can't intrude on those people's grief, because you have to go through it as a community, on your own.

Everybody ran to Omagh, and in a way that was wrong, because it disempowered the people of Omagh. Omagh should be left to grieve, then they'll be able to stretch out to other people. If everybody else would go and leave them alone and let them get that strength in themselves as we've all had to do. You have this strength in yourself. You have everything when you look at such dreadful scenes as Omagh. But you pull round again and then you're a survivor.

If you live in this community and say you weren't affected, then you're telling lies - even the dogs of the street died. I saw two dogs lying dead on the street once after a bomb and two old ladies very distraught about the loss of their pets. You can't say you're not affected and you can't leave the past behind and just say that it didn't happen - because if it didn't happen we wouldn't be in this most awful bloody state that we're in now.

Mairead

We were lying sleeping in our terraced house in Victoria Street, Lurgan, when this terrifying explosion jolted us out of bed. Our baby, who was a few months old at the time and asleep in his cradle, was distraught with fear.

Next, all the shop alarms facing our house were set off and this deafening noise continued. In all our bewilderment, we really thought the bomb had went off beside us, but it turned out it was the centre of the town which was devastated.

Eventually Patrick and Jonathan went back to sleep, but I was shaking with fear. Fear for anyone who could have been hurt or killed, but also fear that someone would be shot very soon as a reprisal. The old tit-for-tat mentality of Northern Ireland terrorists.

I sat and looked out of my window for what must have been the remainder of the night. Then, at one stage, I looked down onto the footpath below and I could see three or four silhouetted figures seemingly staring into my living room. It was then that I flipped. I ran over to Patrick who was lying in bed and squealed that someone was coming into our house and he'd better hide in the attic. He thought I'd lost my marbles! Maybe I did - for that short while anyway. I'll never forget the fear in my heart. I nearly collapsed with fright. Just imagine how a person feels in that split second when they realize that a gunman is running up their stairs and there is no getting away.

Mary

I can't remember who told me, but someone said that a bomb had just exploded in Conlan's bar. I felt very frightened and I started to shake because I knew something terrible had happened to my father, who I knew was in the bar.

I just started running and never stopped until I was outside the bar. My heart was racing. 'My God, where is he? I can't see him.' The dust and smoke was everywhere. I panicked, pulling at bricks and pieces of debris, this screaming going on in my head. I was pulled away by someone and they told me that everything would be all right.

I felt sad then because I knew that this wasn't true. My father had been taken away in an ambulance so I decided to stay with my mother who was standing by the roadside with the priest and the manager of the bar.

They arranged to take my mother home, so I walked down the road, knowing in my heart that my daddy was dead. I went into our house and saw my mother just sitting there with a neighbour standing beside her and my brothers and sisters sitting on the sofa. My mother looked so sad and lonely. "It's all right," I said to her. "Someone told me that my daddy has hurt his legs." "No, " my mother said. "Your daddy is dead." My mind went blank and I took my youngest brother on my knee and started rocking with him. I felt sad and lonely and so alone. "No, no, all this isn't true," I burst out, "He's only hurt his legs. The other man told me so."

I felt so empty. 'What are we going to do? I want my daddy.' These words kept coming back to me. 'Please God make him be all right.' But that was not to be.

When I close my eyes as if to blink, I see your face in front of me. I don't know why you went away. But I know in my heart that I loved you and wanted you to stay.

1. Who (Joe, Mairead, Mina, Katherine, Sandra or Mary)

- i. thinks that people's concern for the traumatised is short-lived?
- ii. knew what had happened before they were told about it?
- iii. took some time to realise what was happening?
- iv. found their perceptions heightened through fear?
- v. says that people need to talk about hidden fears?
- vi. says that people need to be left alone to recover?
- vii. was frightened by the thought of revenge?
- viii. can't forget the sight and smells of what happened?
- ix. became unable to think?
- x. was waiting for an opportunity to act?
- xi. thought they were going to be shot?
- xii. later realised a loved one was a hero?
- xiii. feels empathy for those who suffer in attacks?
- xiv. says that people are trapped in fear?
- xv. says that no one can ever forget what they experience?

2. Match the following headlines below with texts above.

- a. **With You Until The End**
- b. **Home is Home**
- c. **Night Terror**
- d. **Freeing Minds**
- e. **Sudden End**
- f. **Lucky Escape**

3. In pairs, list the positive and negative points made in the texts.

4. Which situation would frighten you the most? Why? Why do people stay in places where there are constant dangers?



A House in the Country

Context

Civil War (2)

Read this review about a Sri Lankan film, and then answer the questions which follow.

Film Review:

In the Name of Buddha (2003)

Reviewed by [Nev Pierce](#)

A raging and ragged polemic, "In the Name of Buddha" tackles very __1__ subject matter.

Since 1983, ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has led - according to UN figures - to 60,000 deaths and hundreds of thousands of people running __2__ from the island.

Many of these end up in Britain, much to the Daily Mail's irritation. One such refugee is Siva (Shiju), who arrives at Heathrow Airport and is stuck explaining himself to an __3__ officer.

Flashing back to his point of origin, we're shown the relentless persecution and violence his family has suffered, as the freedom fighters/terrorists of the Tamil Tigers fight for independence against the Sri Lankan army.

Unsparing in its depiction of the __4__ of Sri Lankan life, Rajesh Touchriver's film has caused controversy, with accusations that it has an anti-Buddhist, pro-Tamil agenda.

However, it takes great pains to damn universally, with a particularly negative portrayal of a Tamil military leader, whose "ends justifies the means" attitude is appalling.

A more valid criticism is that, while Touchriver tries to inform, he does __5__ to entertain.

Siva is little more than a mouthpiece for the writer-director's political monologues, with the young student telling anyone who'll listen his "war is bad" message.

The dialogue is sometimes embarrassingly uneven (although this may be down to poor subtitle translation), and the production values low. (The Heathrow scenes were clearly __6__ unrehearsed, with members of the public peering at the camera and children waving at it.) The combat sequences, meanwhile, would be regarded as __7__ in a Hollywood production.

An exercise in celluloid pamphleteering, it lacks the lyricism or subtlety of the similarly themed "The Terrorist", but is partly redeemed by a __8__ quality.

Angry and amateurish, it is also wildly ambitious - the closing caption reads: "May this film bring peace to the island."

In Tamil with English subtitles.

1. Choose the best words to fill the gaps and complete the text above.

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. A worth | B worthy | C worthwhile |
| 2. A out | B off | C away |
| 3. A immigration | B emigration | C immigrant |
| 4. A brutality | B brute | C brutish |
| 5. A small | B few | C little |
| 6. A posed | B shot | C set |
| 7. A laughing | B laughable | C laughter |
| 8. A heartening | B hearty | C heartfelt |

2. 1. What positive things did the reviewer have to say about the film?

2. What negative things did the reviewer have to say about the film?

3. What, according to the reviewer, drove the film maker to produce the film?

4. In which ways could it be said that the film was amateur?

5. As a result of this review, would you go and see this film?

3. "Many of these end up in Britain, much to the Daily Mail's irritation." Why would the Daily Mail (a British 'tabloid' newspaper) be irritated by the arrival of refugees from the war from Sri Lanka in Britain?

Discussion:

Whose responsibility are refugees from civil conflict?



A House in the Country

Context

Biography



Complete the following biography of writer Romesh Gunsekera by choosing the best word (A, B or C) from the choice given, and then answer the questions.

Romesh Gunsekera was born in Sri Lanka in 1954, moving to London in 1972. He grew up __1__ both English and Sinhala. Gunsekera __2__ the Liverpool College Poetry Prize in 1972, the Rathborne Prize in Philosophy in 1976, and the first prize in the Peterloo Open Poetry Competition in 1988. Gunsekera's first book, 'Monkfish Moon', was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year while his first novel, 'Reef', was shortlisted for the 1994 Booker Prize.

'Monkfish Moon' is a collection of stories that tell about the political __3__ in Sri Lanka. The first story, "A House in the Country," follows Ray, who returns to Sri Lanka from England, and Siri, Ray's houseboy. Ray returns to Sri Lanka at a very confusing period in Sri Lanka's history. In 'Batik,' a husband and wife find themselves struggling to keep their marriage intact. Because Nalini is Sinhalese and her husband, Tiru, is Tamil, they have __4__ to London where Nalini finds her partner becoming increasingly distant as the violence at home continues to __5__. In the title story, Peter, a wealthy Sri Lankan businessman, begins to show exactly how far off course his life has moved during an uncomfortable dinner party with family and friends. Other stories include "Captives," "Ullswater," "Storm Petrel," "Ranvali," "Carapace," and "Straw Hurts."

'Reef', Gunsekera's first novel, describes the __6__ and adolescence of Triton, a restaurateur from Sri Lanka. Triton, a young boy, finds himself a servant to Mr. Salgado, a wealthy marine biologist. In the service of Mr. Salgado, Triton __7__, becomes an expert chef, and witnesses the destruction of his country.

Although Gunsekera's writings may seem to require that the reader should have some __8__ knowledge of the history, culture and politics of Sri Lanka, Gunsekera believes that the reader can appreciate his stories with or without such knowledge. Gunsekera had this to say about his __9__ audience: "The kind of writing that I'm interested in doesn't really demarcate the world in terms of this kind of reader or that kind of reader. The __10__ division you have, I think, is between people who read and people who don't read, for lots of reasons. At the same time I do know that people who are readers also have a background and also have a physical __11__, and they have a set of experiences and they bring all of those to a book. People who, for example, know nothing about the __12__, the setting of a story or a book, say, Sri Lanka, get something very different out of the book; perhaps a discovery of something unfamiliar. If they already know the place they get something else. They also get a sense of discovery, but it's a sense of discovery of the familiar, perhaps"

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | A talking | B speaking | C articulating |
| 2. | A won | B gained | C obtained |
| 3. | A upset | B consternation | C upheaval |
| 4. | A revisited | B removed | C relocated |
| 5. | A scale | B escape | C escalate |
| 6. | A childishness | B childhood | C children |
| 7. | A grows up | B gets up | C sets up |
| 8. | A background | B scenic | C scenery |
| 9. | A intentional | B intent | C intended |
| 10. | A longest | B biggest | C smallest |
| 11. | A realism | B reality | C realty |
| 12. | A location | B locality | C local |

Comprehension check:

1. How many prizes did Romesh win – 3, 4 or 5?
2. What is the name of the collection of short stories?
3. Which character in one of his stories appears to be lost?
4. What is Triton's occupation as an adult?
5. What do readers gain if a) they are familiar with the background to Sri Lanka and b) they are not familiar with the background to Sri Lanka

