



# SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

**Auszug aus:**

*"A Horse and Two Goats" (1965) von R. K. Narayan*

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](http://School-Scout.de)





**Thema:** *A Horse and Two Goats* – R.K. Narayan

**TMD: 30390**

**Kurzvorstellung des Materials:**

- R.K. Narayan (1906 – 2001) - full name Rasipuram Krishnaswami Ayyar Narayanaswami<sup>1</sup> - is one of the most popular Indian authors writing in English. Narayan was born and educated in Madras. Unlike other Indian authors he lived in India for most of his life, except for his travels. He is credited for making Indian English fiction popular.
- Narayan published several novels, five short-story collections, including *A Horse and Two Goats*, two travel books and a number of essays. Most of his works have a distinctive Indian character.<sup>2</sup>

**Übersicht über die Teile**

- Plot
- Narrative Point of View
- Setting
- Characters
- Themes
- Study Questions
- Model Answers

**Information zum Dokument**

- Ca. 6,5 Seiten, Größe ca. 86,5 KByte

**SCHOOL-SCOUT – schnelle Hilfe per E-Mail**

SCHOOL-SCOUT ♦ Der persönliche Schulservice  
 Internet: <http://www.School-Scout.de>  
 E-Mail: [info@School-Scout.de](mailto:info@School-Scout.de)

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R.K.\\_Narayan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R.K._Narayan)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eng.fju.edu.tw/worldlit/india/narayan.html#General>

did not belong to the Brahmin caste, the highest Hindu caste, Muni was not allowed to go to school. During his youth Muni used to believe that one day he would have children.

When the American pulls up near Muni and gets out of his car in his khaki clothes, Muni at first is afraid of him. Like many people of his low caste he is afraid of people of authority. While the American starts to talk about the statue, Muni talks about a recent murder and the end of the world.

In the end, it seems that Muni's dream has come true and he has finally sold his last two goats. At least temporarily he has escaped his money problems. The American of course does not take the goats with him and when they return to Muni's house, his wife threatens to leave and accuses him of being a thief.

### The American

The American is a businessman from Connecticut who works in New York. He enters the story in a yellow station wagon and wears the khaki clothes that all American tourists seem to wear when they visit the tropics. Even though he is only able to speak English, he is annoyed and surprised when he realises that Muni only speaks his native Tamil. The American expects to find a petrol station and English speaking people, despite the fact that Kritam is "the tiniest village in India".

Without any consideration for the possible meaning of the statue or the person who might own it, the American instantly decides that he must have it for his living room. He is of the conviction that money talks, even though the two men do not understand each other, and in the end he has reached his goal: he takes the statue with him.

### The Wife

Muni and his wife have been together for about sixty years, but, like their ages, nobody is sure about this. They have been through a lot together, losing all their prosperity. She is gruff with Muni nowadays, but she is willing to try to cook him the meal he wishes for. Muni's wife works very hard, possibly even harder than he does. She gets up at dawn everyday to get him breakfast and takes odd jobs at the Big House whenever they are out of food. Her poverty has marked her nerves and so she accuses Muni of stealing when he brings home the money. She cannot even think of another way of how he might have got the money.

### The Shop Man

The shop man has given Muni food on credit before, but now Muni's debts are too high, more than five rupees. The shop man is a moody man and today he refuses to give Muni any food.

## **Themes**

### Culture Clash

This is the most important theme in the short story "A Horse and Two Goats". The clash between cultures, especially between the Indian culture and the Western cultures, is one of the central themes that come up in Narayan's work. Narayan employs humour to depict the disparities between the two worlds. In "A Horse and Two Goats", Narayan shows how the two cultures, which exist in the same world next to each other, literally as well as metaphorically do not speak the same language. The story underlines the complete lack of communication between the two cultures.

Muni and the American could not be more different. Muni is a poor and uneducated Hindu, while the American is rich and educated. Being a good Hindu, Muni accepts his fate even though he has had to live through several hardships like losing almost all his cattle for



# SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

**Auszug aus:**

*"A Horse and Two Goats" (1965) von R. K. Narayan*

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](http://School-Scout.de)

