



SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

"A Devoted Son" von Anita Desai

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

School-Scout.de





Thema: *A Devoted Son – Anita Desai*

TMD: 28187

Kurzvorstellung des Materials:

- Anita Desai (*1937) is an Indian novelist and short story writer. She was born in Mussoorie, India, and was educated at Delhi University. Currently she lives in the USA.
- In much of Desai's writing tensions between family members play an integral part. This is true for "A Devoted Son" as well.
- Ohne Primärtext

Übersicht über die Teile

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

Information zum Dokument

- Ca. 5 Seiten, Größe ca. 74 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

Plot

In the beginning of the story Rakesh, the “devoted son”, receives the results of his final exams at medical college via the newspaper. The first person he tells it to is his father, Varma, whom he treats in the most traditional and respectful way: he bends down and touches his father’s feet. Because Rakesh has the best result in the country, the family celebrates his success elaborately. A lot of visitors come to congratulate, bringing presents. Rakesh’s success is made even more remarkable by the fact that he is the first in the entire family to get an education at all. In fact, his parents are illiterate.

The visitors coming to congratulate are jealous of his parents for having such an outstanding son, who even shows a lot of respect for his father. Obviously, it is not taken for granted anymore that a son treats his father as respectfully as Rakesh does.

After finishing university, Rakesh goes to the USA where he works in very prestigious hospitals and makes a name for himself in medical circles. Nonetheless, after some years he returns home to his parents’ house. Rakesh willingly marries a girl which his mother has picked out for him from her home village and he does not even have aspirations of leaving his parents’ house. He and his wife now continue to live there with their children.

After he has worked at the city hospital for some years, Rakesh opens his own clinic, which helps him to become the best, and at the same time, the most wealthiest doctor in the city.

By the time he is able to open the clinic, his parents have grown quite old and shortly afterwards his mother dies. Rakesh is the one who stays with her until her death. After the death of his wife, Varma’s health quickly declines. He starts to make up diseases and develops a routine of lying very flat and stiff as if he was dead. When everyone has rushed to his bed he sits up suddenly. When he does this at a party, though, the family finally becomes annoyed of this behaviour, especially because not even Rakesh can make out anymore which of his father’s ailments are real and which are imaginary.

Nevertheless, Rakesh continues to take care of his father. He tries to make Varma as comfortable as possible and even brings the morning tea in his favourite cup. Varma is very happy and proud of his son’s loyalty and respect, until Rakesh starts constraining his diet. Rakesh is of the opinion that his father should not eat certain foods anymore, because at his age they would harm him. These include many of Varma’s favourites, though, and he becomes indignant. While before he was glad of Rakesh’s respect for him, it now seems that Rakesh does not display even the least respect for his father’s wishes anymore. Varma tries to make his grandson buy him sweets at the market, but Rakesh discovers this attempt.

The only thing Varma still enjoys is talking to his elderly friends, but their visits become very rare due to their age. His elderly neighbour is one of the last people that are left to talk to. When the neighbour one day remarks how glad Varma should be, having his son take such good care of him, he cries out that this is not good care, in fact he does not even get enough to eat.

Varma begins to see his son in a new light. Before, he had admired his intelligence and success, but now he suspects that in reality his son is cold-hearted. Rakesh does not allow the old man to have his usual food, but gives him a number of medicines and pills to help with his many ailments. Varma resents this, though. He feels that, if he cannot have any of his usual pleasures anymore, he would rather die than stay alive only to eat medicine. That is why he now regards to his room as a prison cell.



SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

"A Devoted Son" von Anita Desai

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

School-Scout.de

