1. **What is the significance or purpose of the capitalization of certain words in the novel?**
* P 136 ““And the air was full of Thoughts and Things to Say. But at times like these, only the Small Things are ever said. Big Things lurk unsaid inside.”
	+ Thoughts, Things, Say, Small Things, Big Things- these are capitalized
	+ Children personify these things, they become something tangible and real.
* P. 119: capitalization of the History House.
	+ It is always capitalized throughout the book.
	+ Children see it as an actual character. It almost becomes a person, not just a building.
	1. It’s not always the Big Things that matter.
		1. Little words, like Air, are capitalized.
		2. She always capitalizes the Return.
	2. Written of the standpoint of a child. Every time she capitalizes…children have these images in their heads, like hearing things on repeat. They have images of things that are happening all the time. These things that happen all the time, are not life events. They are small things that are significant to children.
	3. This has a relationship to the human condition. All of these capitalized words are relatively = simple things that we take for granted.
1. **During Chapter 2, what is happening politically with the Naxalites and Comunitsts?**
	1. Communist revolution. The family in a car is driving to the theater.
	2. The author spreads this scene through the entire book
	3. The family is upper class: they have a car, own pickle farm, are managers of many employees
	4. Velutha is a card-carrying member: he works for them :Comrade Pilli wants a union against Kochama family in the factory—Velutha is the only other communist member—Velutha represents an obstacle b/c he is a communist and the other works don’t like him.
2. **Why do you think Rahel is so caught up in the idea of love: Ammu tells her, “You know you made me a little less.” Rahel is always asking, “Who do you love the most?”**
	1. It’s part of being a little kid- you compartmentalize, make lists to make life simpler to understand. Children have a small map of where they go, “this is my house, church, school, and I cycle between these.”—Rahel does that to simplify her life
	2. Rahel never knew her father, so she wants more attention from her family, her mom, her uncle, her brother
3. **Why do you think Rahel refers to everyone as the Play?**
	1. It’s almost like everyone has a role they have to play when Sophie Mol comes. Everyone has thoughts about the British People, about the Indian people. Chacko wants to impress. Everyone wants to show Sophie Mol that everything is perfect. Rahel sees through it; it’s a mask.
4. **Motif of a hole in the universe…What does this mean?**
	1. This is the term relating to Sophie Mol’s death…see chapter 9
	2. It talks about how Velutha left behind the hole in the universe.
	3. This applies to Joe too, Miss Mitten—because Rahel’s universe is full of the people in it.
	4. When someone leaves, then there is an absence felt by the characters, so the best way to describe this is by saying there is a person-shaped hole in the universe.

**Words found in the novel:**

* **Batu**- a type of sandal native to India
* **Death**- this word looms over everyone and everything.  It does not appear that just a singular person can die without affecting others in the universe.  Someone notices the loss, especially in the case of Sophie Mol, Velutha, Ammu, and Joe.  All of these characters leave a hole in the world of the twins.  Sophie Mol’s death destroys the family.  Velutha’s death is preceeded by lies and followed by grief.  Ammu’s death is puzzling to the twins, but is the sad loss of a parent.  Joe’s death leaves a gaping hole in Sophie Mol and her mother’s lives.
* **Mayalayam**- the language spoken by Rahel, Esta, and the rest of the people in Kerla
* **Relationship**- All of the characters experience a relationship with each other.  Some relationships are strained, such as Chacko and Ammu, Margaret and Chacko’s mother, and Velutha and Captin Pillia.  These relationships define who the children are and who they will become.
* **Sari**- a type of dress typically worn in India
* **Sky**- The sky represents something far away full of beauty and imagination.  Rahel is always studying the sky and noting how far away it appears.
* **Social Classes**- These provide a distinction between who works for whom, who lives with whom, who is accepted by whom…Social Classes are the dividers which throw up impossible obstacles for love.
* **Twin**- the word comes from the Old English *twinn*which means, “consisting of two, double, twofold.”  In the case of Rahel and Esta, they appear to defy this idea of “double” and “twofold,” because their minds act as one rather than as two.  They have two separate identities, but they appear to be of the same entity.

**A connection beyond the novel:**

Well, it’s sort of difficult to find a connection since many of us are not twins who are almost supernaturally connected, and we do not live in a world governed by love laws and caste systems. However, the connections to this book are found in the simple things rather than the big ideas. For example, Through Baby Kochamama, we can see a woman who has to act like she is perfect. She falls in love with a priest and makes a big deal of showing everyone that she is doing good works for the poor. Later in life, she has to wear all of her jewelry, dye her hair, and wear expensive clothing. However, she does not have happiness because she lives with the fear that everything she has come to possess can be easily snatched from her. I think all of us know someone like that, a person who has to appear perfect but in reality is far from perfect. We all know those people who are putting on a show and not letting their feelings be shown, like all the characters in Rahel’s “play” putting on a show for Sophie Mol.

Quotes: see quotes page