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| Historical Background  \* Look at the picture. You may listen to the story here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ja\_QpWB1BY | The story takes place in the \_\_\_\_\_\* when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were in control of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but they were slowly preparing to grant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(opposite of one country having power over another). |
| The title is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or a reference to another work or artist. (Recall Julia Alvarez mentioned the Tower of Babel in the Bible.) | It refers to Shakespeare’s lines in the play \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| The narrator informs us that the headmistress has lived in India for \_\_\_\_ years and yet, she cannot pronounce the local names. | What does this information tell you about her? |
| Who are the two main characters and how old are they? |  |
| What are the names “assigned” to them? |  |
| Insular has two meanings:   * Isolated by one’s surroundings as on an island. * Narrow-minded   Both apply in this cultural saying, an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Another example is “grain of salt.”) | Explain it in your own words. “You can bury a dog’s tail for seven years and it still comes out curly, and you can take a Britisher away from his home for a lifetimes and he still remains insular.” |
| How does the narrator feel during the first day of school? COPY TEXTUAL EVIDENCE from the bottom of pg. 322. |  |
| What is the ratio of Indian children to British (white) children in the school? You have to calculate it based on information provided. |  |
| What can you conclude about the relationships between races based on details in the classroom? |  |
| Why is it ironic that the narrator is bored? |  |
| Clothing and food make the Indian girls more “different.” Define some of the details that help us understand. | Kohl  Chapatis  Sari |
| The girl with the braids is silent and solemn. That was a vocabulary word! It means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. She looks longingly at the traditional Indian food. | What does this reveal about her approach or perspective in the school? |
| Contrast the difference between playing games at home and playing games at school (another cultural difference). |  |
| Identify another idiom when the big sister is talking about tests. (See footnote) Explain what it means. |  |
| What are the 2 names of the new friend? |  |
| List 5 *specific* details that help you imagine the place (natural environment, school building, home) |  |
| Why is the big sister angry? |  |
| How does the younger sister cope, understand, or deal with the racism? |  |
| How does the author’s parents’ careers influence the themes that she writes about? (Meet the Writer section; talk about both the mom and dad.) |  |
| You may have to research online. When did India gain independence? |  |
| Who was the main leader who fought for equality between British and Indians? |  |
| What American and South African leaders were influenced by India’s nonviolent disobedience movement? |  |

Below, draw a map of where she lives in India along with a legend for the climate, vegetation, rivers, and resources OR draw a diagram of typical Indian houses.