

Western Lane (2023) – Some links for teachers

This guide has been written to help teachers find resources to accompany your initial ideas and first reading of *Western Lane*. This should be read in conjunction with the *Getting Started Guide*. The links provided in this document were correct at the time of writing and could be used to help you understand the contexts and broader themes of the novel.

Useful links could include:

Interviews and articles about Maroo with a focus on *Western Lane*:

- When *Western Lane* was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2023, Chetna Maroo was interviewed for their website. She talks about the book and its themes: [Booker Prize Interview](#).
- Maroo gave a long interview to a podcast about the novel where she reads extracts from the novel as well as talking about the themes and characters. The video of this interview is on YouTube: [YouTube](#)

Summaries, reviews and readings:

- The Booker Prize website has a useful reading guide to the novel with a number of questions and things to consider: [Reading guide](#)
- There is a long review in *The Guardian* which praises the novel: [The Guardian](#).
- Spectrum Culture offers a more mixed review of the novel: [Spectrum Culture](#)
- There are other reviews of the novel in the [TLS](#), [The Times](#), [The New York Times](#) and [The Telegraph](#). All of these are behind a paywall but some of these sites also offer one free article a month with a free login.
- Bookrags – the paid for resources service – have a guide to Klara and the Sun if you have a subscription: [Bookrags](#)

Contextual elements:

- Wikipedia provides a quick outline of Jainism and talks about the different beliefs and ceremonies: [Wikipedia](#). There is also some pages on the BBC website which give a good overview although the pages are no longer updated: [BBC](#)
- Both the [English Squash](#) and [Olympics website](#) have some of the basic rules about the sport.

- There is an interesting transcript on Hansard – the website which records the debates in the UK parliament - for a debate around the Gujarati community in the UK and adds some historical context. [Hansard website](#)
- There are lots of resources around Diwali and other customs on the [National Geographic](#) kids website as well as the [BBC](#).
- This podcast from [History Extra](#) provides some background to the treatment of the Asian community in the UK in the 1980s.