

The book *Notes of a Mediocre Man*, the author Bipin Aurora, structured the book to be filled with short stories. A majority of the stories are based around people who are from India, and the story is usually connected with the characters culture. For example, in the story "Krishna," the main character Krishna embraces America and loves to helping people with their Visa and Passport applications, however she still misses her home, India. We see this again in the story "The Dance," and in several others.

Each of stories has new characters with new tensions, situations, and a new perspectives. The book consistently developed tension for the main character in each of the chapters, however the characterization was not as not consistent. Some characters are better developed than others in the different chapters. In the story "Munnu Shunnu," two brothers leave school for a few days to spend some time with their father. The teacher tries very hard to teach the boys and to learn more about their upbringing, but the boys do not know anything about their father. The two brothers continuously tell stories, and their stories are interesting - one is about a nice man, another is about a blind woman - but it is hard to pinpoint who the main character is in this chapter. The boy's imagination tries to help the teacher who is obviously frustrated because the boys the boys are not learning. The story is narrated by the teacher, but it seems the boys are mentioned more than the teacher. So, who is the main character, is it the teacher, or the boys?

One story with good characterization is "My Father Is Investigated by the Authorities," the chapter was written with good context and background information that helped develop both main characters. For example we understand the father is accused of something related to money, and we know that the neighbors and reporters are trying to get information. There is also a lot of symbolism because there is a tin box with coins and the son is trying to figure out what it means. Although the whole situation is not clearly developed it is clear that the son is close to his father because the son struggles with how his father closed him out. The father avoids the boy's questions, but even though he is shut out, the son still supports him until the end of the chapter. Also, the tension the author created, clearly affects their relationship and you can tell by the son's thoughts and actions. The son is very confused through most of the chapter and he struggles to grasp the complexity of the situation, but he still loves his father unconditionally. Another literary development in the chapter is that Aurora does not explicitly say everything, Aurora leaves it up for interpretation of the reader. So, by doing this he is able to keep the reader involved throughout the book by having the reader think about the character's action or thoughts. The tension is consistent in most of the chapters in the book, some chapters have a stronger tension than others, but for the most part it is one of the book's strengths. Some chapters developed a clear tension that was clearly the conflict in the book while others had a confusing tension that was rarely mentioned during the chapter. Overall, Aurora's book was set up and written very well, he provides many different stories that helps teach the reader of different cultures. It provides a different point of view that not all readers may not be familiar with. Since the book has a different plot in each chapter, this variety of tone in this book makes the book stand out. I believe that people who do not like finishing books will like this book because the book does not focus on one main character. Each chapter has a new story, and if the reader decides to skip a chapter it will not be a big deal because the chapter does not affect the whole book. The book has a variety of characters, situations, cultures, and settings. I also believe it is a great book for people eager to gain perspective on life by learning about other people and their different experiences.