Real Time

*Plot summary*

The story explores a couple attending the funeral of a member of the wife’s – Mrs. Mitra’s – family. The woman has committed suicide under unclear circumstances. We learn she was married, unhappily, had no children and was quite intelligent. The story is told through third-person narration, but through the perspective of Mr. Mitra. He feels little for the deceased and is more concerned with his own hunger.

*Themes*

Suicide –

* The story explores the tragedy of a single suicide from the perspective of an apathetic narrator.

Cultural Diversity –

* The story shows how Western & Indian culture and tradition are intertwined. For example, the Cola-Cola and sandesh.

*Tone*

The tone of the piece is quite disengaged and cold. It would be conversational and light-hearted if not for the dark subject matter that it explores.

*Characters*

**Mr. Mitra – He is clearly uninterested in the events of the funeral he is attending. He can’t force himself to feel grief.**

**Anjali – She is the woman who has committed suicide. Perhaps we can assume that she left an unhappy and arranged marriage. We are very distant from her in the text.**