



**1936-1950 Era
Response**

GROUP MEMBERS

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INTRODUCTION

This book mainly explores the Era between (1936-1950) and is specifically inspired by five films which were 'Mela', 'Achhut Kanya', 'Sikhandar', 'Miss Fronteir Mail' and 'Babul'. Furthermore, this book is based on a storyline that depicts a variety of Indian cultural thoughts and values that are extracted from these films in order to provide an overall representation of the time period.

STORYLINE

Kamal, the son of a wealthy and well respected zamindar Ramesh, is sitting in his in the backyard of his house, staring into space when suddenly Usha barges in from behind and closes his eyes. She surprises him by saying guess who it is... This was one of their forms of playful banters since they were children. It is a mood of laughter and joy and some playful romance between the two, but something seems a bit off in the background, Ramesh's enters with a face that has lost its color and is in a sense of despair. He enters asking his wife Chandra for some water, and sits down in the house with a grim face and a tense body language..trying to figure out what to do next

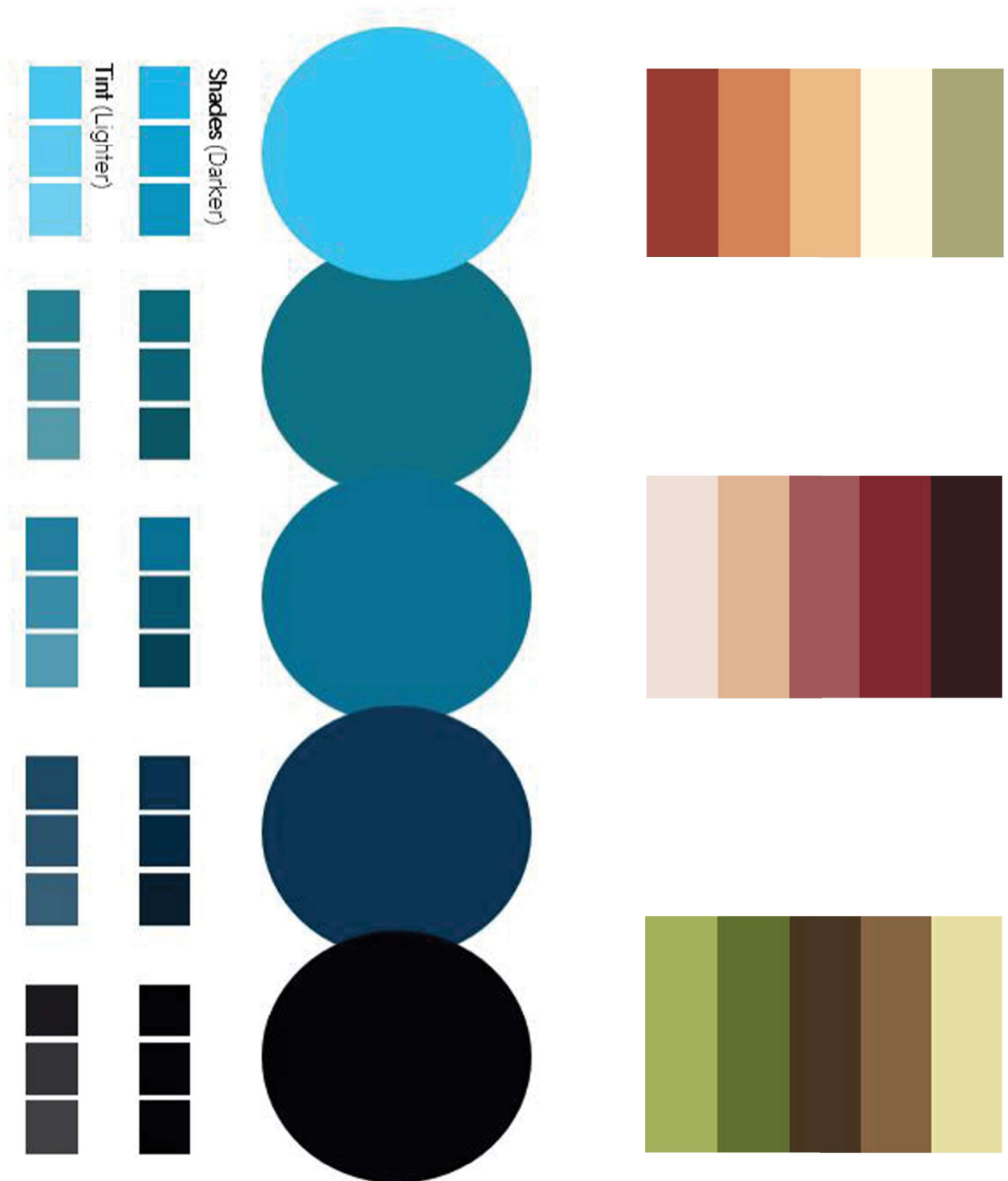
The two, Usha and Kamal then enter the house and Kamal seeing his father's face asks what's wrong, His father replies saying that the British government has told him that there would be no concessions given to the drought stricken farmers and if they do not pay him the tax on time their farms would be taken by the government and the village will undergo mass floggings, the zamindar would be penalized heavily. (Ramesh has always been an honest man and has been lenient towards the farmers and has never extracted a rupee more than required). Usha, on hearing this news is in despair as she knew that her father Mohanlal, would not be able to take this news and would have to give away all his possessions to save himself. Usha was at the age of marriage and this also meant that he would have no money or possession to give as dowry, and to make things even more difficult, they were untouchables in society.

Usha returns to her house and tells her father the terrible news, her father Mohanlal then is in utter despair, as his crops had failed and now he would have no possessions left to marry his daughter, he then tries to go around the village trying to find a husband for Usha. Nobody in the village accepted Usha, as they were either wanting a large sum of dowry or were unwilling to marry an untouchable. Usha was reluctant to get married to anyone other than Kamal and since she could not have him, she decided she would remain single for the rest of her life. Mohanlal now felt that he had failed as a father as he could not get his daughter married and neither could he provide for her wellbeing. He then tried to seek help from his childhood friend i.e Kamal's father Ramesh. Ramesh, being a close friend of Mohanlal said that he would not take a single rupee from him and would pay his debt on his behalf by marrying his son to a rich zamindar's daughter from another neighboring village.

Usha and Kamal are now both in utter despair as they were unable to be with each other, Kamal would now have to marry Padmini, the daughter of Ramu, a rich zamindar from a village nearby. Kamal was reluctant at first, but then he soon realized that if he wanted Usha to have a sustainable future, he would have to sacrifice himself for her. And so, for the sake of his beloved, he did. Padmini loved Kamal, but Kamal never reciprocated much affection in return, he was upset, and he pined for Usha. Usha on the other hand was married off to a farmer Lalu a fellow untouchable, an alcoholic, gambler and a man who lived off his father's property throughout his life. Usha could not tolerate him even a bit and had to marry for the sake of her father's will. In a few months time Usha seeing no way out, commits suicide due to prolonged starvation. Kamal on the other hand lives on as a depressed alcoholic unwilling to come to terms with Usha's demise. He then blames himself for Usha's death for the rest of his life and regrets marrying Padmini.

Hum bewafa
hargiz na they,
Par hum wafa
kar na sake.

COLOR PALETTES



ILLUSTRATIONS AND BACKGROUNDS

- 1. Kamal and Usha**
- 2. Mohanlal**
- 3. Padmini and her
Parents**

