

- **Amrita Pritam**
- Born in Pakistan (Gujranwala) in 1919.
- Death in India in 2005.

- Quote on feminism:

- *“There are many stories which are not on paper. They’re written in the bodies and minds of women”.* Amrita Pritam

Amrita Pritam[1919-2005]

Amrita Pritam

- She received the Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushana in 1969 and Sahitya Akademi comradeship in 2004.
- She got D.Litt. honorary degrees from many universities.
- She becomes a member of Rajya Sabha in 1986-92.
- In 2007, 'Amrita recited by Gulzar' was released by Gulzar.

Amrita Pritam as a Novelist

- **Amrita Pritam was the first prominent Panjabi woman novelist.**
- **She wrote novels and essays. She was famous for her short stories, autobiographies and poems.**
- **She wrote the poem on the division of Punjab.**
- **Her work; 'Lok Peeth' (People's Anguish) frankly criticises the battle and torn economy after the Bengal famine of 1943.**
- **After independence in 1947, Amrita migrated to Delhi. She has been writing over the partition.**

Amrita as a Novelist

- ▶ As a famous and notable writer, her stories turned into films.
- ▶ Her novel Pinjar (The Skeleton, 1970) is filmed.
 - ▶ Her novel 'Pinjar' (The Skeleton) 1970, is an award winning Hindi movie by Chandra Prakash Dwivedi.
 - ▶ This film was full of humanism.
 - ▶ The film presents the picture of the suffering of both communities of India and Pakistan.

Amrita and Partition of India

- Amrita shows human psychology of the religious fantasy. She gave the word of women's painful condition during that time. She becomes a voice of all feminizes. She disapproves the religious fantasy people through her own series of literature.
- According to Amrita Pritam, society thinks that woman is an eternal source of love and joy which inspire us for good future. Society also thinks that women is a sign of feminine beauty but man always exploits her and serves for his own egocentric ends.

PINJAR

Pinjar is a short novel written by Amrita Pritam originally in Punjabi.

In 2009, Pinjar was translated by Khushwant Singh in English.

The novel depicts the conditions and nature of the Indian society during the partition of India in 1947.

Amrita Pritam has poured her own experiences in the novel.

She portrayed the women life in the partition period.



PINJAR

Pinjar represents harrowing situation of women.

It is a tale of human mistakes which exploit man's misfortunes.

A number of cases happen during partition where girl committed suicide without any fault of hers.

Major Theme of PINJAR

- Pinjar depicts a world of social reality which draws its meaning from the description of experienced reality.
- The story revolves around a Hindu girl who belongs to a family of money lenders. Through this character the author depicts how the women of the twentieth century were bound to accept their conditions calling it as their fate.

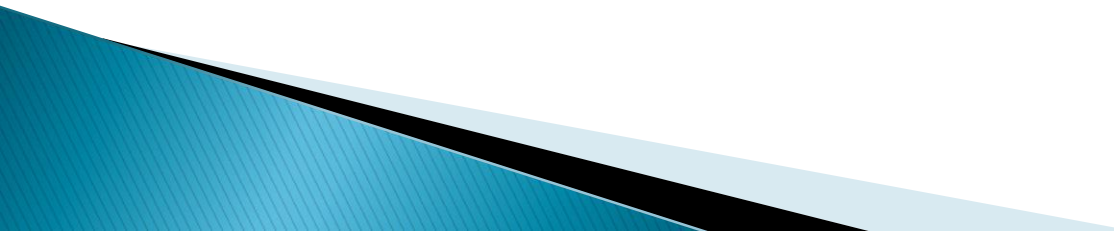
Theme of PINJAR

- Pinjar is a novel which shows the intentional and emotional struggles element of woman.
- The novel sheds light over revenge and betrayal in two families.
- The novel was related to the plight of women during the bloodiest time in recent Indian history that of partition and the period just preceding and following it.

Structure of PINJAR

- The novel opens with the market view where Poro is selling peas.
- The market was described as colourless gray.
- Poro sat in the market and opened a case and pushed out the paddle of peas.

PINJAR

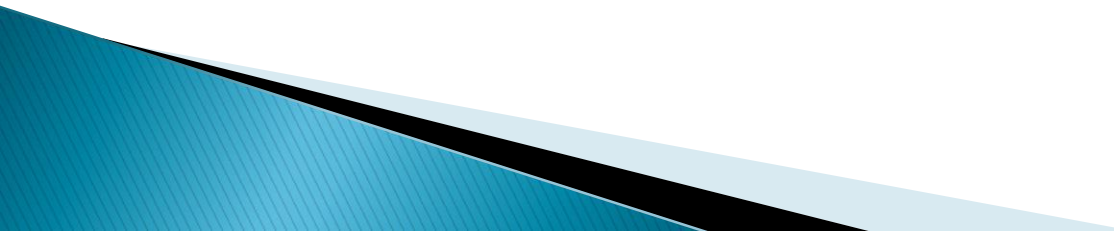
- ▶ The Novel uses historical elements to set off a fictional tale that effectively demonstrates victim's reality.
 - ▶ The story dramatically captures the trouble and despair of women as victim of situations.
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PINJAR

Amrita Pritam's Novel Pinjar (the skeleton) explores the problem faced by women during the time of partition of India. She depicts the riots, rape cases, abduction of young women of opposite religious community.

She successfully shows the women were used just as a symbol of sex for the pleasure of men Amrita Pritam knows the sensitivity of subject that why she has handled it with carefully.

PINJAR

- ▶ Hamida is victim of men's evilness.
 - ▶ She represents those women who are kidnapped, raped and then rejected by their families.
 - ▶ Such women are relegated to rehabilitation centers where they are subjected to all kinds of inhuman treatment.
 - ▶ The story moves on an emotional ride with twists.
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Pinjar

- Pinjar depicts the violence between the two communities.
- Pinjar shows this partition triggered off violence, bloodshed and displacement of people from their homes.
- This partition also portraits women were the worst sufferers and were victimized in different ways.
- Many women could become widowed or lost their children. Many of them were abducted and raped, and ultimately brought to death/.

PINJAR

■ Characterization

- The writer puts a living soul into each of her character. The character Pooro and Lajjo is a fine example of it.
- The book shows that the history or religion playing havoc around women's existence.
- Pinjar is an amazing chronicle of women's life and times during the India-Pakistan partition.

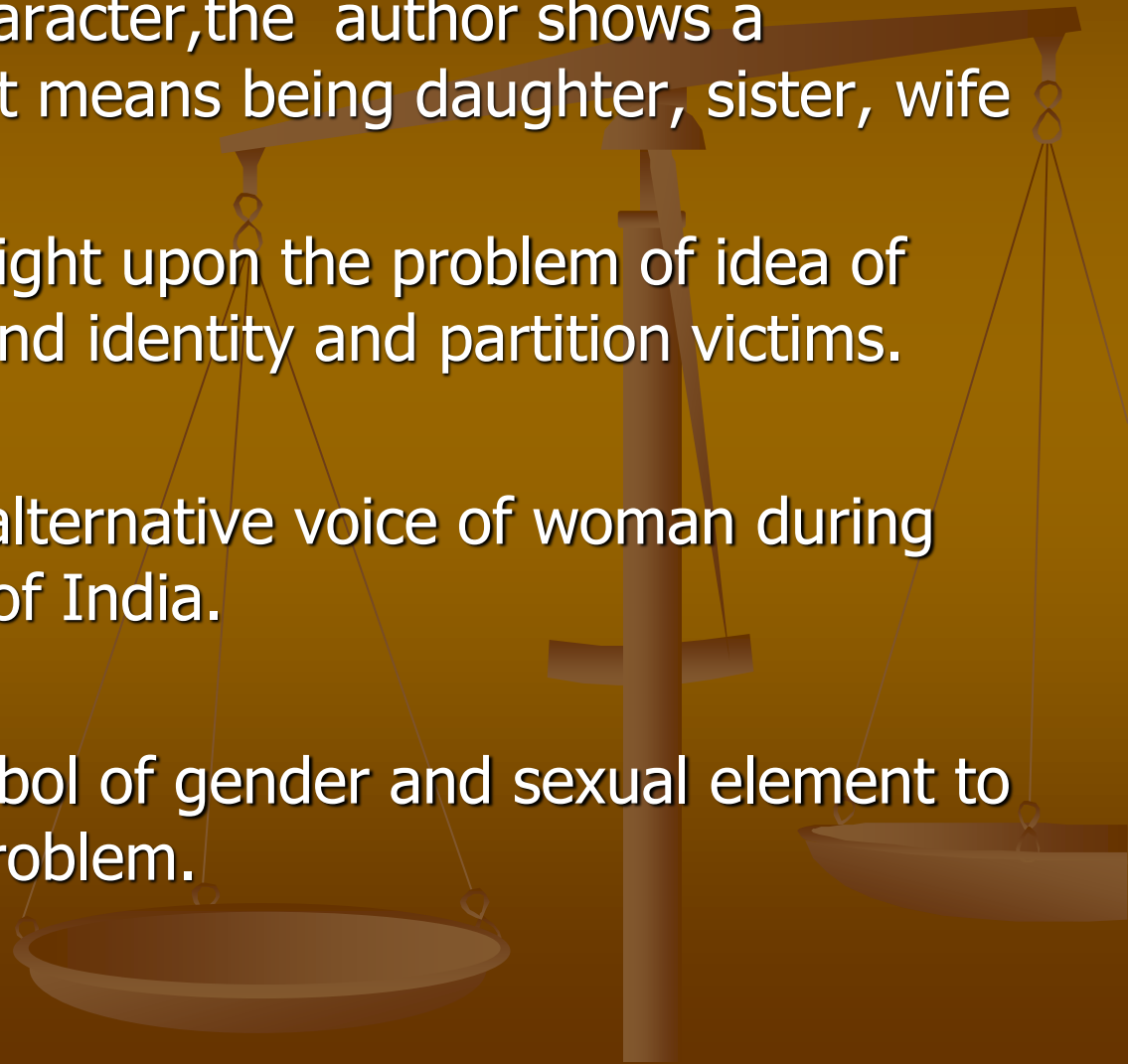
PINJAR

Through the Pooro's character, the author shows a complete woman that means being daughter, sister, wife and mother.

The novel story brings light upon the problem of idea of cultural community and identity and partition victims.

Pinjar is an account of alternative voice of woman during the time of partition of India.

The author uses a symbol of gender and sexual element to show the woman's problem.



PINJAR

The account is told from the character Pooro's viewpoint. This story is a unique glance of Indian partition.

Pinjar is a collection of past, present and future holocaust of women's status.

The other characters like Rashid and Rashida add dimensional attitude to the story with its social fabric.

Chief Components of PINJAR

The elements like colonization and communalism show the relation with Punjab state and Punjabi women.

The author represents the partition fact with the help of history, politics and aesthetic issue.

Pinjar shows the character of global partition and universal memory of women through fiction.

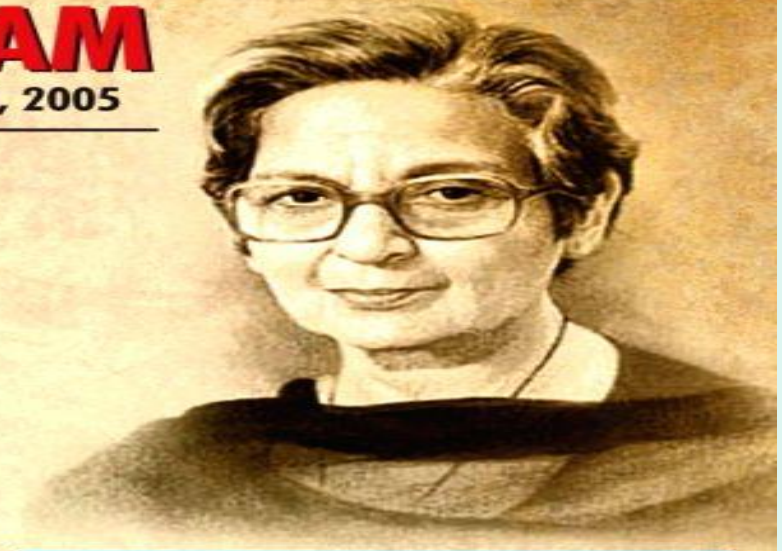
Suggested Reading

1. Read the original text in Punjabi translated into Urdu/Hindi/ English.
2. Aspects of the Novel by E.M.Forster
3. Indian Writing in English by K.R.S Iyengar

AMRITA PRITAM

AUGUST 31, 1919 — OCTOBER 31, 2005

- Eminent female Punjabi writer, novelist and poet of the 20th century.
- Born in Gujranwala in what is now Pakistan, Pritam published her first collection of verse at the age of 16.
- In a career spanning over six decades, Pritam penned 28 novels, 18 anthologies of prose, five short stories and 16 miscellaneous prose volumes
- She penned an autobiography titled 'Kala Gulab'
- Best remembered for her poem, 'Ajj aakhaan Waris Shah nu', Pritam also worked for All India Radio and edited the literary journal Nagmani.
- In 1986, Pritam was nominated to Rajya Sabha.
- She wrote a poem 'Shaam ka Phool' after her first meeting with renowned artist and writer Imroz.
- Imroz designed most of her book covers and made her the subject of several of his paintings
- Their life together comes alive in "Amrita Imroz: A Love Story"



AWARDS

1956: Sahitya Akademi Award

1969: Padma Shri

1981: Bharatiya Jnanpith

2004: the Padma Vibhushan.

She was also conferred in 2004 the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest honour conferred by the Akademi which is reserved for 'the immortals of literature'.

HERE ARE SOME OF HER MOST MEMORABLE BOOKS

Pinjar

Raseedi Ticket

Fifty Fragments of Inner Self

Shadows of Words

IAN'S GRAPHICS

COURTSEY

PARTITION NARRATIVES

DR. MOHAMMAD EJAZ ALAM