

**Pictures of Life in Fiction and Real Life –  
Charlotte Bronte, Anne Tyler & Karen Kingsbury and  
Some Indian Real-Life Stories**

**Mrs. Jeba Regis P. J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar**

=====

**Abstract**

What is the difference between the story of lives in the world of fiction and real life? It is indeed a perspective worth analyzing -- the study of characters in fiction and in real life. People acquire a change of path through a particular event or some such impact or phenomenon. This possibility is seen to be stronger when Faith is involved.

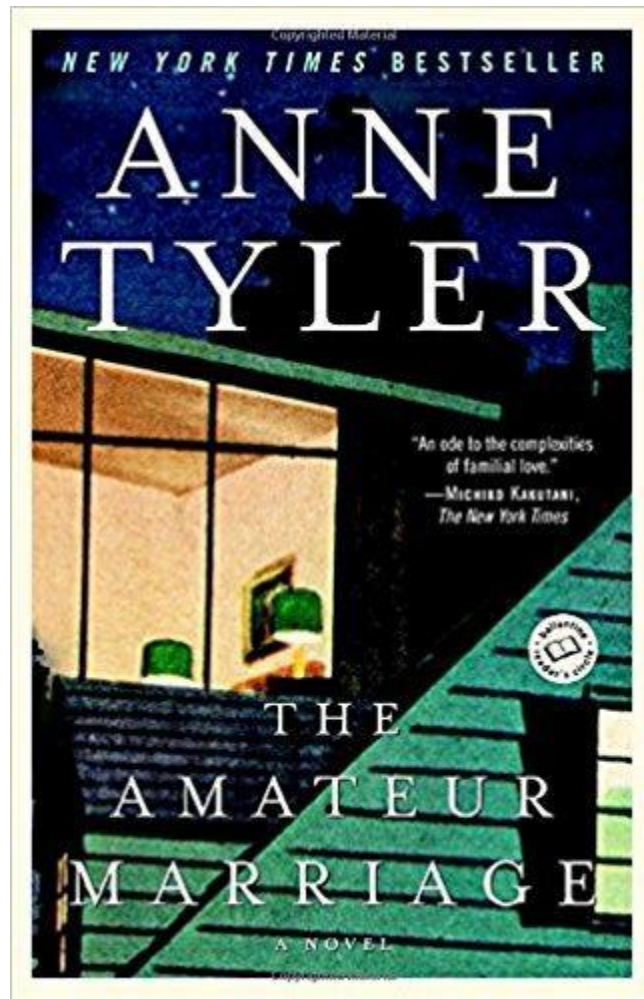
**Key words:** life in fiction, life in real world, love, Faith, God

***Jane Eyre***

America's first settlers brought with them ethics, and the need to understand the necessity of morality. Today, however, differing patterns and choices have brought about change in family life. *Jane Eyre* is a popular English novel. It was written by Charlotte Bronte. It is partly autobiographical. The novel abounds in social criticism, and it is considered to be a literary work ahead of its time. In spite of the dark, brooding elements, it has a strong sense of right and wrong. As Teachman writes, "*Jane Eyre* was written in a period when men believed they had a right to determine what was best for the women in their families and under their hire. Women were taught that their duty was to submit. *Jane Eyre* is the story of a woman who is unwilling to submit to anything she perceived as wrong or unfair" (14).

Anne Tyler similarly, has a strong sense of right and wrong, but she hinders to draw a line. Good and evil has intermingled in society. It is of great advantage to the public to single out the good for the better multiplication of good.

### Novels of Anne Tyler



The novels of Anne Tyler and Karen Kingsbury speak of right and wrong -- of choices and of life; about possibilities of presenting values to the family. As Onyett observes, "Tyler also deals with pride and prejudice, love and friendship, family loyalty and family breakdown" (5). It is significant to derive insights from the titles selected by Anne Tyler. Tyler invents her stories with art and precise details; in the process of achieving it, she weaves together stories that are significantly represented in the titles.

---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:2 February 2018

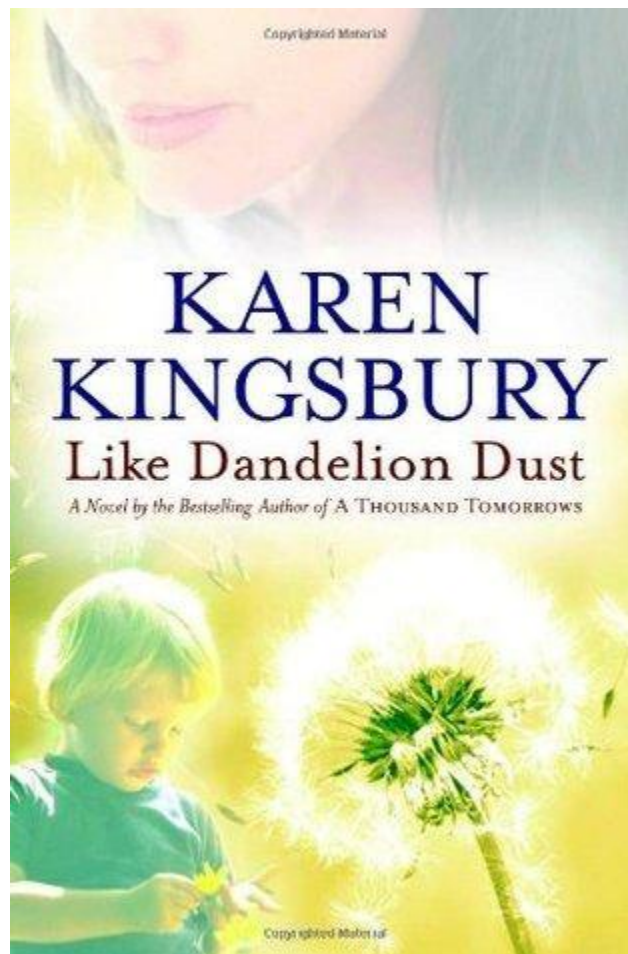
Mrs. Jeba Regis P. J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar

Pictures of Life in Fiction and Real Life – Charlotte Bronte, Anne Tyler & Karen Kingsbury and Some Indian Real-Life Stories

The following novels by Tyler are representative of it: *The Amateur Marriage* signifies the experimental marriage; the novel *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* signifies the longing for home; the novel *The Clock Winder* signifies the return of family time, *Breathing Lessons* signifies surviving familial discontent. *The Accidental Tourist* presents the irrevocable need to contemporize the possibilities of singing with possibilities; *Digging to America* portrays souls struggling to reach the point of satisfaction and *Ladder of Years* presents a remarkable mixture of understanding the span of time in life.

Tyler's titles are reciprocal of familial life and romantic relationships.

### Novels of Karen Kingsbury



---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:2 February 2018

Mrs. Jeba Regis P. J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar

Pictures of Life in Fiction and Real Life – Charlotte Bronte, Anne Tyler & Karen Kingsbury and  
Some Indian Real-Life Stories

Kingsbury also provides significant insight to her readers through her titles. Her novel *Like Dandelion Dust* presents the fleeting nature of life and the need to believe in the very best. The novel *Oceans Apart* creates a stir to read the novel, for it imparts wisdom -- though people live miles apart they are always close to the heart. The title *Where Yesterday Lives* abounds with insights on yesterdays and the present. The title *A Thousand Tomorrows* brings to the forefront the power of love. The title *One Tuesday Morning* is reminiscent of the 9/11 attacks on the twin towers in America. The title *On Every Side* presents the battles raging on every side. The title of the novel *This Side of Heaven* presents the beauty of life on earth. The novel *Unlocked* depicts the unlocking of an autistic boy. The title of the novel *A Time to Dance*, flawlessly represent the possibility of good times for afflicted ones. The titles are representative of life.

### **Ian Bedloe in Tyler's novel *Saint Maybe***

The character sketch of Ian Bedloe in Tyler's novel *Saint Maybe* is reputed: the portraiture of the character reminiscing on change in its various facets. Tyler recognises that there is a sense of balance in the hearts of her readers. Inculcating the need to derive inspiration and personalities in the lovely life, Ian Bedloe loves his brother and in his realization of purity he absolves himself from the need to realise his own need. His sensuality is characteristic of a perspective. It assists him to realize that in marriage it is essential to build a foundation of strength and purity. When a disparity is sensed of the ideal marriage he destroys his brother's sense of integrity by accusation. He remodels his views after whims and fancies; he discloses his sister in law's poor morals. He suffers after he has committed moral injury and physical and spiritual devastation.

Ian feels grieved at the funeral; he hopes for a second-chance, but he is better understood by the Maker and one of the policies of the supernatural -- to seek restitution and thereby acquire restoration is indeed his delve for the higher walks of life. It is indeed a query regarding the nature of a policy that can always be changed but the Creator always maintains a good and right path for the promotion of peace. It is indeed good -- for solace cannot be regained by mere outward change but by change of actions. Ian feels sad after his brother's death and he decides to seek restoration by taking care of his brother's children. The three children grow up very well

---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:2 February 2018

Mrs. Jeba Regis P. J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar

Pictures of Life in Fiction and Real Life – Charlotte Bronte, Anne Tyler & Karen Kingsbury and  
Some Indian Real-Life Stories

and he is a happy caregiver. His life with the youngsters passes on from guided responsibility to supervision. He infuses the role of the secondary caregiver to a responsible family man. A wonderful portraiture rendering ample insight on the need to adhere to values and godly inspiration.

### **Life of Rival Siblings**

In Tyler's novel *The Clock Winder*, the wonderful presentation of the life of rival siblings inspires an evolving remedy for such desires. Matthew has a flaw, but it becomes his greatest strength. He is on the right path of finding a soul mate, but he is firm in his decision. He wants to marry Elizabeth. Though he rushes into the unstable relationship he has with her, he patiently bears the shame of rejection when the woman leaves him during his departure to her home. He does not want to bring havoc and so he patiently waits for a time, the problems are alleviated. Matthew loves his family and is willing to sacrifice his desires for their sake. When a time comes, his own family supports him, and he is willing to accept Elizabeth. The necessity of a helper brings together a wonderful opportunity where Matthew and Elizabeth live in the family home.

### **Condition of Children Born Out of Wedlock**

The individual child born out of wedlock in America is cared for; either by single parents, grandparents or foster care. If the child is deprived of the care of parents he/she becomes the ward of the state. In India the scenario is quite disheartening. On observation, a young boy Praveen (name changed) who is born out of wedlock is left to care for himself/ the boy's mother lives with another man and has three children by him. When he is enquired about his mother Praveen becomes sad. He holds a grudge against her. The reason: he blames her for his nameless father and is ashamed to have ties with her. He lives separately and works in a place; but he also has affection for her; he gives her food. He has psychological issues and cannot work anywhere apart from his present job where the work is not as difficult as it is elsewhere. However, Praveen's mother seeks her son's presence in the family and longs to have a good relationship with him. There are many children who have left home out of embarrassment; the society brands them by the parental heritage.

---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:2 February 2018

Mrs. Jeba Regis P. J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar

Pictures of Life in Fiction and Real Life – Charlotte Bronte, Anne Tyler & Karen Kingsbury and  
Some Indian Real-Life Stories

Praveen longs for shelter and a loving family. There are success stories of children born out of wedlock. A well-known researcher and preacher Stira does not know his parents. As Stira writes in his book, he was exposed to physical and emotional pain in the hostel where he grew up. He had fallen into depression and had killed himself more than five hundred times, the Maker's intervening hand saves him. Praveen and Anand Stira have had emotional conflicts, but it has changed for Stira because of his faith in the Creator.

Another divine inspirational story is that of Sarah (name changed). With the death of her mother, Sarah is raised by her mother's close relatives. She is refused to be given to her father out of concern but as she grew older, she became a burden to her relatives. At age sixteen she was married to an old man who practised polygamy. In the moment of dejection and utter hopelessness, she was on the verge of ending her life along with her children. However, the compassionate intervention of the Creator saves her, and she has escaped and is safe with her children in a secret place. She is also a minister of God. She helps people who are faced with difficult circumstances.

### **Solving Problems by Themselves**

The realistic portrayal of Tyler's characters is the mishap of solving problems by themselves. With relentless effort they seek to hurt and sometimes submit to those around them and embrace the fact of life: life is a cycle worth differentiating and distinguishing from their models. However, as Kingsbury describes in her novels, there is the choice of delving unknowingly unto the unknown, but hope changes the path. In real life, hope is a stand-point of positive perspectives and it is evident through real life of portraiture and Anand Stira, Praveen and Sarah and the many more people excelling through faith in the Creator.

---

---

### **Works Cited**

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Wikipedia Web 08 Dec.2017

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane\\_Eyre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Eyre)

"Lavandula". Wikipedia. Web 30 Nov. 2017.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavandula>

---

---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:2 February 2018

Mrs. Jeba Regis P. J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar

Pictures of Life in Fiction and Real Life – Charlotte Bronte, Anne Tyler & Karen Kingsbury and Some Indian Real-Life Stories

Teachman, Debra. *Understanding Jane Eyre: A Student Casebook to issues, Sources & Historical Documents*. Ebrary.com Greenwood Press, 2001. Web. 8 Mar. 2015.

Onyett, Nicola. "No place like home: setting and symbolism in Anne Tyler's *Digging to America*: Nicola Onyett explores a celebration of veryday life that examines contemporary Amerian culture through the eyes of others." *The English Review* 19.1 (2008): 38+. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 16 Dec. 2013.

Kingsbury, Karen. *A Thousand Tomorrows*. New York: Center Street, 2005. Print.

---. *A Time to Dance*. Colorado Springs: Thomas Nelson, 2001. Print.

---. *Like Dandelion Dust*. New York: Hatchette Book Group, 2006. Print.

---. *Oceans Apart*. New York: Avon, 2004. Print.

---. *On Every Side*. Colorado Springs: Multnomah Books, 2001. Print.

---. *This Side of Heaven*. USA: Hatchette, 2009. Print.

---. *Unlocked*. Michigan: Zondervan, 2010. Print.

---. *Where Yesterday Lives*. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 1998. Print.

Tyler, Anne. *Digging to America*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Print.

---. *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*. London: Vintage, 1992. Print.

---. *Saint Maybe*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1991. Print.

---. *The Accidental Tourist*. London: Vintage, 1985. Print.

---. *The Clock Winder*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1972. Print.

---

Mrs. Jeba Regis P J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar  
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University  
Tirunelveli 627012  
Tamilnadu  
India  
[jebaregisprabhakaran@gmail.com](mailto:jebaregisprabhakaran@gmail.com)

---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:2 February 2018

Mrs. Jeba Regis P. J., M.A., M.Phil., CELTA, Ph.D. Research Scholar  
Pictures of Life in Fiction and Real Life – Charlotte Bronte, Anne Tyler & Karen Kingsbury and  
Some Indian Real-Life Stories 168