

Origins & Originality

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

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What Is Identity?

- *the fact of being who or what a person or thing is. (Oxford Languages)*
- Culture, social environment, and family play a **leading role** in shaping identity.

What is the relationship between name and identity?

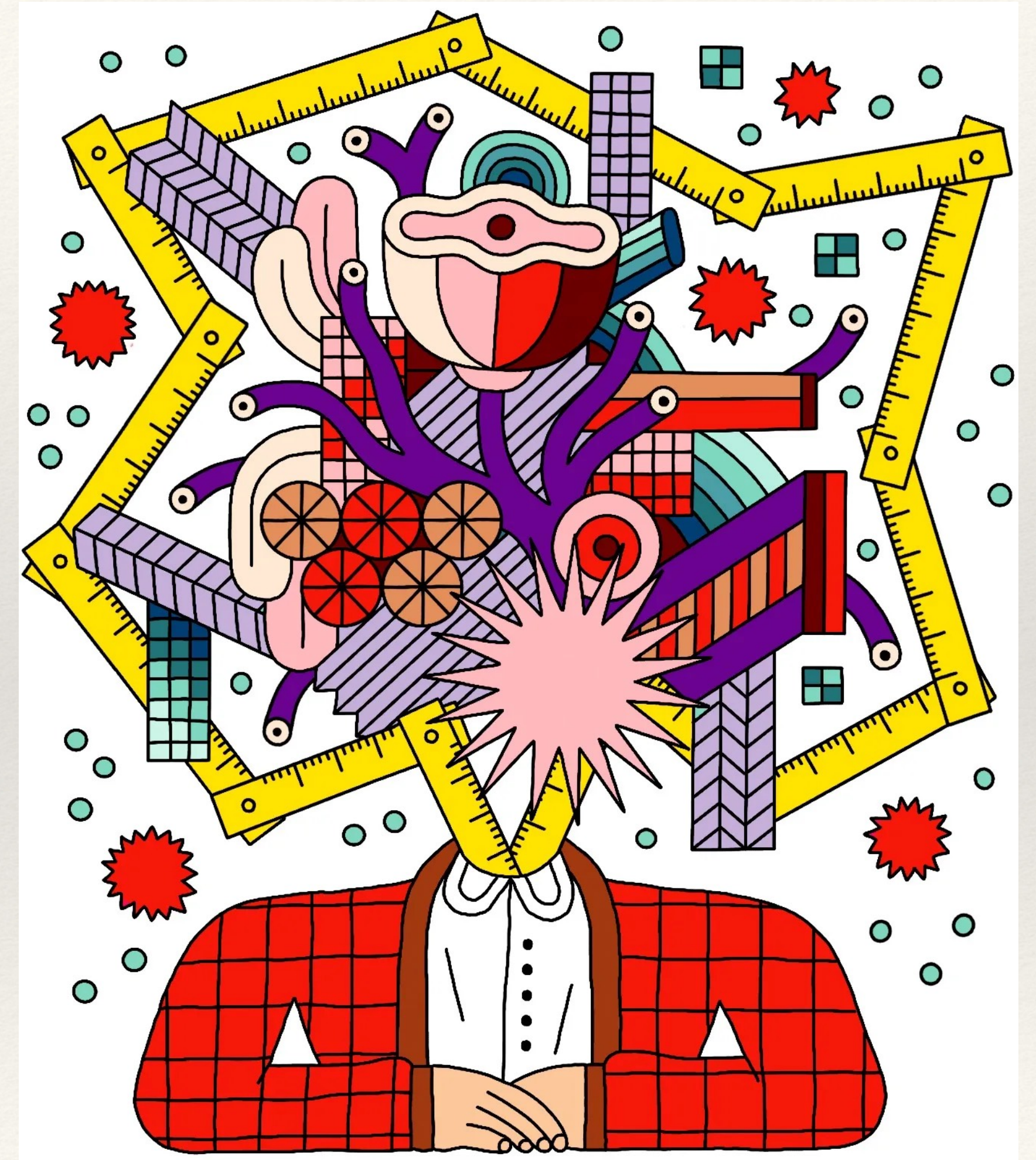


Culture & Environment

- Social environment and culture are two sociological elements that raises each other.
- Culture and environment relationship can also be a conflicting concept
Example: An immigrant's life
- The difference between his identity in the family and social environment:
Gogol vs Nikhil

Origins & Originality

- ‘Naming’
- Traditions
- Family
- Adaptation
- Multiculturalism



The New Yorker

The Idea Of Home - Being An Immigrant

- The idea of home as a sense of belonging
- The search for one true self
- The challenges of being an immigrant in *The Namesake*

Language & Culture

- Language is the representative of cultural identity.
- In the novel, the idea is that cultural roots are preserved by maintaining the knowledge of the mother tongue.
- Language and culture theme in *The Namesake* portrays the difficulties of cultural identity and the challenges faced by immigrants trying to find their place in a foreign society.
- Language mirrors the social norms of society.
- Bilingualism

American Culture & Indian Culture

- Individuality vs Collectivism
- Food Culture
- Fashion
- Family Structure
- Traditions
- Language



Discussion Questions

- **Does multilingualism bring cultural conflicts?**
- **Where is home? Is it the place where people grew up and spent their lives, or the place where their origins belong?**

Sources

- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri (4th Estate , 2019)
- *Shaping Identity: A Study of Jhumpa Lahiri's The Namesake* by Shyamala R (International Journal of Applied Linguistics & English Literature, 2017)
- *Identity Crisis in The Namesake* by Nuzhat Khan (Journal of Contemporary Literature, 2016)
- *The Namesake: A Struggle for Identity* by Terry-Ann Dawes, (Nova Southeastern University, 2007)
- Images: Google Images