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## VIKAS SWARUP Q & A – Slumdog Millionaire

Eine Unterrichtseinheit für die Oberstufe

mit **CD-ROM**

**STARK**

## Vikas Swarup, Q&A – *Slumdog Millionaire*

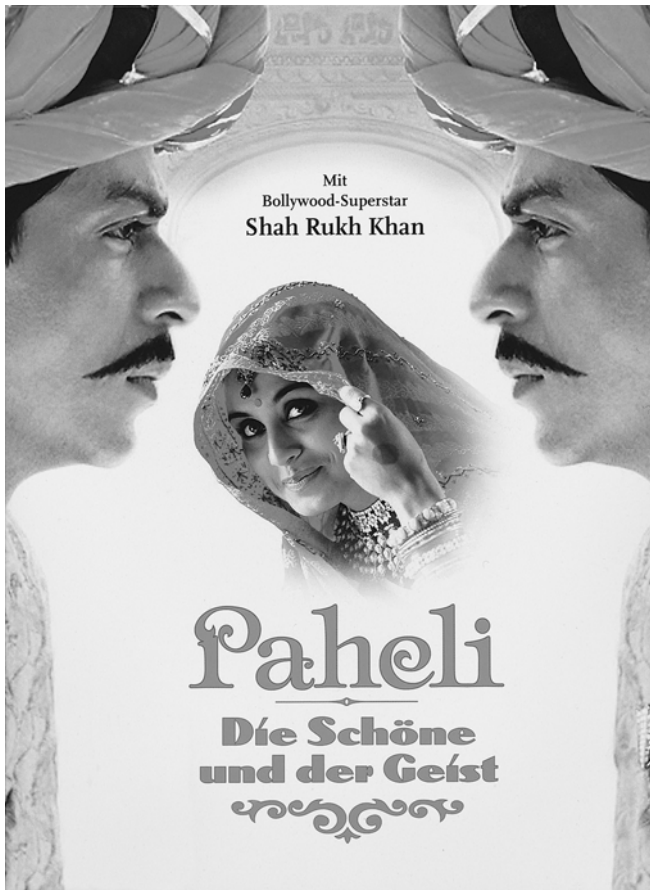
eine Unterrichtseinheit für die Oberstufe  
von Judith Christina Säckl

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**KV 5 The Wonderful World of Bollywood**

- 1 Tell me about your favourite Hollywood star.
- 2 Look at the film poster below. The actors you can see are just as popular in India as your favourite stars are in Europe and North America.  
Describe and interpret the poster (the German title might help you).

**Watching a Bollywood film scene**

- 3 We are going to watch a scene from *Paheli*. While watching, think about why such a film is so popular in India.





**Placemat activity: The real and the fictitious world of Bollywood**

- 4 Get together in groups of four.
  - Sit opposite each other and put the placemat worksheet in the middle. You are responsible for the tasks written on the square (A to D) that is in front of you.
  - Read the text or excerpts from the novel your tasks refers to. Look up unknown words in a dictionary.
  - Write the answers to your tasks onto your part of the placemat or use a spare sheet of paper.
  - The blank space in the middle (E) is the area all of you can contribute to as soon as you have finished your respective tasks. Share your knowledge with the other members of your group and sum up the most important aspects in the middle of the placemat.
  - Be prepared to present the results of your placemat activity to class.





### Placemat

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain Salim's enthusiasm for movies and his devotion to action hero Armaan (cf. Q &amp; A, pp. 31–35).</li><li>• Give reasons why Ram does not like the movie he is watching with Neelima Kumari. Describe the kind of film Ram would enjoy (cf. Q &amp; A, p. 251).</li></ul>	<p><b>E</b></p> <p>What Bollywood represents for Indian people:</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compare Ram's and Neelima's living conditions (cf. Q &amp; A, p. 246/247).</li><li>• Analyze what Neelima is afraid of (cf. Q &amp; A, pp. 253, 260).</li></ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give reasons why Ram feels privileged to be working in Neelima's house (cf. Q &amp; A, p. 246).</li><li>• Explain how being an actress influenced Neelima's private life (cf. Q &amp; A, pp. 246, 250, 267).</li></ul>		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain the function of Bollywood movies according to the text "Planet Bollywood Needs Reality-check!".</li><li>• Give reasons why the author of "Planet Bollywood" criticizes the so-called "popcorn generation" (ll. 53/54).</li></ul>
<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p> <p><b>D</b></p>



## KV 8 Tourism and Travelling in India

### Ram's Journey through India



1 Watch the scene from the movie *Slumdog Millionaire* without the original audio. Instead, you will hear typical Indian music. Point out what makes Indian public transport differ from the German way of travelling.



2 Get together in groups, choose one of the following tasks and present your results in class later on.



a Analyse how tourism is presented in the novel.

- Name the place(s) where Ram meets tourists and explain what the tourists like about it/them. (cf. *Q & A*, pp. 277–282, 294–297)
- Analyse how the tourists are portrayed in the novel.
- Examine how Ram feels about the tourists.



b Examine Ram's journeys through India.

- Read again about Ram's journeys (cf. *Q & A*, pp. 84–86, 91, 103/104, 155/156, 173/174, 190/191) and take notes on the respective points of departure and arrival as well as on the reasons for these journeys.
- Then draw his route on the map. Use symbols/colours to show the different stages of Ram's journey and arrows to indicate the direction he is travelling in.





Please open your eyes, have mercy and help these children! Don't pretend the misery you don't see doesn't exist! Organize help and free these children!

Yours faithfully,  
Ram Mohammad Thomas

### KV 5 The Wonderful World of Bollywood

- 1 Individual solutions
- 2 The man is shown twice on the poster (mirrored on a central axis), which makes him seem very dominant. Furthermore, he is pictured in the foreground and looks quite determined. The woman in the background seems to be confused or scared. She looks as if she is about to run away from someone or something. The movie is probably about a love story between the man and the woman on the poster, in which problems have to be overcome. The German title suggests that there is a ghost involved in the story.

#### Watching a Bollywood film scene

- 3 The scene is very entertaining due to the characters' dancing and singing. Beautiful women are presented, who wear a lot of jewelry and expensive saris. The scene seems to present a dream world.

#### Placemat activity: The real and the fictitious world of Bollywood

- 4 **A** Bollywood movies function as entertainment. By watching them, Salim escapes from his hard life. They are a contrast to his problems and worries. Armaan is a role model for Salim. Meeting Armaan in person makes Salim's illusory world become real. The encounter means a brief insight into his dream world.  
Ram does not like the movie because it is too realistic. He probably likes watching unrealistic movies as he wants to see an illusory world. His aim is to get a glimpse of his personal dream world. For Ram, movies should present an illusion and therefore contrast with real life. For him they have the function of entertainment, and they provide an opportunity to escape reality for a while.
- B** Neelima lives in abundance. Her living conditions contrast with Ram's everyday life as she possesses everything somebody could wish for, whereas Ram lives below the poverty line.  
Neelima is afraid of seeing her real face and of facing herself as a person, in contrast to playing a part in a movie. She is afraid of ageing and physically fading away.
- C** Ram feels privileged as the new job at Neelima's offers an insight into a star's life. But Neelima's job has taken over her real life. She embodies the illusory world that Bollywood tries to be and identifies herself with the characters she plays. Her greatest (and final) role is her suicide, which she celebrates. Her aim is to "live" and be remembered as the tragedy queen forever. For her, suicide is the only way to deal with the problem of getting older and losing her beauty.



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