

# Autobiographical elements of the room on the roof essay



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Room on The Roof is the first novel by Ruskin Bond . It is the story of Rusty who is a 16 year old boy. After his parents died he was living with his English Guardian. He was quite unhappy with the ruthless ways and strict rules of his Guardian and decides to break-free one day. So he goes to nearby market and makes many friends and starts living there. He discovers life is not that easy and he has to face a number of challenges that are waiting for him. Ruskin Bond in his first venture keeps people captivated from the very first page till the last one through the simplicity in his writing and spontaneity.

He has so well represented every detail that it engages the reader very well and proves to be a complete page-turner. The reader will feel the pain of Rusty and laugh at the light-hearted humor. The book summons up all the traits of human life well ranging from adolescence, love, friendship to losing your loved ones and agonies of life. Ruskin has a certain poetic style of writing. He chooses words carefully and describes every detail appropriately. The marked style of writing is note worthy when the boy gets into the dilemma of living India and going to England.

Ruskin uses many adjectives to support his writing that make his work beautiful and graceful to read. He also remarkably shows in the novel, how some strangers can become part and parcel of one's life by showing a little tenderness and warmth. Rusty, the protagonist in the novel underwent same state and made some friends for lifetime. The novel is the winner of John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize and is certainly a pleasure to read. About the author Ruskin Bond was born in a military hospital in Kasauli to Edith Clerke and Aubrey Bond. His siblings were Ellen and William. Ruskin's father was with the Royal Air Force.

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When Bond was four years old, his mother was separated from his father and married a Punjabi-Hindu, Mr. Hari, who himself had been married once. Bond spent his early childhood in Jamnagar and Shimla. At the age of ten Ruskin went to live at his grandmother's house in Dehradun after his father's sudden death in 1944 from malaria. Ruskin was raised by his mother, who remarried an Indian businessman. He completed his schooling at Bishop Cotton School in Shimla, from where he graduated in 1952 after winning several writing competitions in the school like the Irwin Divinity Prize and the Hailey Literature Prize.

Following his high school education he spent four years in England. In London he started writing his first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, the semi-autobiographical story of the orphaned Anglo-Indian boy Rusty. It won the 1957 John Llewellyn Rhys prize, awarded to a British Commonwealth writer under 30. Bond used the advance money from the book to pay the sea passage to Bombay. He worked for some years as a journalist in Delhi and Dehradun. Since 1963 he has lived as a freelance writer in Mussoorie, a town in the Himalayan foothills. [1] He wrote *Vagrants in the Valley*, as a sequel to *The Room on the Roof*. These two novels were published in one volume by Penguin India in 1993.

The following year a collection of his non-fiction writings, *The Best Of Ruskin Bond* was published by Penguin India. His interest in the paranormal led him to write popular titles such as *Ghost Stories from the Raj*, *A Season of Ghosts*, *A Face in the Dark* and other *Hauntings*. The Indian Council for Child

Education recognised his pioneering role in the growth of children's literature in India, and awarded him the Sahitya Academi Award in 1992 for *Our Trees*  
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Still Grow in Dehra. He received the Padma Shri in 1999. Media-shy, he currently lives in Landour, Mussoorie's Ivy Cottage, which has been his home since 1964.