

**ASSIGNMENT MADE BY GROUP NO. 1.**

**GROUP MEMBERS:**

**LEADER: ALEENA FAROOQ – ROLL NO. 07.**

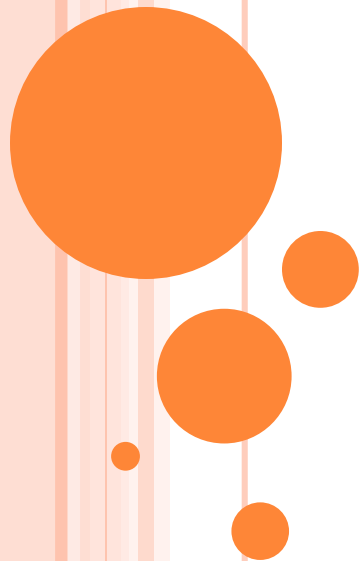
**SAMIA AZHAR – ROLL NO. 17.**

**HIRA ASIM – ROLL NO. 22.**

**LARAIB NADEEM – ROLL NO. 30.**

**SADAF JAMAL – ROLL NO. 36.**

**ZULAIKHA HAMEED – ROLL NO. 39.**



## Topic:

**What exactly happens in the Marabar caves? Indicate the consequences of the visit.**

**What are the effects of the visit upon Mrs. Moore and Ms. Adela?**



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION:

In his novel, *A Passage To India*, E. M. Forster uses a series of symbols to describe an unbridled political climate in colonial India. There are many interesting points of thought to be discovered within the novel, and chief among them are the Marabar Caves, where the main turn of the plot occurs.

In the novel, a group led by Doctor Aziz, and containing notably Mrs. Moore and Adela Quested go on an expedition to visit the caves and absorb their grandeur, but the trip changes each person in a very dramatic and unexpected way. The caves themselves do not participate in the action, but act as a sort of ever-present symbol acting as a background to each character's alteration.

The core event in the novel is the 'assault' experienced by Adela Quested in one of the Marabar Caves, where Aziz has taken Miss Quested and Mrs. Moore for a day's excursion despite his scarce knowledge of the Hindu caves. The central chapter of the section begins with Aziz, Mrs. Moore, Miss Quested and a guide from the local village having climbed up the hills and being away from the rest of the expedition party. Aziz has separated himself from Adela since he lost his emotional balance because of her insensitive questioning.

The narrator follows Aziz, who goes into one of the caves where he waits and lights a cigarette in order to recover his equilibrium. When he comes back, Aziz finds the guide who is alone and says that he has heard a noise, the whine of a motor car. Aziz and the guide try to get a better look at the oncoming car.

The guide says that Ms. Adela went into a cave and Aziz berates the guide for not keeping track of her. Aziz is confused and a few seconds later sees that Miss Quested had joined her friends at the base of the hill. His relief is followed by concern as he finds Adela's field glasses with a broken leather strap lying at the edge of a cave.

In the course of the novel, Adela Quested claims that she has been sexually assaulted in the Marabar Caves by the young Indian doctor Aziz and the subsequent court case polarizes the two communities - the Indian and the English - until Adela admits that she was mistaken and that Aziz is innocent.



## THE VISIT TO THE MARABAR CAVES:

Looking towards the Marabar Hills one day, Adela remarks that she would like to visit them with Aziz. The outing involves many details and much expense on Aziz's part, but he plans everything and invites Fielding and Godbole, alongwith the two ladies, to the caves. The train that travels to the hills leaves just before dawn, so Aziz, Mohammed Latif, and many servants spend the night at the train station to avoid being late.

**Mrs. Moore and Adela, arrive early in the morning. Fielding has not yet arrived with Godbole, Aziz is not nervous because he knows that Englishmen never miss trains. Suddenly, the train starts to move just as Fielding and Godbole arrive at the station and the Englishman tries unsuccessfully to jump on the train. Aziz becomes panicked and desperate, but Mrs. Moore and Adela reassure him that the outing will continue successfully without Fielding. Aziz suddenly feels love for the two women, Mrs. Moore especially, for their graciousness and blindness to race.**

During the train ride, Adela thinks and chats with Mrs. Moore about her future plans. Nearing the hills, the train comes to a stop next to an elephant. For Aziz's benefit, Adela and Mrs. Moore fake some excitement about taking an elephant ride. Aziz feels happy and relieved, as he indeed went through great trouble to obtain the elephant for the outing. The group climbs up onto the elephant, and many villagers gather and walk with it to the Marabar Caves. In the pale early morning light, the landscape appears colorless and lifeless, with an odd silence and no romance.

The group finally reaches the hills, but Adela and Mrs. Moore do not find them beautiful, and Aziz does not know enough about the area to act as an effective tour guide. The group enters the first cave, which becomes crowded when the villagers follow them. Mrs. Moore feels crowded and she panics when something strikes her on the face. She is terrified by the cave's echo, which takes all sounds and reduces them to the sound "boom." The group exits the caves. She politely refuses to enter another cave, but she encourages Adela to continue on with Aziz. Aziz, Adela, and the guide leave.

**Mrs. Moore tries to write a letter to her other children, but she is haunted by the sound of the echo in the cave. The echo seems to suggest that nothing has value, and it renders even the words of Mrs. Moore's Christianity null. Mrs. Moore becomes despairing and completely dispirited. Aziz, Adela, and the guide climb up toward other caves higher in the hills. Aziz's mind is preoccupied with breakfast preparations. Adela is also distracted, as she suddenly realizes that she and Ronny are not in love. Adela asks Aziz if he is married and if he has more than one wife.**

The second question shocks Aziz, and he ducks into a cave to recover. Adela follows shortly and enters another cave. Aziz exits the cave to find the guide alone. The two men hear the sound of a motorcar. Aziz looks for Adela, and the guide explains that she went into one of the caves. Aziz scolds the guide for not keeping Adela in sight, and together they shout for her. In frustration, Aziz slaps the guide, who runs away.

Then, with relief, Aziz notices Adela already down the hills, speaking to a woman near the motorcar. Aziz notices Adela's field-glasses lying broken on the ground. He picks them up and proceeds back to camp, where he is overjoyed to find that Fielding has arrived in Miss Derek's car. Aziz then finds out that Miss Derek and Adela have already started to drive back to Chandrapore.

## THE VISIT'S EFFECTS:

**In the Marabar Caves the cross cultural tensions rises to its climax. In these caves Mrs. Moore and Adela Quested are totally changed. The visit to these caves causes the physical and spiritual breakdown of Mrs. Moore and leads Adela Quested to the edge of madness.**



**The visit shows that 'The passage to India is never possible.' Dr. Aziz invited Mrs. Moore and Adela Quested to become his guests and visit the caves.**

**They respond to the cordial invitation of Aziz and he thinks that one of the dreams of his life is fulfilled, but the incident goes completely reverse.**

**In the caves, Mrs. Moore loses her interest. Mysteriously she is completely changed. Suddenly, she thinks relation between man and world is meaningless. In the dark and small caves she thinks that everything in the world is meaningless. She loses the power of making distinction between God and devil, good and evil. Everything seems to be worthless to her. It all happened because of the 'echo' she heard in the caves.**

**This echo touches her heart; it breaks down her physical and mental sanity. She fails to keep balance with the atmosphere and she suffers from physical as well as spiritual breakdown. The darkness and the smallness of the caves remind her of her death and grave and it forced her to think of the final nothingness, that is death. This very echo causes her great disturbance, and ultimately she leaves India and on her way to England she passes away and meets a watery grave in the Mediterranean Sea.**

The same echo haunts Adela Quested, probably the darkness and the mysterious atmosphere of the caves provoke her to think about her loveless marriage with Ronny. She thinks that she does not love Ronny, but she will have to spend a loveless marital life with him. She innocently asks Aziz how many wives he possesses. Aziz, unwilling to share anything related to his marriages, goes into another cave and lights up a cigarette. Meanwhile, Adela is attacked by hallucination that Aziz is trying to rape her. So she rushes out the caves and files up a case accusing Aziz as a rapist.

**But actually, Adela lost her balance of mind in the caves. Her field glasses were lost in the narrow caves and she was knocked at by the wall in darkness. For this reason she, out of hallucination, fears that Aziz is making an attempt to rape her. Symbolically interpreted, the caves show the primitive nature in man. Caves are the dwelling place of the primitive people. Uncivilized and primitive people were fond of bloodshed, revenge and chaos. In the same manner in the caves Adela's primitive nature arouses and she accuses an innocent man of rape.**

## CONCLUSION:

The Marabar Caves represent all that is unknown about nature. The caves are older than anything else on the earth and symbolize nothingness and emptiness—a literal void in the earth. The caves' alien quality also has the power to make visitors such as Mrs. Moore and Adela to confront parts of themselves or the universe that they have not previously recognized.

**The echo of the caves causes Mrs. Moore to see the darker side of her spirituality—a fading commitment to the world of relationships and a growing uncertainty about God. Adela confronts the shame and embarrassment of her realization that she and Ronny are not actually attracted to each other, and that she might be attracted to no one.**

**THANK YOU! 😊**

