

Meena is greatly affected by those around her, even more ~~so~~ ~~as she is in her childhood~~ ~~about her~~ as she is in her childhood years and therefore is easily influenced too. ~~Both her family and~~ Her family, friends and those in the community change Meena and help her grow into herself.

Anita is Meena's best friend in the book as is a huge influence on Meena, which ~~creates~~ ~~loss of~~ when Meena first meets Anita by Mr Omara's Shop, she already acts different than she would, she "instinctively stiffened" with her heart "flipping like a fish". At first Anita affects Meena as she scares her, being so

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much higher up than her on the social scale, Meena feels the need to impress her. Further on in the book become "best mates" and Meena becomes almost Anita's prodigy, finding out more and more about the world of teenage boys, sex and rebellion and being torn away from her family and culture. We see Meena be affected by Anita by becoming more rude, especially to her parents, less and less to do with her Indian roots and more rebellious. We see this in the book as Meena prefer to go to the fair rather than church since it would be "dead good," she uses the phrase "shut the arse off it" because she feels the need to use the local slang and she steals a charity tin just to impress Anita.

Another character ~~was~~ who ~~changed~~ changes Meena a lot is Nanima. From the book we can extract that Nanima is the main person

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helps Meena realize she needs to embrace her Indian culture. Meena learns Punjabi through the help of Nanima so she can communicate with her. This shows Meena is greatly affected by Nanima as she does challenging tasks such as learning another language so that she can get closer to her and learn more about her culture.

Meena is influenced ~~by her~~ ~~because~~ more by Nanima as she brings her back to her family. ~~the~~ Meena notices the change within her and the family ~~to~~ ~~the~~ due to Nanima saying "everyone" was happier when she was here".

~~The~~ Mama and Papa greatly affect Meena, this is ~~a~~ presumed as they are her parents yet discipline is hardly drilled into her as Meena spends most of the book rebelling with Anita. The main thing which Meena learns from her parents is how important education is for Meena to get far in life.

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towards the end of the novel when Meena has grown up, Meena knows how important the ~~exam~~ 11+ exam is as she keeps reminding herself ~~she has~~ "oh I have an exam in the morning.", this is probably after many years of her parents, ~~especially~~ more particularly Mamma, influencing Meena of the importance of education.

The people of Tollington influence Meena by educating her of the ~~no~~ outside world. If Meena had not witnessed the racist remarks by Sam at the fête Meena would still probably be naive towards racism and not as knowledgeable in this aspect of life.

To conclude, Meena was greatly affected by those around her in the novel but the ~~great~~ most by ~~her~~ Nanima who ~~made~~ ~~a~~ ~~so~~ influenced Meena

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to embrace her culture, which
meena did fully. Meena was
affected mostly by what she
was told and what she witnessed
while living in Tollington, but
ultimately she realised after experimenting
with many different ways of
life that her home was her
indian culture.

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS