



## THE INNER WORLD OF IMMIGRANT CHARACTERS IN ABDULRAZAK GURNAH'S «BY THE SEA»

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**Abstract:** Abdulrazak Gurnah's novel «By the Sea» offers a profound exploration of the immigrant experience through its complex characters. This article delves into the inner worlds of these characters, examining how their identities, memories, and emotions are shaped by their journeys. The analysis highlights the psychological and emotional landscapes navigated by the immigrants, reflecting broader themes of displacement, loss, and adaptation.

**Keywords:** immigrant characters, inner world, psychological landscape, displacement, identity, memory, trauma, adaptation, resilience, cultural identity, refugee experience, emotional turmoil, psychological resilience.

### Introduction

«By the Sea» a novel by Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah, tells the compelling and deeply human story of two men from Zanzibar, Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud, who find themselves in a small English seaside town after escaping the political turmoil and personal tragedies of their homeland. The novel, set against the backdrop of the serene yet foreign English coast, serves as a canvas upon which Gurnah paints a vivid picture of the immigrant experience. Through the interwoven narratives of Saleh and Latif, Gurnah masterfully explores themes of migration, identity, and memory, providing a rich and nuanced portrayal of the psychological landscapes navigated by those who have been uprooted from their native soil.

Saleh Omar, once a prosperous merchant, arrives in England with nothing but a small suitcase and an intricately carved wooden box. His journey is one of profound loss and resilience, as he grapples with the stark realities of his new life while haunted by the memories of his past. Latif Mahmud, on the other hand, is an academic who left Zanzibar under different circumstances, but his experiences of dislocation and alienation are no less intense. The meeting of these two men, seemingly coincidental, becomes a pivotal point in their lives, as they confront their shared histories and the traumas that have shaped their existences. Gurnah's narrative technique intricately weaves the past and present, allowing the reader to delve deeply into the inner worlds of Saleh and Latif. Through their personal stories, the novel illuminates the broader socio-political contexts that influence their journeys, providing insights into the complexities of identity formation and the immigrant experience. The characters' introspections and interactions reveal the multifaceted nature of displacement, where physical relocation is accompanied by profound psychological and emotional upheaval.

This article seeks to unpack the inner lives of Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud, exploring how their pasts and presents intermingle to shape their experiences and perceptions. By examining the nuanced portrayals of these characters, the article aims to shed light on the broader themes of migration and identity that Gurnah so poignantly addresses. The exploration of their inner worlds not only underscores the personal dimensions of the immigrant experience but also reflects the universal human condition of seeking belonging and meaning amidst change and uncertainty. Through this analysis, we gain a deeper understanding of the

resilience and complexity inherent in the journey of migration, as well as the enduring impact of memory and identity on the lives of those who traverse borders and cultures.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE OF IMMIGRANTS**

Saleh Omar's character in Abdulrazak Gurnah's «By the Sea» is marked by profound loss and resilience, embodying the complexities of the immigrant experience. Once a prosperous merchant in Zanzibar, Saleh arrives in England under the guise of a refugee seeking asylum, a disguise that underscores the drastic transformation his life has undergone. His journey from a respected figure in his community to a marginalized outsider in a foreign land is fraught with emotional and psychological turmoil.

Saleh's inner world is a landscape of profound grief and resilience. His past is overshadowed by the catastrophic loss of his home, business, and family, leaving him haunted by memories that refuse to fade. The confiscation of his property by the government, a manifestation of political corruption and betrayal, not only stripped him of his material wealth but also shattered his sense of security and identity. This betrayal by his homeland, compounded by the personal tragedy of losing his family, fuels a deep sense of injustice and bitterness.

Upon his arrival in England, Saleh's silence and stoicism serve as his primary coping mechanisms. These traits are not mere personality quirks but deliberate strategies to shield himself from the trauma of his past and the uncertainties of his present and future. His silence is a form of resistance against the invasive questioning of authorities and a way to maintain a semblance of control over his narrative. This self-imposed muteness also reflects the larger theme of speechlessness experienced by many refugees, who often feel their stories are too painful or complex to be understood by outsiders.

Saleh's resilience is evident in his ability to navigate the alien and often hostile environment of his new country. Despite the bureaucratic hurdles and social isolation, he gradually adapts to his surroundings, finding small ways to assert his dignity and humanity. His journey is not just about physical survival but also about retaining a sense of self amidst the dislocation. Saleh's interactions with other characters, particularly with Latif Mahmud, reveal the layers of his emotional world. These interactions often trigger memories of his past, illustrating how the present and past are inextricably linked in his psyche.

Moreover, Saleh's relationship with the carved wooden box he brings with him symbolizes his attempt to preserve his heritage and memories. The box, a tangible connection to his lost home, holds both personal and cultural significance. It serves as a repository of his identity and a reminder of what he has lost, yet also as a source of strength and continuity. The box's contents, which are gradually revealed throughout the novel, provide insights into Saleh's inner world and the enduring impact of his past experiences on his present state of mind.

Saleh Omar's character is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of profound adversity. His journey of survival and adaptation, marked by silence and stoicism, reflects the broader psychological landscape of immigrants who must navigate the twin challenges of external displacement and internal fragmentation. Through Saleh, Gurnah vividly illustrates the emotional and psychological toll of migration, as well as the enduring power of memory and identity in shaping the immigrant experience.

## **IDENTITY AND DISPLACEMENT**

Saleh's identity is inextricably linked to his homeland, Zanzibar, a place that encompasses his personal history, cultural roots, and social status. In Zanzibar, Saleh was a respected merchant, a man of means and influence within his community. This identity was not only a reflection of his economic success but also of his social standing and the respect he commanded among his peers. However, his displacement to England as an asylum seeker forces a profound reconfiguration of self, highlighting the multifaceted and often painful nature of identity in the context of migration.

The stark dissonance between Saleh's past identity and his present reality serves as a central theme in Abdulrazak Gurnah's narrative. As a merchant, Saleh was a symbol of stability and prosperity. His business was more than a livelihood; it was a testament to his hard work, intelligence, and ability to navigate the complexities of trade and social relations. The confiscation of his business and the subsequent forced departure from his homeland represent not just a loss of material wealth but a dismantling of his very identity. In England, he is stripped of the symbols and status that once defined him, and he must confront a

new, often hostile, environment where he is seen merely as an asylum seeker.

This transformation from a figure of respect to one of marginalization illustrates the fracturing of Saleh's sense of self. The internal monologues that Gurnah employs reveal Saleh's inner turmoil as he grapples with his new identity. He is acutely aware of the gap between who he was and who he is perceived to be now. This awareness brings with it a sense of shame and indignity, as well as a deep-seated feeling of injustice. Saleh's internal dialogues often reflect his struggle to reconcile these two identities, highlighting the psychological conflict inherent in displacement.

Gurnah uses Saleh's interactions with others to further depict the struggle of maintaining dignity in the face of dislocation. In his new environment, Saleh is often confronted with prejudice and misunderstanding, which challenge his efforts to assert his dignity. The bureaucratic processes he must navigate to seek asylum are dehumanizing, reducing him to a series of documents and case numbers. Despite these challenges, Saleh strives to retain a sense of self-worth. His stoicism and silence, while initially seeming like signs of submission, are in fact his ways of preserving his dignity and agency. He refuses to let the external forces completely redefine him, clinging to the remnants of his former self.

Furthermore, the dissonance between Saleh's past and present identities underscores the broader theme of the immigrant experience, where individuals are often forced to reconstruct their identities in new and unfamiliar contexts. This reconstruction is not just about adapting to a new culture but also about negotiating the internal conflicts that arise from such a profound shift in self-perception. For Saleh, this involves a continuous process of integrating his past experiences and identity with his present reality.

The tension between Saleh's past and present is also reflected in his relationship with objects from his homeland, such as the carved wooden box he brings with him. These objects serve as physical links to his former identity and heritage, helping him to maintain a sense of continuity. They are tangible reminders of who he was and what he has lost, yet they also provide comfort and a connection to his roots.

Saleh's journey in «By the Sea» is a poignant exploration of identity and displacement. Gurnah's portrayal of Saleh's internal struggles and external interactions offers a nuanced understanding of how displacement affects one's sense of self. Saleh's story illustrates the complex process of identity reconfiguration that immigrants undergo, highlighting the resilience required to maintain dignity amidst profound changes. Through Saleh, Gurnah vividly captures the emotional and psychological impact of displacement, making a powerful statement about the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

## MEMORY AND TRAUMA

Saleh's memories in Abdulrazak Gurnah's «By the Sea» are a complex tapestry of fragmented recollections and selective remembrances, woven together by the threads of mundane objects and fleeting moments. As a former merchant from Zanzibar who finds himself in a small English seaside town seeking asylum, Saleh's memories serve as both a refuge and a battleground, offering glimpses into a past that is simultaneously comforting and agonizing.

The fragments of Saleh's memories are not chronological or coherent but rather associative, triggered unexpectedly by objects, scents, or sounds encountered in his new environment. Gurnah deftly portrays these memory triggers as portals to Saleh's past, revealing the depth of his emotional connection to Zanzibar and the life he left behind. A simple object—a carved wooden box, perhaps containing mementos from his former life—can evoke a flood of memories, transporting Saleh back to a time when his identity was firmly rooted in his homeland.

However, these memories are not merely nostalgic reflections of happier times. They are also laden with pain and loss, serving as constant reminders of everything Saleh has been forced to leave behind. The trauma of losing his home, business, and family reverberates through his memories, casting a shadow over his present existence in England. The tension between remembering and forgetting becomes a central theme in Saleh's narrative, reflecting the broader immigrant experience of navigating between the past and present, between preserving one's cultural heritage and assimilating into a new society.

Saleh's struggle with memory is not just about recalling past events but also about making sense of his fractured identity in light of his displacement. The act of remembering becomes a form of resistance against the erasure of his former life, a way of asserting his existence and preserving his dignity amidst the challenges of asylum-seeking and cultural adaptation. His selective recollections and deliberate forgettings

illustrate the complexities of memory as both a burden and a lifeline for immigrants grappling with loss and displacement.

Besides, Gurnah's depiction of Saleh's memories serves to humanize the immigrant experience, highlighting the profound emotional and psychological toll of uprooting one's life and starting anew in a foreign land. Through Saleh, Gurnah invites readers to empathize with the internal struggles faced by immigrants who must navigate the intricate terrain of memory, trauma, and identity amidst the complexities of their new surroundings.

Saleh's fragmented memories in «By the Sea» offer a poignant exploration of the immigrant's journey through the labyrinth of memory and trauma. Gurnah's portrayal underscores the universal theme of how memories shape and define individual identity, particularly in the context of displacement and adaptation. Saleh's narrative reminds us that memory is not just a repository of the past but a powerful force that shapes our understanding of who we are and where we come from, even as we navigate the uncertainties of our present and future.

Latif Mahmud, portrayed in Abdulrazak Gurnah's «By the Sea» embodies a distinct facet of the immigrant experience—one characterized by intellectual and emotional exile. Unlike Saleh Omar, who fled Zanzibar as a refugee, Latif left his homeland voluntarily to pursue academic opportunities abroad. However, despite the differences in their circumstances, Latif's journey is no less fraught with emotional complexity and inner turmoil.

Latif's inner world is marked by a profound sense of alienation, which manifests in multiple dimensions. Firstly, there is his alienation from his homeland, Zanzibar, a place he left behind in pursuit of intellectual growth and personal advancement. While Saleh grapples with the loss of his past identity and material possessions, Latif wrestles with the existential questions of identity and belonging. His decision to leave Zanzibar was driven by a desire for knowledge and opportunity, yet it also severed his ties to the cultural and familial roots that once anchored him.

Additionally, Latif experiences a deep-seated alienation in his current environment—a small English seaside town where he finds himself isolated both culturally and socially. As an academic, his pursuits set him apart from both the local community and other immigrants who may share a more communal immigrant experience. His intellectual pursuits, while enriching, also contribute to his sense of detachment, highlighting the paradox of achieving external success while feeling internally adrift.

Latif's journey is characterized by a constant negotiation between the intellectual pursuits that define his present and the emotional ties that bind him to his past. Gurnah uses Latif's introspection and interactions with others to explore the complexities of this inner conflict. Latif's intellectual exile is not just physical but also psychological, as he grapples with questions of identity, belonging, and the price of pursuing one's aspirations at the cost of personal and cultural roots.

In contrast to Saleh's silent stoicism, Latif's introspective nature allows readers to glimpse into his inner world—a landscape shaped by nostalgia for a past he left behind and uncertainty about the future he is forging. His interactions with Saleh, whose arrival serves as a catalyst for Latif's self-reflection, reveal the intertwining threads of memory and aspiration that define his immigrant experience.

Through Latif Mahmud, Gurnah offers a poignant examination of the emotional complexities faced by immigrants who, like Latif, straddle multiple worlds—past and present, homeland and host country, intellectual pursuits and emotional yearning. Latif's narrative invites readers to contemplate the sacrifices and challenges inherent in pursuing personal growth and professional success while navigating the inherent tensions of displacement and adaptation.

Latif Mahmud's character in «By the Sea» serves as a profound exploration of the intellectual and emotional dimensions of the immigrant experience. Gurnah's portrayal of Latif underscores the universal themes of alienation and identity crisis faced by individuals who choose to leave their homeland in pursuit of personal and intellectual fulfillment. Through Latif's story, Gurnah invites readers to reflect on the complexities of migration and the enduring quest for belonging amidst the complexities of cultural, intellectual, and emotional landscapes.

## ALIENATION AND BELONGING

Latif Mahmud's sense of alienation in Abdulrazak Gurnah's novel «By the Sea» is a multifaceted



exploration of the immigrant experience, intricately woven with themes of intellectual pursuit and personal identity. Unlike many immigrants who find themselves displaced due to external forces, Latif's alienation stems primarily from his intellectual pursuits, which set him apart not only from his fellow immigrants but also from his English peers. This intellectual distance serves as a barrier to his sense of belonging, highlighting the complex interplay between external success and internal fulfillment.

Latif's academic success, achieved through determination and scholarly dedication, stands as an external marker of achievement. He navigates the corridors of knowledge and achieves recognition in the academic world, yet this success does not mitigate his internal sense of fragmentation. Instead, it amplifies his isolation, as his intellectual pursuits deepen the divide between himself and those around him.

In the small English seaside town where Latif resides, his status as an academician further alienates him from the immigrant community, whose experiences and aspirations may differ significantly from his own. While they share a common displacement from their homelands, Latif's intellectual pursuits and aspirations for personal growth set him apart, creating a cultural and emotional distance that complicates his integration into the community.

Furthermore, Latif's alienation extends to his interactions with English peers, whose perspectives and experiences are shaped by different cultural and societal norms. Despite his academic accomplishments, Latif finds himself on the periphery of social circles, where cultural differences and mutual misunderstandings serve as barriers to genuine connection and acceptance. The paradox of achieving external success while feeling internally fragmented underscores the existential dilemma faced by immigrants like Latif, who grapple with the dual desires for professional achievement and personal fulfillment.

Gurnah skillfully portrays Latif's inner turmoil through introspective narratives and poignant dialogues, offering readers a glimpse into the emotional complexities of his immigrant experience. Latif's journey becomes a poignant exploration of the universal themes of identity, belonging, and the price of intellectual pursuit in the face of cultural displacement.

Through Latif Mahmud's character, Gurnah invites readers to contemplate the profound implications of intellectual and emotional exile, where success in one realm does not guarantee fulfillment in another. Latif's narrative challenges conventional notions of assimilation and integration, highlighting the enduring quest for belonging amidst the complexities of cultural, intellectual, and emotional landscapes.

Latif Mahmud's portrayal in «By the Sea» serves as a powerful exploration of the alienation experienced by immigrants who, like Latif, navigate the delicate balance between external achievements and internal fulfillment. Gurnah's depiction of Latif's journey underscores the universal struggle for identity and belonging, offering readers a poignant reflection on the enduring human quest for connection and acceptance in a world marked by cultural diversity and personal aspirations.

## RECONCILIATION WITH THE PAST

Latif Mahmud's journey in Abdulrazak Gurnah's «By the Sea» is a profound exploration of reconciliation with his past, a journey fraught with emotional complexity and personal introspection. Central to Latif's narrative is his intricate relationship with his father and the profound impact of political upheaval on his early life in Zanzibar. These themes of familial legacy and historical trauma shape Latif's identity and provide a framework for understanding his internal struggles.

Latif's relationship with his father, depicted through memories and introspective reflections, reveals a complex dynamic marked by love, admiration, and unresolved tensions. His father, a figure of authority and influence in Zanzibar, represents both a source of inspiration and a catalyst for latent conflicts. The political turmoil that enveloped Zanzibar during Latif's formative years further complicates his relationship with his father, as ideals clash and personal sacrifices are weighed against societal expectations.

The eventual meeting with Saleh Omar, another immigrant from Zanzibar whose journey parallels and intersects with Latif's own, serves as a pivotal moment of reckoning for Latif. Saleh's presence acts as a catalyst, triggering buried emotions and unresolved conflicts that Latif must confront in order to achieve personal reconciliation. Through their interactions, Gurnah explores the profound impact of shared history and cultural heritage in shaping individual identities and forging connections across generations and geographical boundaries.

Latif's journey towards reconciliation with his past is not just a personal odyssey but also a universal exploration of the human experience. Gurnah underscores the necessity of confronting one's history—both personal and collective—in order to find peace and resolution in the present. Latif's introspective journey challenges readers to consider the complexities of identity formation and the enduring influence of familial and societal legacies on individual destinies.

As well as, Gurnah's portrayal of Latif's reconciliation process highlights the transformative power of understanding and forgiveness. As Latif grapples with his memories and emotions, he navigates the delicate balance between honoring the past and embracing the possibilities of the future. His journey serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity for growth and healing amidst the scars of history.

Latif Mahmud's narrative in «By the Sea» offers a profound meditation on the importance of reconciling with one's past in order to forge a path towards personal and emotional fulfillment. Through Latif's journey of introspection and reconciliation, Gurnah invites readers to contemplate the complexities of identity, memory, and the enduring quest for understanding in a world marked by change and continuity.

Abdulrazak Gurnah's portrayal of Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud in «By the Sea» underscores profound themes of displacement and adaptation that resonate deeply within the immigrant experience. Both characters navigate the daunting challenges of starting anew in a foreign land while grappling with the haunting specters of their pasts. Gurnah's narrative deftly illuminates the complexities of these themes, revealing the resilience required to forge new lives in unfamiliar environments and the poignant emotional toll of severing ties with everything familiar.

Saleh Omar, once a prosperous merchant in Zanzibar, finds himself uprooted by political turmoil, forced to seek asylum in a small English seaside town. His journey is marked by profound loss—the loss of his home, business, and beloved family members. These losses, tangible and intangible, weigh heavily on Saleh's psyche as he attempts to navigate the labyrinthine asylum process and integrate into a society that views him with suspicion and detachment. Gurnah portrays Saleh's adaptation as a multifaceted struggle, encompassing not only the practical challenges of language barriers and bureaucratic hurdles but also the psychological trauma of displacement and the erosion of identity.

Latif Mahmud, in contrast, represents a different facet of displacement. As an academic who voluntarily left Zanzibar to pursue intellectual growth abroad, Latif grapples with a different form of alienation—the intellectual and emotional exile from his cultural roots. His journey is defined by a profound sense of estrangement, both from his homeland and from the immigrant community in England where he resides. Despite his academic achievements, Latif's success does not shield him from feelings of isolation and disconnection, highlighting the paradox of achieving external accolades while feeling internally adrift.

Together, Saleh and Latif's stories serve as poignant reminders of the resilience and adaptability inherent in the immigrant experience. Gurnah intricately weaves their narratives, exploring how their past traumas and present challenges intersect to shape their individual paths of adaptation. Their journeys are not just about survival but also about the transformation of identity and the renegotiation of belonging in the face of profound upheaval.

In addition, Gurnah's exploration of displacement and adaptation extends beyond the individual experiences of Saleh and Latif to encompass broader social and cultural dynamics. Through their interactions with other characters and their reflections on their pasts, Gurnah reveals the intricate web of relationships and power dynamics that influence the immigrant experience. The themes of displacement and adaptation thus become lenses through which Gurnah examines larger questions of identity, belonging, and the universal quest for meaning in a world marked by constant change and transition.

Gurnah's portrayal of Saleh and Latif in «By the Sea» offers a nuanced exploration of the profound themes of displacement and adaptation inherent in the immigrant experience. Through their stories of loss, resilience, and transformation, Gurnah invites readers to contemplate the universal human experiences of uprooting and resettlement, shedding light on the enduring emotional and psychological dimensions of migration in a globalized world.

## DISPLACEMENT

In Abdulrazak Gurnah's novel «By the Sea» displacement is portrayed not merely as a physical journey

from one place to another but as a profound psychological upheaval that reshapes the characters' identities and worldviews. The novel delves deep into the internal struggles of its characters, highlighting the pervasive disorientation and loss of identity that accompany migration. Through rich and evocative language, Gurnah vividly captures the complex emotional and psychological landscapes of displacement, compelling readers to confront the profound human experiences of uprooting and resettlement.

The characters in «By the Sea» particularly Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud, embody different facets of displacement, each grappling with their own unique challenges and internal conflicts. Saleh, once a prosperous merchant in Zanzibar, experiences displacement in its most tangible form—forced to leave behind not only his home and livelihood but also the memories and cultural ties that defined his existence. His journey to England as an asylum seeker represents a rupture in his sense of belonging and security, plunging him into a world where he must navigate unfamiliar landscapes and bureaucratic mazes while carrying the weight of his past traumas.

Latif Mahmud, on the other hand, undergoes a different form of displacement—an intellectual and emotional exile from his homeland in pursuit of academic aspirations abroad. Despite leaving Zanzibar voluntarily, Latif grapples with feelings of estrangement and alienation, both from his cultural roots and from the communities he encounters in his new environment. His displacement is characterized by a profound sense of loss—not only of place but also of the cultural heritage and personal connections that once anchored him.

Gurnah's use of evocative language serves to heighten the reader's awareness of the emotional and psychological toll of displacement. Descriptions of landscapes, objects, and sensory experiences evoke a visceral understanding of the characters' internal struggles and the dislocation they experience. The juxtaposition of familiar and unfamiliar elements underscores the profound sense of disorientation felt by Saleh, Latif, and other immigrants in the novel, highlighting the complexity of their journeys towards adaptation and self-discovery.

Moreover, Gurnah's exploration of displacement extends beyond the individual experiences of his characters to encompass broader themes of identity, belonging, and cultural assimilation. Through their interactions with other immigrants, local residents, and bureaucratic systems, Gurnah reveals the intricate dynamics of power, privilege, and marginalization that shape the immigrant experience. The novel thus becomes a poignant exploration of the human condition, inviting readers to contemplate the universal themes of loss, resilience, and transformation in the face of displacement.

Gurnah's portrayal of displacement in «By the Sea» offers a compelling narrative that resonates with the universal human experiences of uprooting and resettlement. Through his characters' internal struggles and external challenges, Gurnah illuminates the profound emotional and psychological dimensions of migration, compelling readers to reflect on the complexities of identity, belonging, and the quest for meaning in a world marked by constant change and transition.

## ADAPTATION

Abdulrazak Gurnah's exploration of adaptation in «By the Sea» portrays a dynamic and multifaceted process, intricately woven into the fabric of his characters' lives. Adaptation is not merely depicted as a physical adjustment to new surroundings but as a profound psychological and emotional journey, marked by both setbacks and small victories. Through the experiences of Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud, Gurnah illustrates the complexities of adaptation, emphasizing its non-linear nature and the intricate interplay between acceptance and resistance.

Saleh Omar's adaptation to life in England unfolds as a series of daunting challenges and hard-won achievements. As an asylum seeker navigating the labyrinthine bureaucratic systems, Saleh confronts barriers that threaten to erode his sense of agency and dignity. Gurnah portrays Saleh's journey with sensitivity, highlighting the resilience required to navigate unfamiliar landscapes while grappling with the haunting memories of his past in Zanzibar. Saleh's adaptation is characterized by moments of quiet determination and steadfast resilience, as he learns to negotiate the complexities of language, culture, and social norms in his new environment.

Similarly, Latif Mahmud's adaptation is depicted as a complex interplay of intellectual pursuit and emotional introspection. As an academic striving to carve out a place in the competitive world of academia,

Latif faces challenges that extend beyond the confines of his scholarly pursuits. Gurnah delves into Latif's internal struggles, exploring his efforts to reconcile his intellectual aspirations with the emotional longing for connection and belonging. Latif's adaptation is marked by moments of introspection and self-discovery, as he navigates the nuances of academic life while grappling with feelings of isolation and alienation.

Gurnah's portrayal of adaptation underscores the transformative nature of the immigrant experience, emphasizing that adaptation is not a linear trajectory but a continuous process of growth and self-discovery. The characters' journeys towards adaptation are punctuated by setbacks and challenges that test their resilience and determination. Yet, amidst these challenges, Gurnah highlights moments of resilience and agency, where Saleh and Latif assert their identities and carve out spaces of belonging in their new environments.

Also, Gurnah's exploration of adaptation extends beyond the individual experiences of Saleh and Latif to encompass broader themes of cultural assimilation, identity formation, and the quest for meaning in a rapidly changing world. Through their interactions with other characters and their reflections on their pasts, Gurnah reveals the intricate dynamics of power, privilege, and marginalization that shape the immigrant experience. The novel thus becomes a profound meditation on the human capacity for resilience and adaptation in the face of displacement and uncertainty. Gurnah's portrayal of adaptation in «By the Sea» offers a nuanced exploration of the complexities inherent in the immigrant experience. Through the experiences of Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud, Gurnah invites readers to contemplate the transformative power of adaptation, highlighting its capacity to reshape identities and forge new paths of resilience and belonging in a world marked by constant change and transition.

## CONCLUSION

Abdulrazak Gurnah's novel «By the Sea» offers a profound and nuanced exploration of the inner worlds of immigrant characters, exemplified through the experiences of Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud. Through their compelling narratives, Gurnah delves deep into the psychological and emotional dimensions of migration, capturing with poignancy the essence of displacement, identity, and adaptation. The novel serves as a testament to the resilience and complexity inherent in the immigrant experience, providing readers with a profound commentary on the universal human condition.

Saleh Omar and Latif Mahmud emerge as emblematic figures whose journeys epitomize the multifaceted challenges faced by immigrants grappling with loss, adaptation, and the quest for belonging. Saleh's narrative reflects the profound impact of forced displacement, where he navigates the bureaucratic and social landscapes of England while grappling with the haunting memories of his former life in Zanzibar. His journey underscores the resilience required to rebuild life amidst the shadows of past traumas, highlighting the intricate interplay between personal resilience and external adversity. Latif Mahmud, in contrast, represents a different facet of the immigrant experience—an intellectual and emotional exile driven by personal ambition and the pursuit of knowledge. His narrative explores themes of cultural alienation and the complexities of identity formation in a new environment. Through Latif's introspective journey, Gurnah examines the tension between academic success and personal fulfillment, underscoring the emotional toll of uprooting oneself from familiar cultural landscapes in search of intellectual growth.

Gurnah's characters serve as poignant reminders that the immigrant experience is not merely a physical journey but a deeply internal process of reconciliation and adaptation. «By the Sea» illuminates the transformative power of migration, where individuals confront the ghosts of their pasts and forge new identities in unfamiliar territories. Through their struggles and triumphs, Saleh and Latif embody the resilience of the human spirit, offering readers a profound meditation on the enduring quest for meaning and belonging in a world marked by constant flux and uncertainty. Abdulrazak Gurnah's «By the Sea» stands as a powerful testament to the enduring human spirit in the face of displacement and change. Through its nuanced exploration of displacement, identity, and adaptation, the novel invites readers to empathize with the internal struggles of its characters and to contemplate the universal themes of resilience, transformation, and the quest for belonging. Gurnah's masterful storytelling leaves an indelible impression, reminding us of the profound emotional and psychological dimensions of migration, and the capacity of individuals to navigate the complexities of their pasts while forging new paths forward in an ever-evolving world.



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