

Another Short Story About Work

2

Lalita Gandbhir's *Free and Equal* (pp. 41-47 in the Course Pack) -- bit.ly/3TgVo7m

- First, read "Free and Equal" (pp. 41-47). (~15 min.)

Work in pairs.

1) **As a group makes some notes on the character of Ramesh (the protagonist). What is his cultural background? Also what is his relationship with his wife Rani life? What is the source of their conflict?** As before, try to cite one or two details that the author uses to create a sense of his character.

2) **What kind of work does Ramesh do? Is he confident of his abilities?** Why or why not? **Also, as a group, discuss whether Ramesh more or less 'rounded' than Narayan's Venkat Rao?**

3) **Challenge Question:** The 'theme' of this story probably has to do with the quote from Alexander on p. 46. He says, You must first view yourself as free and equal (Gandbhir 46). What does this quote mean? Does Ramesh really become 'free and equal' even though he gets his new job?

4) **Does the author 'finish' this story?** Why or why not? **Also, do you think Ramesh has really learned something by the end of this story?** Why or why not? (Does he have any kind of 'epiphany' or realization?)

(~15 – 20 minutes)

****Reporting Out** – Be ready to give your answers to the class.