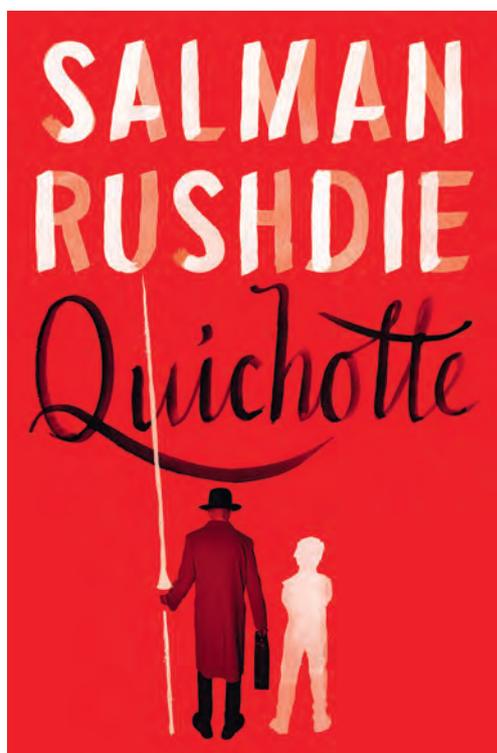




Readers' Guide



Quichotte

Salman Rushdie

Jonathan Cape

Other novels by Salman Rushdie

The Golden House (2017)

Shalimar the Clown (2005)

The Ground Beneath Her Feet (1999)

The Satanic Verses (1988)

Midnight's Children (1981)

thebookerprizes.com

About the author

Salman Rushdie was born in Mumbai, India on 19 June 1947. His novel *Midnight's Children* won the Booker Prize in 1981. In 1993 it was judged to be the 'Booker of Bookers,' to mark the 25th anniversary of the prize and in 2008 the 'Best of the Booker' to mark the 40th anniversary. His further awards include the European Union's Aristeion Prize for Literature. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. In June 2007 he received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He lives in New York.

About the book

Inspired by the classic *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes, *Quichotte* is the story of an aging travelling salesman who falls in love with a TV star and sets off to drive across America on a quest to prove himself worthy of her hand. Quichotte's tragicomic tale is one of a deranged time, and deals, along the way, with father-son relationships, sibling quarrels, racism, the opioid crisis, cyber-spies, and the end of the world.

What the judges thought

'A picaresque tour-de-force of contemporary America, with all its alarms and craziness. Rushdie conjures a celebration of storytelling and language that will delight lovers of Cervantes, lovers of daytime television and lovers of life.'

Discussion points

Quichotte is based on *Don Quixote*, often said to be one of the most important books ever written. Have you read *Don Quixote*, or do you know anything about the story? If so, what similarities can you see between the two novels? If not, would you now want to read *Don Quixote*?

Why does Quichotte create Sancho to accompany him on his journey?

How important is modern politics in the novel, in particular in how Quichotte and Sancho are treated as they travel across America?

Do you think the novel offers a commentary on contemporary culture and how we consume it?

Do you see any similarities between Quichotte and Sam du Champ in the parallel story?

Themed reading

Miguel de Cervantes *Don Quixote*
Graham Greene *Monsignor Quixote*
Ryan Lobo *Mr Iyer Goes to War*
Vladimir Nabokov *Lolita*
Fyodor Dostoevsky *The Idiot*

Useful links

<https://www.salmanrushdie.com/>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/salman-rushdie-quichotte-review-book-release-date-length-booker-prize-shortlist-a9074476.html>

<https://www.ft.com/content/a4daa050-c4d0-11e9-ae6e-a26d1d0455f4>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/aug/26/quichotte-salman-rushdie-review>

<https://time.com/5658432/salman-rushdie-quichotte-book-review/>

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