kaft + gegevens

**Foreword**I chose the short story ´The Chapel´ because our teacher invited us to read this one together.  
I already read two English books, but I´ve never read a short story before.  
I really enjoyed reading it together with the entire class, because that opened up a lot of dialogue options. Reading this story together made it easier for me to talk about subjects like abortion and rape.   
The length of the story was surprisingly short, even for a short story. It amazed me though, that the writer was able to tell such a complex story.  
  
**Themes**Themes in this short story were:  
-teen pregnancy;  
-rape;  
-abortion;  
-arranged mariages;  
-family feuts;  
-murder;  
-hatred;  
-vengeance.   
I would say that the last theme mentioned, vengeance, is the main theme in this short story.  
The girl, Ginnie, was raped at the age of twelve. The theme vengeance was first introduced when Ginnie developed a form of disgust towards her rapist, Ravi Kirjani. This grew into hatred and the desire to take revenge, after she heard Ravi was engaged to another girl.  
Although she knew she was carrying a child of Father Olivier, she purposely appointed Ravi as the father of her unborn child.  
Vengeance was also a leading theme in the second part of the story.  
After Ravi decided to wed Ginnie instead of Sunita Moorpalani, Sunita’s family decided to take revenge. Although they seemed to be fine with his decision, they actually loathed him for it.  
Eventually, they thought up a clever plan to get rid of Ravi. They invited him over to their seaside villa in Mayaro, but pushed him out of the car on the way there.   
 **Analysis of major characters  
Ginnie Narine**Ginnie is a twelve-year-old living on Trinidad. Her family immigrated from India to Trinidad.  
The familymembers mentioned in the story are her mother, her brother, her sisters and a nephew called Pinni.  
Ginnie is a rather mysterious character. She has more than a few secrets.  
The first secret she keeps from her mother, is the fact that she was raped by Ravi. Later on, she uses this secret in her advantage. She says she’s pregnant from Ravi, while she most likely knows she is carrying a baby from Father Olivier.   
The second secret she keeps from her environment, is that she had slept with Father Olivier as well.  
If she would’ve told this (sooner), she wouldn’t have had the chance to marry Ravi.  
I was surprised by the wit and determination Ginnie had in the story.  
She was remarkably smart for a twelve-year-old. I was shocked by the sexual content of the story, but later figured out that those actions might not always have been her own choice.  
I actually think it’s really sad a twelve-year-old has to go through the things Ginnie went through. But it seems she’s happy in the end.  
 **Historical context**Looking at the use of language and the way the story looks at the relationship man versus woman, I’d say the story takes place more than a few decades or even centuries ago. The presence of a Mercedes car and expensive watches though shows that the story couldn’t have taken place more than twenty years ago.  
The absence of correct use of the English language and the non-Western approach of her pregnancy shows me that the story takes place in a less developed country (like India). This is also confirmed by the fact that families with a lot of money also wield a lot of influence and power, whilst this couldn´t happen in a country like the UK.  
The story tells me that it takes place on the island of Trinidad, an island in the Caribbean, which explains the bad English.   
The families in the story keep a close bond with their country of origin though. Their Indian culture is seen throughout the entire story.  
It´s notable that Ginnie goes to a catholic church, while she is raised in a Hindu family.  
 **Important quotations explained**1. *“That’s as may be, child, but don’t forget he does be a man first.’*   
-Ginnie’s mother about Father Olivier-  
I chose this line as my first quotation. Not only does it show the typical dialect the characters in the story speak, it also shows that Ginnie’s mother already might have had a suspicion on what happened between Ginnie and Father Olivier.   
As already described in the historical context, this quotation also shows the role of men versus women in that culture. It seems normal to point out to your twelve-year-old that men have desires from which women have to shield themselves.  
  
2. *A few spoke darkly of murder. Did not the Moorpalanis have a compelling motive? And not by chance did they have the opportunity, and the means. But mostly they agreed that is was a tragic accident.*-Townspeople about the death of Ravi Kirjani-  
This quotation shows me that the Moorpalanis are an important family, because nobody dares to openly question the death of Ravi. Everyone thought it was logical that the Moorpalanis would’ve wanted to get revenge, after being disgraced by Ravi like that.