*SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE*

**In pairs/threes, you will prepare and deliver a 10-minute oral exposition on one of the derived themes from the novel below, illustrating, when possible, your talks with passages from the book by Vikas Swarup.**

**1 EFFECTS OF POVERTY**:

-India’s dilemmas (the wide abyss between rich and poor nags at any notion of equality, education and social justice)

-Exploitation, human slavery, corruption

-Life in the chawls

**2 RELIGION**:

-Why does Vikas Swarup choose the name “Ram Mohammad Thomas” for his protagonist? (What’s in a name? The names represent three different religions—besides displaying India’s diversity, what does this say about Ram Mohammad Thomas as a person?)

-The role of religion in the Indian society

**3 SOCIETY**:

-Consider the impact of Western culture on Ram. Why is this important to him?

-A different mindset

-Is the Indian society one of opportunities after all?

**4 FATE**:

-*“Why did you throw away your lucky coin?” “I don’t need it any more. Because luck comes from within.*” This is how the novel ends. How is the theme of destiny vs. luck treated in the novel?

-Karma: get what you deserve (fate & free will)

**5 THE SHOW BUSINESS INDUSTRY**:

-How is the show business industry in India depicted in the novel? Materialism vs. hope to the hopeless

-Is Swarup criticising this world or celebrating it?

-Other industries from India which are famous worldwide, e.g. Bollywood

**6 THE CASTE SYSTEM**

-Discrimination amongst castes

- Dalit children´s occupations

- Prospects of a better standard of living

**7 HOMOSEXUALITY VS. HOMOPHOBIA**

-*Slumdog Millionaire* has been accused of being a homophobic novel. Critics point out that the only homosexuals in the story are portrayed as child-molesters and perverts. Swarup has denied any homophobia and said that the point of these characters is to show how the powerless are at the mercy of the powerful. What do you think? Do you find *Slumdog Millionaire* a homophobic novel?