

## Class 12th English Flamingo Chapter 2 Lost Spring Question Answers Gujarat Board

**Think as you Read (Textbook Page No. 16)**

**Question 1. What is Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps ? Where is he and where has he come from?**

Answer:

Saheb is looking for gold in the garbage dumps. He is in the neighbourhood of the author. Saheb has come from Bangladesh. He came with his mother in 1971. His house was set amidst the green fields of Dhaka. Storms swept away their fields and homes. So they left the country.

**Question 2. What explanations does the author offer for the children not wearing footwear?**

Answer:

One explanation offered by the author is that it is a tradition to stay barefoot. It is not lack of money. She wonders if this is only an excuse to explain away a perpetual state of poverty. She also remembers the story of a poor boy who prayed to the goddess for a pair of shoes.

**Question 3. Is Saheb happy working at the tea- stall? Explain.**

Answer:

No, Saheb is not happy working at the tea stall. He is no longer his own master. His face has lost the carefree look. The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag he would carry so lightly over his shoulder. The bag was his. The canister belongs to the man who owns the tea shop.

**Think as you Read (Textbook Page No. 19)**

**Question 1. What makes the city of Firozabad famous?**

Answer:

The city of Firozabad is famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry. Families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for the women in the land.

**Question 2. Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangles industry.**

Answer:

Boys and girls with their fathers and mothers sit in dark hutments, next to lines of flames of flickering oil lamps. They weld pieces of coloured glass into circles of bangles. Their eyes are more adjusted to the dark than to the light outside. They often end up losing eyesight

before they become adults. Even the dust from polishing the glass of bangles is injurious to eyes. Many workers have become blind. The furnaces have very high temperature and therefore very dangerous.

**Question 3. How is Mukesh's attitude to his situation different from that of his family?**

Answer:

Mukesh's grandmother thinks that the god-given lineage can never be broken. Her son and grandsons are born in the caste of bangle makers. They have seen nothing but bangles. Mukesh's father has taught them what he knows- the art of making bangles. But Mukesh wants to be a motor mechanic. He will go to a garage and learn, though the garage is far away from his home.

**Understanding the Text**

**Question 1. What could be some of the reasons for the migration of people from villages to cities?**

Answer:

People migrate from villages to cities in search of livelihood. Their fields fail to provide them means of survival. Cities provide employment, jobs or other means of getting food. The problem in case of the poor is to feed the hungry members. Survival is of primary concern.

**Question 2. Would you agree that promises made to poor children are rarely kept? Why do you think this happens in the incidents narrated in the text?**

Answer:

The promises made to the poor are rarely kept. The author asks Saheb half-joking, whether he will come to her school if she starts one. Saheb agrees to do so. A few days later he asks if the school is ready. The writer feels embarrassed at having made a promise that was not meant. Promises like hers abound in every corner of their bleak world.

**Question 3. What forces conspire to keep the workers in bangle industry of Firozabad in poverty?**

Answer:

Certain forces conspire to keep the workers in bangle industry of Firozabad in poverty. These include the moneylenders, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they impose a heavy burden on the child.

**Talking about the Text**

**Question 1. How, in your opinion, can Mukesh realise his dream?**

Answer:

Mukesh is the son of a poor bangle-maker of Firozabad. Most of the young men of Firozabad have no initiative or ability to dream, but Mukesh is an exception. He has the capacity to take courage and break from the traditional family occupation. He has strong willpower also.



He does not want to be a pawn in the hands of the middlemen or moneylenders. He insists on being his own master by becoming a motor mechanic. He can realise his dream by joining a garage and learn the job of repairing cars and driving them. He will have to overcome many hurdles before he succeeds.

Then comes transport problem. Money is the first one. He will have to earn some money himself. The garage is a long way from his home. He will have to cover it twice every day anyhow by walking on foot. Patience, hard work, firm will and the determination to learn will help him realise his dream.

### **Question 2. Why should child labour be eliminated and how?**

Answer:

Child labour should be eliminated because the children employed at tender age as domestic servants, dish-washers at roadside dhabas and in hazardous industries making glass bangles, birds, crackers etc. lose the charm of the spring of their life. Their childhood is stolen. Burdened by the responsibility of work, they become adults too soon. Most of them are undernourished, ill-fed, uneducated and poor.

They have a stunted growth. Child labour can be eliminated only through concerted efforts on the part of government agencies, NGOs (Non-Government Organisations), cooperative societies and political leaders. Mere passing of law will not help. Laws should be enacted faithfully. The children thrown out of work should be rehabilitated and given proper food, clothes, education and pocket money. Their feelings, thoughts and emotions should be respected. Let them enjoy sunshine and fresh air.

### **Thinking about Language**

Although this text speaks of factual events and situations of misery, it transforms these situations with an almost poetical prose into a literary experience. How does it do so? Here are some literary devices :

- Hyperbole is a way of speaking or writing that makes something sound better or more exciting than it really is. For example, Garbage to them is gold.
- A metaphor, as you may know, compares two things or ideas that are not very similar. A metaphor describes a thing in terms of a single quality or feature of some other thing; we can say that a metaphor 'transfers' a quality of one thing to another. For example; The road was a ribbon of light.
- Simile is a word or phrase that compares one thing with another using the words "like" or "as". For example: As white as snow.



**Carefully read the following phrases and sentences taken from the text. Can you identify the literary device in each example?**

1. 'Saheb-e-Alam' which means 'the lord of the universe is directly in contrast to what Saheb is in reality.
2. Drowned in an air of desolation
3. Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi yet miles away from it, metaphorically.
4. For the children it is wrapped in wonder; for the elders, it is a means of survival.
5. As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine, I wonder if she knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make.
6. She still has bangles on her wrist, but not light in her eyes.
7. Few aeroplanes fly over Firozabad.
8. Web of poverty.
9. Scrounging for gold.
10. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art.
11. The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag he would carry so lightly over his shoulders.

Answer:

1. Hyperbole
2. Metaphor
3. Contrast
4. Contrast
5. Simile
6. Contrast
7. Hyperbole
8. Metaphor
9. Metaphor
10. Hyperbole
11. Contrast

