

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 8: A PACT WITH THE SUN



A PACT WITH THE SUN

~Summary~

-by Khushwant Singh

The story "A Pact with the Sun" is written by Zakir Husain. It revolves around the characters Saeeda and her sick mother.



Saeeda and her mother

Saeeda's mother was suffering from several kinds of **ailment**. She was so **pale** and **weak**, and she was always **confined** to her tiny room with windows shut. Various **physicians** had treated her, and yet she was never completely cured. It came to the point that it seemed as if she would **die**. Later, some of her relatives convinced her to consult a **specialist**. She **sold** some of her **jewellery** to pay for the doctor's **fees** and the **medicine**.

The doctor **examined** Saeeda's mother and prescribed some **costly medicines**. In addition to that, he had also asked her to get an hour's worth of **sunlight** and **fresh air**, between eight and

nine in the morning. Despite the **opposition** from some of the elders in her house, Saeeda's mother had decided to follow the doctor's **instructions**. Unfortunately, the next two days remained cloudy and gloomy. The sky was filled with **clouds**, and the sun was well **hidden**. Saeeda's mother was **heartbroken**.

Saeeda had **heard** what the **doctor** had said, and she was also aware that her mother was feeling very **sad**. Later in the same afternoon, she **discovered** a spot on the **courtyard** where the sun rays were **retreating**. She called out to one of them in a **secret language** known only to the children. She asked the little **ray** to come back tomorrow to help her sick mother **recover**. The little ray **promised** her the same and left.

On the next day, the sky remained **cloudy**. The sun was **hidden** behind them. However, to keep her **promise** with Saeeda, the little ray and her **sibling** rays convinced their father, the sun, to visit the earth. They also pushed through the **thick clouds** and reached Saeeda's **courtyard**. Saeeda and her mother were **very happy** and **grateful**. As time went by, Saeeda's mother **recovered**. Plenty of **sunlight** and lungful of **air**, along with the proper **medicine**, and **healed** Saeeda's mother.



Saeeda makes a pact with the Sun

~Conclusion~

The sun's rays were so strong and united that they penetrated the clouds and reached the Earth as promised. The Sun shone bright and Saeeda's pale and weak mother looked radiant. The fresh air and the warmth of the mighty Sun helped her recover. This concludes that fresh air and the sun's warmth are good for our health.

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NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 32)

Question 1. What did the physicians ask Saeeda's mother to do to get well? Did their advice help her? If not, why?

Answer: The physicians advised Saeeda's mother not to take normal food, and to remain shut in a small dark room.

Question 2. What did the specialist prescribe in addition to medicine?

Answer: The specialist prescribed some effective but costly medicines. He told her to eat chapati, vegetables, milk, fruits, etc. He asked her to shift to a bigger room with windows and doors open. Above all, she should sit in the sun every morning for an hour and breathe in fresh air.

Question 3. What did Saeeda tell the sunrays to do?

Answer: Saeeda made a special request to the sunrays to help her mother get well. She asked them to come the next day with lots of warmth and brightness.

Question 4. Why were the sunrays keen to go down to the earth the next day?

Answer: The sunrays had promised to help Saeeda. They had made a pact with her that they would bring down warmth and brightness. So, they were keen to go down to the earth the next day. They forced their way through the dark, dirty clouds.