

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1: THE LOST CHILD



THE LOST CHILD

~Summary~

-by Mulk Raj Anand

Child Goes to a Spring Fair with his parents

It is the festival of spring and everyone, in a happy mood, is going to the fair. The child is going to the fair with his parents. He is very happy and excited. On the way to the fair, the child enjoys every moment and gets fascinated towards natural beauty.

In the fair, the child is attracted towards sweets and toys displayed in the shops. He feels attracted towards the garland of Gulmohar and the delicious Gulab Jamuns; but his parents resist from buying anything for him. The child wants to play, climb trees, catch the dragonflies and butterflies; but again, his parents won't let him do any of this. The child sees a snake-charmer. He likes music played by the charmer and wants to stay there for sometime but his parents do not approve. As the child moves on with his parents, he sees a roundabout. Then he says "I want to go on the roundabout, please father, mother."

The Child Gets Lost in the Fair

After requesting his parents boldly for a roundabout, the child turns back. But, to his surprise, no sign of his parents is there. He searches for his parents here and there. The child realises that he is now separated from his parents and he is lost. He starts crying bitterly.

A kind-hearted Man Meets the Child

There is a big crowd and the little child tries to make his way between the feet of people. After hearing the cry of the child, a gentleman lends a helping hand to him. This gentleman offers goodies and joy rides in order to console the lost child but the child will have none of them. Instead, he longs to meet his parents.

Conclusion of The Lost Child

The chapter – The Lost Child illustrates the lesson to students that children love their parents unconditionally. Although parents rebuke their children sometimes for their good, children always want their parents around them and feel lost in their absence.

NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 6)

(Think about it)

Question 1. What are the things the child sees on his way to the fair? Why does he lag behind?

Answer: The child sees toys, flowering mustard field, dragon flies, butterflies, doves, a huge crowd of people entering the fair, sweet shops, garlands of gulmohar, rainbow color balloons, a snake charmer and a roundabout swing.

He lags behind because he is fascinated by the things that he sees on his way to the fair. His parents constantly call him so that he does not get lost in the crowd. He would stop at the shops with a wish to buy them and sometimes would be amazed at the beauty of nature. That's why he lags behind.

Question 2. In the fair he wants many things. What are they? Why does he move on without waiting for an answer?

Answer: The things that he wants in the fair are:

- Balloons
- Toys
- Garlands of gulmohar
- Sweets from the sweet shop
- Watching the snake dancing at the tune of snake charmer
- Having a ride in the roundabout swing

Question 3. When does he realize that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?

Answer: When he saw the roundabout in a full swing, he made a bold request to his parents to have a ride on it. But, there was no reply. When he turned to look at his parents, there was no one. That is when he realized that he had lost his way.

His anxiety and insecurity have been described in a very heart-warming way. When he realizes that he has lost his way, a deep cry rises within his dry throat and with a sudden jerk of his body,

he runs from where he stood. His face is convulsed with fear and eyes full of hot and fierce tears. He runs in search of his parents in all directions crying, "Mother, Father".

Question 4. Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?

Answer: The lost child loses interest in the things that he had wanted earlier because the only thing that he wants at that moment is his parents. He is panic-stricken and he just wants to be united with them again.

Question 5. What do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents?

Answer: I think the child would have found his parents in the end.

While he was lost, his parents would also have searched for him when they would have realized that he is not with them. The gentleman who was trying to console the child would have also asked for the description of his parents and would have looked around for them. Finally, the child would have been united with his parents with everyone's collective effort.