

Class: IX

Session: 2020-2021

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

TOPIC: THE LOST CHILD

THEME:

For a child his parents are the centre and meaning of his life. Without his parents a child loses all interests and relevance in the worlds. This story concentrates on the universality of a child's desire for everything. It is a short story about a child, his aspiration, demands and realisation. Nobody understands the true value of parents at times and they are taken for granted. The importance of the parents is only revealed once they are out of sight and we realise that everything around us is pale and colourless. The child realised the same once he got separated from his parents in the fair.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS with ANSWERS:

Q.1. Justify the title *The Lost Child*.

Ans. The title *The Lost Child* is quite appropriate. In this prose piece Mulk Raj Anand describes the protagonist's feelings and emotions with his parents and without his parents. The title is appropriate because when the child loses his parents, his desire ends at an instant. The author very beautifully portrays the child's happiness while coming to the fair and the anxiety experienced by the child who is lost.

Apparently the title revolves around the child who is lost in the fair. The hidden meaning of the title indicates towards the inner state of mind of the child. *The Lost Child* describes an episode in the life of a child who gets lost in a fair. The author here rightly focuses his attention on the contrast in behaviour of the child before and after getting lost. The writer's understanding of the psychology of little children especially during the absence of their parents is reflected in this story. Hence, the title is appropriate and justified.

Q.2. How does the behaviour of the child before and after his separation from the parents show that he has great love for his parents?

Ans. The child looked happy when he entered the fair. He was fascinated by all the things he saw around him in the fair. Starting from the sweet meat shop, the garland shop, the snake charmer, the balloons and the roundabout- everything attracted the child's attention. He was also aware of his parents' probable response on asking for those things. His desires were suppressed. Though his demands were not fulfilled yet he enjoyed the fair.

But when he asked for the roundabout there was no response on the part of his parents. The moment the child realised that they were not around him, the child's priorities changed. Everything around him seemed very pale and unattractive to him. He was then filled with fear and restlessness and so he ran here and there. He was panic-stricken and tears rolled down from his eyes. His yellow turban came untied and his clothes became muddy. A kind-hearted man lifted him out of the crowd and tried to soothe him. He took him to the roundabout and offered him all those things which he wanted. But the child then had no interest in all those things. He wanted to go back to his parents and thus we went on reiterating the same words. His behaviour shows his great love for his parents and the strong bond which they shared among themselves.

Home Assignment: [to be done in the literature copy]

Write the short answer type questions in 30-40 words

1. What are the different things that had attracted the child's attention in the fair?
2. When did the child realise that he had lost his way?
3. Why did the child lose interest in the things which he had wanted earlier?
4. What did the child see at the corner of the entrance of the fair? What was his reaction?
5. What do you think happens at the end? Does the child find his parents?