

A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

by William Wordsworth

Central Idea of the Poem

The poet in the poem 'A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal' has expressed his grief in the poem. His loved one has died and the poet is deeply troubled and grieved over this. He says that a slumber or a deep sleep has distressed him. His beloved has died, she could sense nothing and there is no human fear associated.

She exhibits no motion and no force at all. Now, she is engaged with the everyday course of earth that is rotating herself along the routine life of the earth. This is her afterlife like rocks, stones and trees.

Explanation of the Poem

Stanza 1

A slumber did my spirit seal
I had no human fears.
She seemed a thing that could not feel
The touch of earthly years.

WORD MEANINGS

slumber	deep sleep/death
spirit	soul/conscience
seal	feeling of distress
seemed	appeared
earthly	related or pertaining to earth

Explanation In the stanza, the poet has expressed his grief over the death of a loved one. He says that he had no usual human fears now as death is the ultimate fear for human beings. When a person is alive, then he has many apprehensions and many fears like disease, famine etc. But death makes the end of all these fears because earthly years or usual fears seem to have no effect on his beloved. She has passed away peacefully leaving everything behind.

Stanza 2

No motion has she now, no force
She neither hears nor sees
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.

WORD MEANINGS

motion	activity
force	strength
rolled round	adjusted with
diurnal course	daily activity of something as that of earth's day and night

Explanation In this stanza, the poet mentions that there is no motion in the body of his beloved as death has overcome her. Also, death has deprived her of her strength. She is unable to see and unable to hear. All her senses are dead now. She has adjusted herself with the routine activity of earth now. As the earth completes its routine of day and night with the rocks, stones and trees; so does the beloved of the poet now. She has become a part of the nature. The poet concludes with her afterlife.

Poetic Devices Used in the Poem

Stanza 1 and 2

Alliteration Repetition of initial consonant sounds in the same line.

- A slumber did my spirit seal
- She seemed a thing that could not feel
- No motion has she now, no force
- Rolled round in earth's diurnal course

Repetition Repetition of words/phrases in the same line.

- No motion has she now, no force
- With rocks and stones and trees

Metaphor A device which compares two things or qualities which are unlike.

- Earth's diurnal course

Rhyme scheme ab ab

NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Thinking about the Poem (Page 136)

1 "A slumber did my spirit seal", says the poet. That is, a deep sleep 'closed off' his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one's death? Does he feel bitter grief? Or does he feel a great peace?

Ans. Though poet's loved one's death left the poet numb and 'Common human fears' no longer affected him; his reaction cannot be labelled as bitter grief. This is because by the end of the poem we come to know that the poet imagines her to be a part of nature, rotating with the earth on its axis. He takes consolation in the fact that she is still alive in the nature and is beyond life's and trials. This promotes the idea that he feel a great peace of mind. Thus, we conclude that poet's feelings are ambiguous (having more than one possible meaning).

2 The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?

Ans. The lines that suggest that the passing of the time will no longer affect the poet's beloved are "She seemed a thing that could not feel, The touch of earthly years".

3 How does the poet imagine her to be, after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a 'heaven')? Or

Does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?

Ans. The poet imagines her to be indifferent to the earthly affairs. He thinks that she is happy, but has become a part of nature. "Rolled round in earth's diurnal course/With rocks and stones and trees," has this answer. She has become an inseparable part of nature.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 A slumber did my spirit seal—
I had no human fears.
She seemed a thing that could not feel
The touch of earthly years.

- (i) What did seal the spirit of the poet?
 - (a) A slumber (death) of his beloved
 - (b) Publication of his most loved poem
 - (c) Loss of his only child
 - (d) Victory of good over the evil
- (ii) What was the state of the beloved?
 - (a) She had deserted him
 - (b) She had lost her voice
 - (c) She was dead
 - (d) She got paralysed
- (iii) Which word in the extract means 'coma or death'?
 - (a) Seal
 - (b) Seemed
 - (c) Spirit
 - (d) Slumber
- (iv) Which poetic device has been used in the stanza?
 - (a) Simile
 - (b) Hyperbole
 - (c) Personification
 - (d) Alliteration

Ans. (i) (a) A slumber (death) of his beloved
(ii) (c) She was dead
(iii) (d) Slumber
(iv) (d) Alliteration

2 No motion has she now, no force
She neither hears nor sees,
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.

- (i) What abilities was the beloved deprived of?
 - (a) Her prized possession
 - (b) Hearing, seeing and movement
 - (c) Her wealth making intellect
 - (d) Her dancing skills
- (ii) What is Earth's diurnal course?
 - (a) To sustain life
 - (b) To provide with basic needs
 - (c) To provide food and water
 - (d) Daily rotation on its axis to cause day and night
- (iii) Which word in the extract is opposite to 'in rest' in meaning?
 - (a) Motion
 - (b) Force
 - (c) Now
 - (d) Diurnal
- (iv) According to the poet, what is the after life of a person?
 - (a) Abode in heaven
 - (b) Rebirth
 - (c) Being part of nature in the form of rocks and stones
 - (d) Become a ghost

Ans. (i) (b) Hearing, seeing and movement
(ii) (d) Daily rotation on its axis to cause day and night
(iii) (a) Motion
(iv) (c) Being part of nature in the form of rocks and stones

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

1 What has been referred as 'slumber'? Why did the poet do so?

Ans. The 'slumber' has been referred for death. A slumber literally means deep sleep which is used here for death to invoke the feeling that memories are still there.

2 What effect did the slumber have upon the poet?

Ans. The slumber sealed the spirit of the poet and made him go into a dream like state and devoid of any fears. The poet was unhappy as Lucy was dead now.

3 What kind of a thing did the beloved become after the death?

Ans. After the death, the beloved became such a thing that could not feel the impact of the earthly years. She had become one with nature.

4 Explain: "The touch of earthly years".

Ans. 'Earthly years' has been used to show the feeling of pain and pleasure, the state of disease and being disease-free, the state of sorrow and happiness etc. that come in the life of a person when he is alive.

- 5 What effect did a slumber have on the beloved of the poet after her death?
 After the death of the beloved, she could neither hear nor see. She had no motion and no bodily strength at all. She was deprived of all these for ever.
- 6 Explain: 'Earth's diurnal course'.
 Earth's diurnal course is its daily rotation on its axis which causes the day and night to come into existence. This is a universal phenomenon and it never stops.
- 7 In what context rocks, stones and trees have been used in the poem?
 Rocks, trees and stones have been used in the context to show the diurnal course of the earth. They are an integral part of the earth's daily rotation and are not affected by anything.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

- 1 Death is inevitable. Everyone has to die one day. People show different kinds of attitude towards death. But, in the poem, the poet has a completely different attitude. What qualities did he show by doing this?
 We all know that death is ultimate and it will come a day, but none wants to die. We all fear from death and try to avoid it as much as we can. But in this poem, the poet has shown a different attitude towards death. Although he was distressed on the death of his beloved, he had accepted the fate. He knew that the bond was destined to be broken one day. So, he was not much affected by it. He showed a quality that is quite uncommon—acceptance. He was aware of the fact that his beloved was free from all the worldly affairs and she was a part of nature then.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 No motion has she now, no force—
 She neither hears nor sees,
 Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
 With rocks and stones and trees.
- (i) Why did she have no motion or force?
 (a) She was paralysed
 (b) She was sleeping
 (c) She was dead
 (d) She was meditating
- (ii) What does diurnal course imply?
 (a) Annual activity
 (b) Quarterly activity
 (c) Fortnight activity
 (d) Daily activity on regular basis
- (iii) Who has rolled down in Earth's diurnal course?
 (a) The poet
 (b) The beloved of the poet
 (c) The Earth
 (d) The nature

- (iv) Which word in the extract is opposite of 'passivity'?
 (a) Force
 (b) Motion
 (c) Diurnal
 (d) Course

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 What did make the spirit of the poet seal?
 3 Why could she not feel anything?
 4 What did happen to the beloved of the poet after the death?

Long Answer (LA) Type Question

- 5 How did the poet console himself during the period of his beloved's death? What values did he depict then?

01

The Lost Child

by Mulk Raj Anand

Chapter Sketch

In the story 'The Lost Child', the author tries to explore the mind of a child. This story also highlights a child's love for his parents.

The child goes to a fair with his parents. He is very excited and wants sweets and toys displayed there. His parents don't buy these things for him. But very soon he gets separated from his parents as he is left behind looking at various toys and other things. When he realises that his parents are no where near him, he starts crying unconsolably. He refuses every thing which is offered by others. He only wants his parents and keeps crying.

About the Characters

The Lost Child He is the central character who gets fascinated with the items at the village spring fair and loses contact with his parents. He becomes heart broken, loses interest in everything and cries for his parents.

The Parents They keep on asking the child to remain with them but are careless enough to lose him at the fair.

The Person who Found him He is a very helpful person who tries to distract the child by offering him many things but fails.

Summary of the Chapter

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 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.

Chapter Highlights

- 1 At the time of the village spring fair, a child goes to the fair with his parents.
- 2 On the way to the fair, the child is lagging behind his parents because of the various distractions on the way. They have to keep on telling him to catch up with them.
- 3 At the fair, the child gets attracted to sweets, toys and flower garlands put up for sale.
- 4 But, he does not dare ask his parents for any of these because he knows that they will refuse.
- 5 Then he sees a roundabout on which people are riding and boldly requests to go on it.
- 6 Not receiving a reply, he looks back to find that his parents are not there. He is lost!
- 7 After hurriedly searching at many places, he realises that he has been separated from them. He starts crying loudly.
- 8 A kind man sees him and realising the child's plight, offers him the things he was attracted to earlier. However, the child refuses everything and wants only his parents. Thus, the story ends.

Word Meanings

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
PAGE 2	
lingering on	looking at
receding	moving away
red-eyed	with eyes red with anger
stern	strict and harsh manner
affected	affected
cheerful spirit	happy mood
glistening gold	the colour of gold
dragon-flies	long-bodied insects
brilliant	bright
intercepting	interfering with
stop flying	stop flying

Word	Meaning
cautionary call	called with safety in mind
teeming out	coming out in large numbers
shower	sprinkling
wild capers	uncontrolled running

PAGE 3

throngs	large number of people
converging	coming together
whirlpool	centre of attraction
half knew	thought that he knew
hawked	tried to sell by calling out
overwhelming	strong
stole into	passed into
gentle rippling	soft rushing sound
roundabout	merry-go-round with animals and seats to ride on

PAGE 4

flushed	reddened
convulsed	overtaken
hither and thither	this way and that
rage of running	running due to panic
filmy eyes	film of tears on the eyes
lingering	repeating
flashing, murderous	full of anger
to and fro	here and there
trampled underfoot	walked over
stooping	bending
steered clear	moved away
soothe	pacify/calm down

PAGE 5

swaying	moving sideways
double-pitched strain	two cries
distract.... attention	shift the attention

PAGE 6

humour	laughter, gaiety
--------	------------------

TO VIEW COMPLETE CHAPTER PUBLISHED BY NCERT

Visit <https://goo.gl/X7vpC4> OR Scan the Code



NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Think About It (Page 6)

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

Ans. While his parents are going ahead with the intention of reaching the fair, the child enjoys every beauty of nature's creation. The child enjoys the sight of a dragonfly fluttering. Next moment, he is engrossed in collecting beautiful flower petals. The very next moment he is appreciating the gait of the swan. The child is enjoying the beauty of nature, that's why, he keeps lagging behind his parents on the way. His mother and father have to call him constantly so that he doesn't lag behind.

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

Ans. Like any child, he wants everything from the fair but he knows that his father won't be buying anything for him and would give some excuse for not doing so. This shows that the child has matured as well. He knows how to control his urges. He also understands that because of some reasons he won't be able to have each and every thing from the fair.

He may not understand the right reason for his father refusing to get most of the things for him. Like all good parents, his father may be wishing not to spoil his child.

3 When does the child realise that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?

Ans. When the child wants to get a ride on the roundabout and calls for his parents, he gets no reply. The child looks to his front and back as well as left and right. Then the child tries to find his father among people wearing yellow shirts but all he glimpses is yellow blobs in the crowd. At last, he goes to the shrine, in the hope of finding his parents there. Then the child realises that he is lost and separated from his parents. His anxiety has been described by explaining how the child reacts and tries to find his parents. He even cries out for them a number of times, refusing to take anything offered by the man who found him, all of which he had longed for earlier. Even his turban becomes untied and muddy. This is a very natural explanation which makes the narrative simple to read and enjoy.

This shows that the child is quite courageous and instead of crying his heart out, he tries to find his parents. Only when he fails, he starts crying for his parents.

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

Ans. The lost child loses interest in the things that he had wanted earlier because he was panic-stricken on being separated from his parents. All he wanted was to be united with them. All the things that attracted him in the fair no longer appealed to him and now the only thing that mattered is finding his parents.

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

Ans. Although, this is not mentioned in the story, in the end, the parents, who continuously kept checking to see that he was with them, may have suddenly realised that he was missing and came looking for the lost child. The kind and understanding man who tried to console the little boy by offering him various things at the fair may have also asked him for some description of his parents and helped him to be reunited with them.

Talk About It (Page 6)

1 How to ensure not to get lost.

Ans. As sometimes children do get lost in fairs and crowded areas, it is the duty of the parents to ensure that they do not get lost or separated from them. The easiest way is to hold the hand of the child at all times. Before going to such a place, parents can take the following precautions:

- They should pin the name of the child and its parents with address and mobile number on the child's shirt pocket.
- They should ask the child to memorise the parents' names and mobile number.
- Before entering a crowded area, they should fix a place where they can meet if the child gets separated from them.
- They should never leave the child behind at a stall to which it is attracted.

All these precautions will ensure that the child does not get lost.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 As he came to where they had stopped to wait for him, he could not suppress the desire of his heart, even though he well knew the old, cold stare of refusal in their eyes.

- (i) Who are 'he' and 'they' in the above extract?
 - ☒ (a) The little child and his parents respectively
 - ☐ (b) The little child and his teachers respectively
 - ☐ (c) The father of the child and the shopkeepers respectively
 - ☐ (d) The shopkeeper and the child's parents respectively
- (ii) What is the desire of 'his' heart?
 - ☐ (a) To buy a present for his mother
 - ☐ (b) To buy a present for his father
 - ☐ (c) To buy a present for himself
 - ☒ (d) To buy the toy he has seen
- (iii) Which word in the extract means the same as 'hold back'?
 - ☐ (a) Stare ☒ (b) Suppress ☐ (c) Refusal ☐ (d) Stopped
- (iv) 'cold stare' in the extract means
 - ☐ (a) Parents' acceptance of giving the things that the child wanted
 - ☒ (b) Parents' denial for giving the things that the child wanted
 - ☐ (c) The look on the shopkeeper's face
 - ☐ (d) The look on the child's face

Ans. (i) (a) The little child and his parents respectively

(ii) (d) To buy the toy he has seen

(iii) (b) Suppress

(iv) (b) Parents' denial for giving the things that the child wanted

2 The child watched them intently and then he made a bold request: "I want to go on the roundabout, please, Father, Mother."

There was no reply. He turned to look at his parents.

- (i) Who are 'them' in the above extract?
 - ☐ (a) The shopkeepers
 - ☐ (b) The children
 - ☐ (c) The child's parents
 - ☒ (d) The men, women and children riding on the roundabout
- (ii) Why was there no reply?
 - ☐ (a) Because the parents were nearby

- ☒ (b) Because the parents were not nearby
- ☐ (c) Because the child spoke in a low voice
- ☐ (d) Because the child did not speak anything
- (iii) Find a word in the extract which is a synonym of 'keenly'.
 - ☐ (a) Slowly ☒ (b) Intently
 - ☐ (c) Attentively ☐ (d) Watched
- (iv) Select the opposite of 'bold'.
 - ☒ (a) Timid ☐ (b) Slow
 - ☐ (c) Candid ☐ (d) Uneven

Ans. (i) (d) The men, women and children riding on the roundabout

(ii) (b) Because the parents were not nearby

(iii) (b) Intently

(iv) (a) Timid

3 A man in the surging crowd heard his cry and, stooping with great difficulty, lifted him up in his arms.

- (i) Who is 'him' in the above extract?
 - ☐ (a) The shopkeeper
 - ☒ (b) The lost child
 - ☐ (c) The child's father
 - ☐ (d) The owner of the sweet shop
- (ii) Where was the 'surging crowd'?
 - ☐ (a) Near the exit of the temple
 - ☐ (b) Near the entrance to the roundabout
 - ☐ (c) Near the exit of the roundabout
 - ☒ (d) Near the entrance to the temple
- (iii) Find a word in the extract which is a synonym of 'bending'.
 - ☒ (a) Stooping
 - ☐ (b) Surging
 - ☐ (c) Lifting
 - ☐ (d) Stopping
- (iv) What does 'surging' mean' in the extract?
 - ☐ (a) Moving slowly
 - ☐ (b) Moving randomly
 - ☒ (c) Moving quickly and powerfully
 - ☐ (d) Moving constantly

Ans. (i) (b) The lost child

(ii) (d) Near the entrance to the temple

(iii) (a) Stooping

(iv) (c) Moving quickly and powerfully

4 Thinking to humour his disconsolate charge by a gift of sweets, the man took him to the counter of the sweet shop.

(a) Who is the 'disconsolate charge' in the above extract?

- (a) The child's father
- ✓ (b) The lost child
- (c) The shopkeeper
- (d) The child's mother

(b) What did the man want to achieve by offering sweets to the 'disconsolate charge'?

- (a) He wanted to feed the hungry child
- (b) He wanted to blackmail the child
- ✓ (c) He wanted to divert the child's attention from the sorrow of being separated from his parents
- (d) He wanted to kidnap the child

(c) Which word in the extract is a synonym of 'laughter'?

- (a) Disconsolate
- ✓ (b) Humour
- (c) Comedy
- (d) Giggle

(iv) What does 'disconsolate' mean?

- (a) Extremely happy
- ✓ (b) Extremely sad and disappointed
- (c) Somewhat sad and disappointed
- (d) Tolerant

Ans. (i) (b) The lost child

(ii) (c) He wanted to divert the child's attention from the sorrow of being separated from his parents

(iii) (b) Humour

(iv) (b) Extremely sad and disappointed

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

1 The child notices many things on his way to the fair. Mention any three of them.

Or Parents were in a hurry to reach the fair but the child was delaying them. How?

Ans. The child notices the flowering mustard - field, a group of dragonflies, little insects and worms along the footpath, cooing of doves and a shower of flower petals on the way to the fair.

Thus, the child straggled (left) behind his parents, delaying them. Parents were in hurry but the child was not.

2 What were the things which fascinated the child as he entered the fair?

Ans. As he entered the fair, the child was fascinated by the hustle and bustle of the fair, the sweetmeat seller selling burfi, the flower seller selling garlands of gulmohar, a balloon seller, the snake-charmer's enchanting music and people on the roundabout.

3 How did the mother distract the child's mind from the toy seller?

Ans. The child's mother distracted the mind of the child from the toy seller by pointing towards a flowering mustard field, pale like melting gold as it swept across a large area of flat land. The parents even gave a piece of their mind to distract the mind of child.

4 What happened when the 'lost child' entered the grove? How did he enjoy there?

Ans. When the 'lost child' entered the grove, a shower of young flowers fell upon him. Forgetting his parents, he began to gather the raining petals in his hands.

Then, he heard the cooing of doves and ran towards his parents, the petals dropping from his hands. Then, he went running in wild capers round the banyan tree before the parents picked him up.

5 Why didn't the boy wait for an answer after he had pleaded for sweets?

Ans. The boy didn't wait for an answer after he had pleaded for sweets because he knew, from his past experience with them, that his parents would say he was greedy and refuse his request. They would never allow him to have any of the things he wanted there.

6. Why did the child make no request for the garland, balloons and burfi?

Ans. He made no request for the garland because he knew his parents would call them cheap stuff.

He made no request for balloons because he would be told that he had outgrown playing with balloons. Burfi was his favourite sweet but he did not request for it because he knew that he would be called greedy.

7 How was the child lost in the fair?

Ans. The child, attracted by the various items in the fair, stopped at every one of them, always lagging behind his parents.

The boy was fascinated by the roundabout but when he made a bold request for a ride on it, he got no reply because he had got separated from his parents and was lost. Only then, the child realised that he had been lost.

8 What was the condition of the child when he lost his parents?

Ans. When the child realised that he had lost his parents, he ran here and there to search for his parents. He had lost all his happiness and excitement. There was no joy left for him in the fair. He wanted nothing but his parents only. He was inconsolable.

9 What happened when the lost child reached the temple door?

Ans. When the lost child reached the temple door, men were jostling (pushing) each other. The child struggled to thrust his way through but was knocked down. He might have been trampled (causing damage or injury) if he had not shouted at the highest pitch of his voice for his parents.

10 Who rescued the lost child?

Ans. A kind-hearted man near the shrine lifted him up in his arms and tried to soothe (comfort) him. He offered to take him to the roundabout and offered to buy him flowers, balloons and sweets. He did his best to make the child happy but the child was just refusing for all those things.

11 How did the kind man try to humour the child and with what effect?

Ans. The kind man tried to humour the child by offering him sweets, balloons, a garland and a ride on the roundabout. But, nothing interested the child; he only wanted his parents. This was because he was panic-stricken (shocked) on losing contact with his parents.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 What all things did the child get attracted to, once he entered the fair? Was he able to get all the things he desired? What happened when he made a bold request to his parents?

Ans. It is natural for a child to get attracted towards things of his interest. He would listen to no excuses if he desired a thing. But, it is not necessary that the child would get all the things that he wished for because the condition of the parents mattered a lot. If the economic condition of the parents is not well then they can't provide the child the desired thing. But, the parents should try to listen to the genuine demands of the child.

The child got attracted to almost all the things once he entered the fair. With wide mouth, he stared at the sight of the *burfi*, then he got attracted towards a garland of *gulmohar* flowers and then got carried away by the rainbow glory of coloured balloons. He wanted them all but knew his parents will refuse, so he did not ask for any one of them.

Thus, he was not able to get anything that he desired. Finally he made a bold request for going on the roundabout but when he got no reply, turned round and found that they were nowhere to be seen.

2 How do you know that the 'lost child' was a nature-lover?

Ans. We can know that the 'lost child' was a nature-lover because he was initially fascinated (attracted) by the flowering mustard-field, the dragonflies, little insects and worms, bees and butterflies on the way to the fair. Nature has the power to attract everyone towards it. Be it a child or an adult, nature appeals

to all. In the story, the child was a lover of the nature. On the way to the fair, there was so much to be seen that was offered by nature. With so many things to see, the child was just struck to them and the parents had to wait for them.

When he entered the fair, he forgot his parents and began to gather flower petals. Then, he ran around the banyan tree. From the flower seller, he wanted to purchase a garland of *gulmohar*. All this shows that he was a nature lover.

3 How did the child realise that he had lost the company of his father and mother?

Ans. The child left his home with his parents for the fair. He was happy and cheerful at that time. He was aware of the fact that he would get nothing from his parents but still there was happiness in his mind. He was overjoyed at the idea of going there. Everything at the fair was a thing of attraction for the child. He would go to each of the pleasantries (different stalls) and feel what it had to offer. His joys had no bounds at all. On passing the snake-charmer and the balloon seller, the child did not ask for anything, knowing that he would be refused.

But, when he came to the roundabout, on seeing children and adults laughing, shrieking (shouting) and enjoying the ride, he made a bold request to his parents. However, on receiving no reply, he turned to look but did not find his parents.

Then, he desperately (seriously) looked everywhere in all directions but they were not visible. That is when he realised that he had lost the company of his father and mother. He started to cry with fear.

- 4 What did the child do when he realised that he had got separated from his parents?

Ans. Losing one's parents is the utmost grief. And, if the loser is a child, then this grief is so grave that can't be described in words. The moment before, he was happy and the moment later, he was burdened with grief. Definitely the child would have felt the highest amount of grief. When the child realised that he had got separated from his parents, he was panic-stricken and a deep cry came from within his dry throat. He must have choked. His words must have been suppressed within his throat. He must have realised what does it mean to get separated from the parents. His mind was full of the fear and the apprehension (fear) of separation and its after effects in his life.

He started running frantically (in a desperate way owing to fear anxiety), here and there, with tears rolling down his cheeks. His yellow turban came untied and his clothes became muddy. Ultimately, he rushed towards a temple where crowd was thronging, thrusting his way through the crowd, crying loudly for his father and mother. Ultimately, he was rescued (saved) by a kind man who tried to soothe (comfort) him.

- 5 How did the man try to soothe the lost child?

Ans. The child came to the fair with his parents to enjoy the beauty and pleasantries that it offered. He was always lagging behind his parents for he made himself busy at the sight of the things he saw in between. He was fascinated at the things and his parents had to call him so that he could go with him. Soon, he would lag behind again. And, with this continuation, he lost his parents when he was standing near a roundabout and wanted his parents

to allow him to have a ride on the roundabout. A man found him crying and lost. The man who found the 'lost child' tried to soothe and amuse him by taking him to the roundabout and then to the snake - charmer. On seeing a negative response, he took the child near the balloons to distract the child's attention. He even took him to the gate where the flower seller sat. He also took him to the sweetmeat seller. But, all his soothing was useless as the child was panic-stricken on losing contact with his parents. He wanted nothing but his parents.

- 6 Compare the attitude of the child before and after his separation from his parents.

Ans. Parents are the most lovable to a child. It is of no worth how they are but they are the one who matter the most. Be they kind or strict, disciplinarian or liberal; but they are just valuable. When parents are with the child, he feels secured and safe. He has a sense of protection and he knows that with them none can harm him. There remains no fear and no apprehension at all with the parents. Before separation from his parents, the child was happy and excited, fascinated with what he saw in the fair. He wanted to have toys, balloons, sweets, flowers and a ride on the roundabout. But, after separation from his parents, he was panic-stricken (full of fear) and his mood changed completely. He started crying, full of fear of what would happen now. When a kind-hearted man offered all the things that he liked, he refused everything. He only wanted his parents, as in their absence, all things had become useless to him. He just wanted his parents with him. He didn't want anything eatable or any joy whatsoever. His sole demand was his parents whom he was continuously missing.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 A full, deep cry rose within his dry throat and with a sudden jerk of his body he ran from where he stood, crying in real fear, "Mother, Father".
- (i) Who is 'he' in the above extract?
- (a) The child's friend (b) The child
(c) The child's attendant (d) The shopkeeper
- (ii) Why did 'he' start crying?
- (a) Because he was not given the toy
(b) Because he was angry with his parents
(c) Because he had lost his parents
(d) Because he wanted to get his parents' attention
- (iii) Find a word from the extract which is a synonym of 'abrupt'.
- (a) Sudden (b) Jerk (c) Real (d) Slow
- (iv) What is the past tense of 'cry'?
- (a) Crying (b) Cries (c) Cried (d) Crys

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 What was the usual reaction of the father to the child's demands?
- 3 What kind of a person was the child's mother?
- 4 Where did the parents stop and why?
- 5 Why was the child forbidden to hear the music being played by the snake-charmer?
- 6 What did the child do in the grove?
- 7 Why would the parents have refused to buy a gulmohar garland?
- 8 How can you say that the child was obedient?
- 9 Where and how did the child meet the kind-hearted person?
- 10 Why did the child run towards the shrine?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 11 What happened during the time that the family walked on the path to the fair?
- 12 When did the child realise he was separated from his parents? What was his reaction?
- 13 'The company of parents is more important than the things of pleasure.' Do you agree?
- 14 The reactions of the child at the shop of the sweetmeat-seller, the flower seller and the balloon seller—were they natural reactions? From his reactions can we conclude that he was a realistic child?
- 15 What do you think will ultimately happen? Will the child find his parents? If so, how?