NCERT Solutions for Class 12 English Flamingo Chapter 2

Question 1.
What is Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps? Where is he and where has he come from?
Answer:
Unlike his parents who sifted through the garbage dumps for their survival, Saheb took it to be a treasure trove, wondrous and magical. He sometimes chanced upon a coin and hoped of finding more. He lived in Seemapuri. His family had arrived from Bangladesh in 1971.

Question 2.
What explanations does the author offer for the children not wearing footwear?
Answer:
The author disagreed with the usual explanation that is offered for the children going barefoot as a part of tradition in India. She felt it was only an excuse for the lack of money. They could ill-afford shoes as they lived in “a perpetual state of poverty”.

Question 3.
Is Saheb happy working at the tea-stall? Explain.
Answer:
Saheb was secure working at a tea-stall where he received daily wages and was given regular meals. However, it can be guessed that he was unhappy as he does not answer the writer when asked if he was happy. The writer also noticed that his face no longer carried the carefree look. He looked burdened with responsibilities.

Question 4.
What makes the city of Firozabad famous?
Answer:
Firozabad was famous for its bangles. Most families in Firozabad were engaged in making bangles. It engaged most of the families in its central industry. They worked around furnaces, welding glass and making bangles.

Question 5.
Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangles industry?
Answer:
Bangles were manufactured in glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air or light. As a consequence, the children, who slogged away in cloistered rooms close to the hot furnaces, often lost the brightness of their eyes, even their vision.

Question 6.
How is Mukesh’s attitude to his situation different from that of his family?
Answer:
Mukesh’s father worked as a tailor and as a bangle maker. He passed on his bangle-

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making skill to his family.
However, Mukesh dreamt of becoming a car mechanic, and wanted to break away from the occupation his family had been involved in for generations.

Lost Spring Understanding the text

Question 1.
What could be some of the reasons for the migration of people from villages to cities?
Answer:
Although it is difficult for the people to relocate from villages to cities, migration of such a nature continues unabated. People migrate for various reasons. These could be:

- de-fragmentation of land holdings
- lack of job opportunities
- lack of physical infrastructure no factories or other forms of employment, no medical support, no educational institutions, etc.
- lack of public health amenities such as sewage, drainage, etc.
- inability to deal with environmental hazards such as rains, storms, etc.
- glamour of the city life lures youngsters
- limited opportunities for progress
- aspirations for a better lifestyle

Question 2.
Would you agree that promises made to the poor children are rarely kept? Why do you think this happens in the incidents narrated in the text?
Answer:
Promises made to the poor children are rarely kept. Promises are made both at the national and international levels to provide healthy lives, quality education, protection against abuse, exploitation and violence, and combating HIV or AIDS. Yet, it is estimated that 246 million children are engaged in child labour. Of those, almost 171 million work in hazardous conditions, such as in mines, with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture or with dangerous machinery.

In some sectors their presence is kept under wraps where they toil away as domestic servants in homes, and labouring behind the walls of workshops. Millions of girls work as domestic servants and as unpaid household help and are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. As the world looks ahead to prosperity, many children barely have a future, trapped in the conditions of poverty, conflict, and a degraded environment.

Just like Saheb and Savita, their future continues to be bleak. The children become disillusioned and often turn cynical. This happens because of utter poverty and the failure of the government to provide social security to the people.

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Question 3.
What forces conspire to keep the workers in the bangle industry of Firozabad in poverty?
Answer:
Despite a government ban on child labour, 20,000 children in Firozabad work in horrific conditions to support their poor families. The workers are exposed to hazards such as blindness, tuberculosis, bronchitis, etc. In spite of working in such hazardous conditions the children are underpaid.They are forced to lead this life of poverty, as bangle-making continues to be their only means of livelihood. They can barely afford two square meals a day. They lack money and enterprise to do anything except carry on the business of

making bangles. The young men follow in the path of their elders as the profession is carried from one generation to the next. Years of mind-numbing toil kills their drive and their ability to dream. They lack the education and awareness to organise themselves into a cooperative and escape the vicious circle created by middlemen. The fear of the police and lack of leadership keep them back They remain caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste. The bureaucrats and the politicians exploit them further.

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