

Chapter- 2

LOST SPRING

A few facts about the Writer

ANEES JUNG:

- ✓ Was born in Rourkela; brought up in Hyderabad.
- ✓ Received education in Hyderabad and the USA.
- ✓ Began writing career under her writer-parents
- ✓ Was an Editor, Columnist, and Author.
- ✓ This lesson is an excerpt from her book-” *Lost Spring-Stories of Stolen Childhood*”.
- ✓ “Unveiling India” (1987) was her noted work on Indian women

THEME

- ✓ National Shame- Child Labour.
- ✓ Poor children are condemned to a life of exploitation.
- ✓ Grinding Poverty.
- ✓ Tradition sanctified by caste and religion.
- ✓ Loss of childhood, innocence, education, and play. The lives of poverty-stricken children in India

Introduction to the topic and the details of the writer Anees Jung

- ✓ An Editor and Columnist for major newspapers India and Abroad
- ✓ Author of several books.
- ✓ This work is an excerpt from her book titled “Lost Spring”, *Stories of Stolen Childhood*.

Lesson initiation with comprehensive explanations–

- ✓ Introduction to the first part, "Sometimes I find a Rupee in the garbage".
- ✓ The author observes a rag-picker named Saheb who scrounges the garbage heaps for some coins and other things to sustain his living.
- ✓ Many rag-pickers and their family were Bangladeshi migrants.
- ✓ It was more of a tradition to remain barefoot and due to lack of schools in neighbourhood children were unable to acquire school education.
- ✓ Seemapuri in Delhi is a heaven for rag-pickers.
- ✓ Garbage for them is a mysterious gift, for the elders, it is just a means of survival.
- ✓ The discrepancy between Saheb's desire and reality.
- ✓ He yearns to be comfortably off, enjoys pleasures of childhood, plays Tennis, and wears shoes.
- ✓ Later, Saheb Starts working in a tea stall and paid rupees 80 with all meals, but he has lost his carefree nature and his own self.
- ✓ Introduction to the second part, "I want to drive a car".
- ✓ The author met a boy called Mukesh, who stays in Firozabad belongs to a family of bangle-makers.
- ✓ About twenty thousand children work in the glass bangle industry in very unhealthy conditions.
- ✓ The life of bangle-makers is a vicious circle of pain and misery, of which there is no end.
- ✓ The cry of poverty rings in every home in Firozabad, exploited by sahu-kars, police-man, middlemen, bureaucrats, and politicians.
- ✓ Dreaming of flying airplanes seems too distant and too big a dream for him.
- ✓ At least, being a mechanic will help him to be a master of his own, he will have his freedom
- ✓ Critical highlight on the message of the lesson as visualised by the writer.
- ✓ Two distinct worlds are visible- one, families caught in the poverty and burdened with the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other, a vicious circle of money-lenders, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law and politicians.
- ✓ Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put it down. He accepts it as naturally as his father.
- ✓ To anything else mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. The author is cheered when she senses a flash of it in Mukesh who wants to be a motor mechanic.

MIND MAP**Lost Spring**

WRITER

CHARACTERS

THEME

Saheb-e-Alam

- name means – lord of the universe
- but earns living by rag-picking
- lives in Seemapuri
- walks barefoot

Mukesh

- the bangle maker of Firozabad
- works in high temperature
- dreams of being a motor mechanic, wants to break the lineage.

- The theme of the chapter is poverty, and how the poor children are condemned to a life of exploitation, which results in the loss of childhood,

Living condition of Seemapuri

- on the outskirts of Delhi, yet miles away from it, home of 10,000 rag-pickers
- make their living by rag-picking
- food and survival more important than an identity
- garbage to them is gold because it is a means of survival for them.

Hazards of Working in Glass Bangle Factory

- work place – small and dingy
 - long working hours in front of hot furnaces
 - boys and girls assist parents in the dim light of flickering oil lamps.
 - eyes more adjusted to dark than light.
 - dust from polishing bangles affect their eyes, skin and health
- The poor are exploited by two negative elements constituting their two worlds-one family and the other the exploiters.
- exploited by money-lenders, police, bureaucrats, politicians.
 - fear of being ill-treated by police
 - live in a state of intense poverty.