

MOMENTS

STD-IX

SUBJECT- LITERATURE

CHAPTER - 1

TOPIC- THE LOST CHILD

PERIOD-3

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

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THE LOST CHILD



**MULK RAJ
ANAND**

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Understanding the concept
- Being acquainted with prose and poet's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the prose
- Developing LSRW Skills

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- Understanding the concept
- Being acquainted with prose and poet's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the prose
- Developing LSRW Skills

MULK RAJ ANAND

- Mulk Raj Anand was a distinguished writer, critic, editor, journalist and political activist. Born into the Kshatriya (warrior) caste in the Punjabi city of Peshawar, he was educated at cantonment schools before completing a degree at the University of Punjab, Amritsar, where his involvement in the 1921 Civil Disobedience campaign against the British resulted in a short period of imprisonment. He was just nineteen years old when he left India for England on a scholarship to mark the silver wedding of George V and Queen Mary. On his arrival he registered at University College London to study for a doctorate in philosophy which he was awarded in 1929.



THEME

- The underlying theme of the story “The Lost Child” is the universality of a child’s desire for everything that he claps his eyes on. All that the child witnesses—from the toys lining the street, to the dragon flies in the mustard field, to the snake swaying to the tunes of a snake charmer’s pungi—obsesses the child. It is a visual assault on his senses. He looks at everything in wonder, his senses almost rejoicing at being alive.
- His parents on the other hand are like a parental control filter, making him abstain him from the lures of the illusionary world as if secretly knowing that what he needs most is something else entirely. They offer a quiet reminder that the child must learn to prioritise what is important and what is not in life.
- In the end when the child loses his parents he understands what his parents’ silent gestures and reprimands were trying to teach him. He realises now that what he wanted most was his parents. He continuously refuses everything that the kind stranger offers to console him with—the very same things he was goading his parents for moments ago. Within minutes his life changes and offers him an entirely new perspective of looking at life and understanding what is truly important.



SETTING

- The story is set in an Indian village around the time of Independence.
- Set during springtime, the story offers a look into a period of time in history when changing seasons were celebrated with fairs, which offered simple pleasures like the sweetmeat seller, the flower seller, the snake charmer, a balloon seller, etc.
- The time period is emphasised further by mention of the modes of transportation, such as people riding on horses on the roads, while Others rode in the bamboo and bullock carts.



MESSAGE

- The story highlights the value of relationships over material goods.
- The child realises the true value of his parents once he is separated from them.
- It also sheds light on the universal fear of children and parents of getting separated from one another and the result of such a calamity as seen from the eyes of a little child.



CHARACTER SKETCH OF CHILD

- The child is very young and full of joy and excitement at the thought of visiting the fair.
- He is attracted by all the sights and sounds of the fair. Like all children of his age, he wants whatever catches his fancy, whether a sweetmeat or a dragonfly.
- He is however quite obedient and disciplined as he does not throw a tantrum when his parents don't give him any of the things that he demands.
- In the end he dissolves into tears as he realizes that he has lost his parents and makes a valiant effort to look for them, almost getting trampled underfoot by the people at the temple before he is rescued by a stranger.
- The same things that he had desired a little while ago lose all meaning when he gets separated from his parents.



CHARACTER SKETCH OF PARENTS

- The father of the child appears to be a strict disciplinarian who does not give into the demands of the child for toys and sweets. He is the head of the family and both his wife and child do not question his decisions. In fact he seems to be leading the family, expecting them to follow him without dawdling.
- The mother has been described as a typical loving mother who tries to soften the disappointment of the child by diverting his attention from the objects that he wants to possess. She seems to be torn between her husband and her child as she struggles to keep pace with her husband and at the same time keep her child from straying. At some point her attention seemed to have wavered, when her child gets separated from her.



CHARACTER SKETCH OF STRANGER

- The stranger appears to be a kind hearted man who rescues the lost child from under the feet of people thronging outside the temple.
- He tries hard to stop the child from weeping by offering him all the goodies at the fair and appears to be genuinely concerned to restore the child to his parents.



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