

17.8.21



Q/A

1) Describe the errands the villagers are busy with before going to the mosque.

The village is agog with excitement. Everyone is up early to go to the Eidgah mosque. One finds a button missing from his shirt and is hurrying to his neighbour's house for thread and needle. Another finds that the leather of his shoes has become hard and is running to the oil press for oil to grease it. They are dumping fodder before their oxen.

2) Hamid is poorly dressed, thin and famished-looking. Hamid has no shoes on his feet; the cap on his head is soiled and tattered; its gold thread has turned black.

3) Ameena is worried about Hamid to the fair all by himself because Hamid is only four and the Eidgah is four miles away. Besides, he has no shoes on his feet, he might get blisters on his feet, she is also concerned about Hamid getting lost in the crowd.

4) While others arrived in the town on motor cars and tongas wearing expensive dresses and perfumes, the village rustics were dressed in simple clothes and had come walking.

- ⑤ The people embrace and greet each other after the prayer is over. They also visit different stores and purchase sweets, toys and other items.
- ⑥ Hamid bravely defends his choice of buying a pair of tongs by giving witty reasons that prove that his purchase is better than their toys.
- ⑦ Noorey's lawyer met an end befitting ^{his} grand status. He was waving a fan over his toy when it fell from its high pedestal. It could have been either the breeze or the fan that was responsible for this accident. On falling to the ground, the lawyer was reduced to dust.
- ⑧ Mahmood changes his constable into a holy man by cutting its one leg to match the broken leg and making him sit in one place as if he was guarding the village. He is forced to do so when the constable slips and falls from its makeshift palanquin and breaks its legs.
- ⑨ Hamid shows his intelligence at two places in the story: when he bargains with the shopkeeper and buys a pair of tongs with three pice and when he outwits other children in defending his choice of buying a pair of tongs.

10.	Name	Toy	Description
	Mahmood	policeman	Khaki uniform, red turban and a gun on the shoulder.
	Mohsin	water carrier	Back bent, water-bag on the back.
	Noorey	lawyer	Black gown, long white coat, gold watch chain in the pocket and a law book in hand.

(B.1.) Hamid is the happiest of the boys because he thinks that his father has gone to earn money with sack loads of silver and his mother will bring gifts for him from Allah.

2.) The children join in making fun of Hamid, when Mohsin teases him about the sesame candy. This shows that they are insensitive and don't care much for Hamid.

3.) The thought that a pair will help save granny's hands from burning makes Hamid realise that the tongs are the best way to spend his three pice. It shows that Hamid

is a loving and thoughtful child.

4.) The shopkeeper initially refuses to sell the tongs to Hamid as he thinks the tongs are of no use to a child as young as Hamid, but later, sensing Hamid's feeling for family members, he sells them at a much lower price.

5.) There is a sudden change in Hamid's demeanour and self-confidence after he buys the tongs as the thought of doing something for his poor old granny fills his heart with joy and pride.

6.) Ameend starts crying, seeing little Hamid's sacrifice. She spreads her apron and beseeches Allah to bless the little child.

(C) 1.) The prayer is done in perfect coordination. Hundreds and thousands of heads bow together in prayer and then they all stand erect, bow down and sit on knees. The scene looks as if hundred and thousands of electric bulbs are switched on and off at the same time. It is referred to as a spectacular sight. Thought that all people, irrespective of their wealth and status, together prayer is very special.

2.) In my opinion, Hamid would have spent little money to buy a few things he wanted for himself, but at the same time, he wouldn't have forgotten to buy something for his grandma too.