Chapter 1 The Lost Child

**Think about it**
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Question 1.
What are the things the child sees on his way to the fair? Why does he lag behind?
Answer:
On his way to the fair the child sees toys, balloons of different colours, garland of gulmohur, a swing and a snake-charmer playing a flute. He gets attracted towards all these things. So, he lags behind.

Question 2.
In the fair he wants many things. What are they? Why does he move on without waiting for an answer?
Answer:
The child wants many things in the fair. He wants to have toys, different sweets, garland, balloons of different colours and has a keen desire to enjoy the roundabout. He moves on without waiting for an answer because whenever he stops to see things, his parents gave him a cautionary call, “come, child, come!”

Question 3.
When does he realise that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?
Answer:
The child sees a roundabout in the fair and gets attracted to it. He wants to have a ride on it. He asks his parents for permission to enjoy it. Having no response on the part of his parents he realises that he has lost his way. He starts crying bitterly at once and runs here and there in search of them.

Question 4.
Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?
Answer:
The lost child loses interest in the things he had wanted earlier because he got lost in the fair. He is panic-stricken for being lost. Now he frist wants his parents. He is afraid and feels unsafe.

Question 5.
What do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents?
Answer:
Yes I feel that the child finds his parents at last. The kind-hearted person must have tried his best to find his parents. On the other hand the parents of the child must have left no stone unturned to find their child.

**Talk about it**
**(Page 6)**

Question 1.
How to ensure not to get lost.
Answer:
It is very common that children get lost in fairs and crowds. Hardly a day passes when no child gets lost. It is the duty of both the parents and the children to ensure not to get lost. The parents need to be vigilant and more careful at crowded places. Before entering a crowded place the parents should fix a point where the child should wait in case of getting lost. They should make the child memorise home address and telephone numbers. They should put or pin up a note on the pocket of the child with full details. They should attend to the need of the child and never leave him behind, in case he happens to stand at some shop.

On the other hand the child should hold the hands of his parents at a crowded place. He should keep an eye on his parents so as not to lose sight of them. In case of any emergency the help of police, help centres and media can be taken.

**Short Answer Questions (2 marks each)**
 **(About 30-40 words each)**

Question 1:How did the child react when there was no sign of his parents ?
Answer:The child was very innocent. He gets confused and panic-stricken on not seeing his parents. He felt lonely without his parents amidst so much of crowd. The man who tries to console the child also does not achieve any success as the boy only needs his parents and no monetary benefit.

Question 2:Where did the child go with his parents ? What did he want there ?
Answer:The child went to a fair with his parents. He wanted garlands, balloons and sweets over there. He also wanted to see the snake and take a ride on the swing.

Question 3:Why did the lost child refuse to take his favourite things in the fair after loosing his parents ?
Answer:The child refused to take his favourite things in the fair after he lost his parents as he missed them and wanted to meet them only. Now, he had lost interest in all his favourite things.

Question 4:How did the mother distract the child’s mind from the toy seller ?
Answer:
The mother distracted the child’s mind from the toy seller by pointing towards a flowering mustard field. He saw colourful dragon flies and staffed running after them.

Question 5:How was the child separated from his parents ?
Answer:
The boy was attracted to toys, balloons and sweets in the fair. He got fascinated with the flute music being played by the snake charmer. While watching the roundabout swing he got separated from his parents.

Question 6:What happened when the lost child reached the temple door ?
Answer:When the child reached the temple door men jostled each other. The poor child struggled to thrust his way out but was knocked. He might have been trampled if he had not shouted at his highest pitch.

Question 7:Who rescued the lost child ? What did he offer to buy him ?
Answer:The man in the shrine rescued the lost child. He lifted him up in his arms and tried to soothe him. He took him to the nearest roundabout swing and offered to buy him flowers, balloons and sheets.

Question 8:Parents were in a hurry to reach the fair but the child was delaying them. How ?
Answer:The boy got distracted by toys which he wanted to buy, butterflies and dragon flies which he wanted to catch and flowers that he wanted to gather. And, out of pine innocence he delayed his parents to reach the fair.

Question 9:What was the first reaction of the child when he realized that he had lost his parents?
Answer:The child panicked when he realized (hat he had lost his parents. He was puzzled, angry and desperate. He cried and shouted for his parents. He ran here and there to look for his parents.

Question 10:
Why didn’t the boy wait for an answer after he had pleaded for sweets ?
Answer:The boy didn’t wait for an answer after life had pleaded for sweets because he knew that his parents would say that he was greed^ and would refuse to buy the sweets.

Question 11:What happened when the “lost child” entered the grove ? How did he enjoy there ?
Answer:When the “lost child” entered the grove, a shower of young flowers fell upon him. He began to gather the raining petals. He heard the cooing of doves and ran towards his parent^. He had a fun- filled splendid time in the grove.

 **Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**
**(About 80-100 words)**

Question 1:What changes do you notice in the behaviour of the child, once he is separated from his parents in the story “The Lost Child” ?
Answer:A child along with his parents had been to a fair. He was very excited and happy with the stalls of toys and sweets. He gets separated from his parents and starts crying. He runs hither and thither in search of his parents, but in vain. Since the place was overcrowded he got real scared. He started cryjng as he was all alone. A kind hearted man offers him many things but he refuses. The child who wanted everything from the fair was now not interested in any of these things as he only yearned to be with his parents.

Question 2:Compare the attitude of the child before and after his separation from his parents.
Answer:Before separation the child was very happy and excited at the fair. He was fascinated with all the things that were displayed at the stalls. He wanted to have all the things like his favourite toys, sweets, flowers, etc. He also wanted to go for a ride. But after separation the boy just wanted to be with his parents. He was not interested in any of those things which he kept longing to have from the stalls. In the absence of his parents these things did not give him any satisfaction.

Question 3:How did the man who found the little boy in the fair, try to soothe him ?
Answer:The man who found the little boy in the fair tried every possible way to soothe him. He took him to a roundabout swing then offered a horse ride, tried to make him listen to the snake charmer’s song and offered him a balloon, as he thought that this would distract his mind, but in vain. He offered him flowers and sweets, but the child kept crying. The child could not be distracted by any of the things at the fair as he longed to be with his parents.

Question 4:How do you know that the lost child was a nature – lover?
Answer:The child was attracted to the nature’s little aspects because of his innocence. When his mother diverted his attention towards the mustard field he saw the flowers which were in the nascent stage and flowering. The flowers of the field were pale like melting gold. He then saw a group of dragon flies which were bustling about on their gaudy purple wings, intercepting the flight of a lone black bee or butterfly in search of sweetness from the flowers. The child wanted to catch those dragon this but they went away fluttering and flapping. He also got attracted to the little insects and worms along the foot that were teeming out from their hiding places to enjoy the Sunshine. A shower of young flowers fell upon the child as he entered the fair. He forgot about his parents and began to gather the raining petals in his hands. Again when he heard the cooing of doves, he ran towards his parents shouting about them.

Question 5:What all things did the child get attracted to, once be entered the fair ? Was he able to get all the things he desired ? What happened when he made a bold request to his parents ?
Answer:With a wide mouth, he stared at the sight of burfi. Later he was attracted to a garland of gulmohur and was carried away by the rainbow glory of the coloured balloons. He wanted them all but, on the other hand, he also knew the answers of his parents, so he convinced himself and did not ask them for anything. Finally, he made a bold request for going on the roundabout. As he turned to get their reply, he could not find them behind him.