

CLASS XII -ENGLISH

LOST SPRING

THEME

- Spring is the season associated with optimism and hope. It works as a metaphor for childhood which is perhaps the best phase of one's life.
- The chapter talks about national shame of children being forced to live a life of poverty and exploitation.
- It talks about Saheb-e-Alam and Mukesh who couldn't live their childhood as they had to carry the burden of poverty and illiteracy.
- It talks about the deplorable condition of such children who get forced to miss the simple joyful moments of childhood because of their socio-economic conditions.

THEME

- These children are not given the opportunity of schooling and are compelled to start working early in life.
- The author strives hard to eliminate child labour. She propagates the education of children and enforcement of strict laws against child labour.
- The message is to bring an end to child exploitation.

IMP LINES

❑ ***“Promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world”***

Many such promises like the promise of opening a school made by the author were never meant to be fulfilled. Even the government and the higher authorities who made the promise of bringing a development in the life of poor children never intended to do so.

❑ ***Irony in Saheb's name***

- Saheb's name is Saheb-E-Alam which means the Lord of Universe.
- His name is in complete contrast to the kind of life he lived since he was a poor rag picker who was deprived of the basic joys of life.

❑ ***"It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation. I wonder this is only an excuse to explain away the perpetual state of poverty."***

The author on looking at the troop of barefoot boys realize that tradition of staying barefoot is just an explanation to camouflage or hide the continuous state of poverty.

❑ ***"My acquaintance with the barefoot ragpickers leads me to Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi yet miles away from it ,metaphorically"***

- Although Seemapuri was geographically closed to Delhi yet it was miles away because
- It was a wilderness
- Almost 10000 ragpickers were putting up there for more than 30years without an identity but with their names on ration cards
- Houses were the structures of mud with roofs of tin and tarpaulin
- It was devoid of sewage, drainage or running water

❑ **Garbage to them is gold**

- It is their daily bread
- Roof over their heads
- And for children like Saheb it unfolds many unexpected surprises

❑ ***“I like the game”, he hums content to watch it standing behind the fence***

Since Saheb was aware that the game of tennis was out of his reach he could not gather the audacity of entering inside.

❑ ***“The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag***

- It belonged to the owner
- He lost the carefree look
- Was no longer his master
- Did not come across any unexpected surprises