



ENGLISH

THE LAST LESSON

THE LOST SPRING

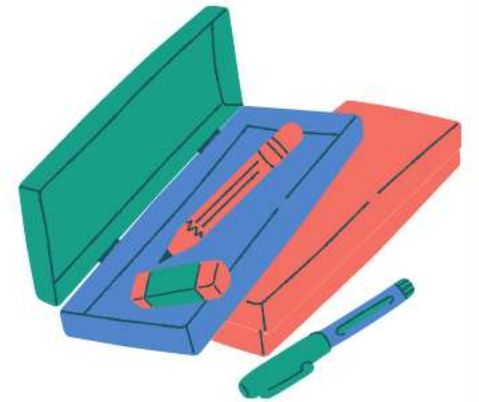
THING OF BEAUTY

Doubts & Central theme



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STORY – 2: BANGLE MAKING FAMILIES OF FIROZABAD

- The author talks about the town of Firozabad where every other family is **engaged** in bangle making.
- Families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass and making bangles.
- It is illegal for children.
- The families are steeped in poverty.
- In dark hutments, sit boys and girls along with their parents wielding pieces of glass together to make bangles. Their eyes are more adjusted to the dark, than they are to light and therefore, they often end up losing their eyesight before they become adults.

“Can a god-given lineage ever be broken?” Born in a caste of bangle makers, they have seen nothing but bangles.

The young men echo the lament of their elders. Years of mind numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.

- Echo: Repeat
- Lineage: From one generation to another
- Lament: Complain
- Numb: Feel nothing
- Initiative: To take the first step
- Engaged: Involved. Do something

Mukesh – a young boy in the story wants to become a car mechanic. He has the dream of coming out of the family business but not big enough to become a pilot.

Through these two stories, one notices two aspects:

1. In Seemapuri, as a ragpickers, the people are steeped in poverty and ashamed of the caste they have been born in.
2. In Firozabad, the vicious circle of middle men, policemen and sahlukars ruin their lives.

These two together impose a burden on children that cannot be put down because it is connected to their birth. Before they can start dreaming of better lives or live the springs of their lives according to their own selves, they accept the burden of their lineage as naturally as their fathers. Hence, the lesson is called 'The Lost Spring'.

THE LAST LESSON: CENTRAL THEME

Story is set during the second world war when the small town of Alsace in France has been taken over by Germany. The take over means that French would no longer be the official language of Alsace. From the next day, the official language would be German. Franz, a little boy from the village is emotional and even though he had no interest in studies; seeing his teacher M. Hamel leave makes him upset and full of sadness.

THE THING OF BEAUTY: CENTRAL THEME

The poet, John Keets writes about the endless beauty that our planet offers us through nature and its stories. These things are endless, eternal and keep increasing with each passing day. It helps us to live better lives and focus on the joy and calmness in our lives. Just how the trees provide us with a shade, these things of beauty give us a place in our hearts to appreciate our lives and live with kindness.

THE LOST SPRING: CENTRAL THEME

It is a heartbreaking story of two boys that live in two small towns of India – Seemapuri and Firozabad. These towns aren't well off financially. Seemapuri is full of refugees from Bangladesh who work as ragpickers. Searching the huge garbage piles, sometimes, these people find a few rupees also but mostly it is a question of survival for them.

Bangle making industry thrives in Firozabad but the lives of people who make bangles is dark and depressed. These people become blind at very young age in their lives and even if they want, they cannot choose a different profession because their families are bound by loans and Sahukars and middle men. The beauty of the glass bangles of Firozabad contrasts with the misery of people who produce them.

• Identify the literary device used in the sentences given below:

1. Saheb-e-Alam which means the lord of the universe is directly in contrast to what Saheb is in reality. (Irony/Contrast)
2. Drowned in an air of desolation.(Metaphor)
3. Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi yet miles away from it, metaphorically. (Contrast)
4. For the children it is wrapped in wonder: for the elders it is a means of survival. (Contrast)
5. She still has bangles on her wrist, but not light in her eyes. (Pun)
6. Few airplanes fly over Firozabad. (Pun)
7. Web of poverty. (Metaphor)
8. Scrounging for gold. (Metaphor)
9. Through the years, ragpicking has acquired proportions of a fine art. (Hyperbole)

THE THING OF BEAUTY: FIGURE OF SPEECH

METAPHORS:

- ‘bower quiet’-refers to a quiet shady part in the garden
- ‘wreathing a flowery band’-connecting to nature
- ‘endless fountain of immortal drink’- refers to the deeds of great men and women that have made them a source of inspiration for people of all times
- The list of beautiful things is metaphors and symbols of nature.

ALLITERATION

- *Noble natures*
- *Cooling covert*
- *Band to bind*

- List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem.
- List the things that cause suffering and pain.
- What does the line, “Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to the earth” – suggest to you?
- What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?
- Why is ‘grandeur ‘ associated with the ‘mighty dead’?

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