

CLASS NOTES

Class: VIII

Topic: Chapter 6. Festival of Eid by Munshi Premchand

Subject: ENGLISH

ABOUT THE STORY:

"Festival of Eid" tells the story of a four-year-old orphan named Hamid who lives with his grandmother Ameena. Hamid, the protagonist of the story, has recently lost his parents; however his grandmother tells him that his father has left to earn money, and that his mother has gone to Allah to fetch lovely gifts for him. This fills Hamid with hope, and despite Ameena's worry surrounding their poverty and her grandson's well-being, Hamid is a happy and positive child.

ONLY FOR UNDERSTANDING.

Reading Comprehension

A. Answer these questions within 20 words.

All answers must be written or marked in the book.

B. Answer these questions in 30-40 words each.

All answers must be written or marked in the book.

C. Answer these questions in 80-100 words each.

1. Write a short character sketch of Hamid.

Ans. This answer must be written by the students on their own.

2. The narrator says, 'A child's imagination can turn a mustard seed into a mountain.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Yes, I agree that a child's imagination can turn a mustard seed into a mountain. Hamid is so lost in his world of imagination that he does not see the world of reality. He lives happily on the hopes that are built in his imagination. He has no shoes on his feet; the cap on his head is soiled and tattered and the gold thread has turned black. But, in spite of everything, he is happy. He believes that when his father comes back with sacks full of silver and his mother with gifts from Allah he will be able to fulfill all his heart's desires. Then he will have more than Mahmood, Moshin, Noorey and Sammi. This shows he is happy to live in the world of hope and imagination.

3. Do you think that Hamid really believed that toys are a waste of money? Justify your answer.

Ans. Hamid, like all his friends was tempted by the toys, but the thought of his grandmother who burnt her hands every time she baked chapatti made him exercise self-control. He decided to buy the tongs for his grandmother and did not waver. He thought the tongs would be a useful thing to have in the house. Toys, he decided, were a waste of money and you may have some fun with them but only for a short time. Then you forget them. His friends mocked him for his purchase and asked him what he would do with the pair of tongs. Hamid had an answer. He could carry his tongs on his shoulders like a gun and strut about proudly. He calls his purchase a brave tiger and to demonstrate its superiority, he flings it on the ground and says that if the water carrier bought by Mohsin were to be treated in a similar manner, it would shatter into pieces. Similarly, it could tear the skin of Sammi's tambourine. His brave pair of tongs could weather and storms.

4. At the end of the story, the narrator says that Ameena's love was mute, solid and seeped with tenderness.' What do you think the narrator wishes to convey through these words?

Ans. Ameena was completely overwhelmed by her grandson's gift which showed his selfless love for her. The boy had not eaten anything, he had walked all the way to the Eidgah and back and he had not bought anything for himself. He had nothing to eat or drink at the fair but came home happily to present his gift to his granny. The old lady is overcome with emotion on perceiving this act of kindness

and generosity. All her problems vanish and her overflows with happiness at this given by this child who deprives of all pleasures to comfort his granny.

D. Read these sentences and answer the questions that follow.

All answers must be written in the book.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the most appropriate answer of the given questions.

1. Which fete is mentioned in the story?
 - a. Eid
 - b. Ramadan
 - c. Id-ul-Fitr
 - d. Moharram
2. With what the pockets of the boys compared to?
 - a. Lord Ganesha
 - b. Lord Kubera
 - c. Lord Shiva
 - d. Lord Krishna
3. Why were the boys excited?
 - a. They wanted to relish sweets and buy toys.
 - b. They wanted to see the mansions, law courts and colleges.
 - c. They wished to compare their toys.
 - d. They wanted to show one another their toys.
4. Find the incorrect pair.
 - a. Mahmood – policeman
 - b. Mohsin – water carrier
 - c. Noorey – tambourine
 - d. Sammi – tambourine
5. What did Hamid buy?
 - a. A pair of tongs
 - b. Lawyer
 - c. Policeman
 - d. Water carrier
6. What was the cost of the tongs?
 - a. 3 pice
 - b. 5 pice
 - c. 6 pice
 - d. 8 pice
7. How did Hamid justify his purchase?
 - a. His tongs could weather water and storms.
 - b. Tongs can produce musical sound.
 - c. Tongs were valiant as well as lion-hearted.
 - d. All the above.
8. How did Mister Watercarrier meet his end?
 - a. It fell from pedestal.
 - b. It slipped out of little girl's hands.
 - c. It fell into the water.
 - d. None of the above.
9. Why did Granny scold Hamid?
 - a. As he did not eat or drink anything till noon.
 - b. Because he went to the Eidgah alone.
 - c. Because he fought with his friends.
 - d. Because he did not buy a toy.
10. Why did the old woman's temper change to love?

