

- The Lost Child Summary

The Lost Child Summary

"The Lost Child" by Mulk Raj Anand is a touching story set during a vibrant spring fair. The narrative follows a young child who visits the fair with his parents. Enthralled by the colorful stalls selling toys, sweets, and decorative items, the child repeatedly lags behind, captivated by the attractions. Despite his desires, he restrains himself, knowing his parents would not indulge his wishes, fearing they would consider him greedy.

As the child becomes increasingly absorbed in the fair's delights, he suddenly realizes that his parents have disappeared. Lost and frightened amidst the crowd, he is comforted by a kind stranger who offers him sweets, balloons, and rides. However, the child remains inconsolable, longing only for his parents' presence.

Key Elements

- **Theme:** The innocence of childhood and the deep bond between a child and parents.
- **Setting:** A bustling spring fair filled with colorful stalls and attractions.
- **Characters:** The lost child, his parents, and the kind stranger.
- **Plot:** The child's excitement, his momentary distractions, and the eventual realization of being lost.

Important Quotes

- "I want my father, I want my mother." – Expresses the child's deep yearning and fear when lost.
- "His mouth watered seeing sweets decorated with gold and silver leaves." – Highlights the child's innocent desires.

Explanation of Key Lines

The line "I want my father, I want my mother" is repeated by the child to emphasize his distress and the comfort only his parents can provide. Despite the stranger's offers of sweets and toys, the child's emotional need surpasses material temptations.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who accompanied the child to the fair?
- What attracted the child at the fair?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Why did the child not ask for sweets or toys even though he wanted them?
- Describe the feelings of the child when he realized he was lost.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the significance of the fair setting in the story.
- Discuss the theme of innocence as portrayed in "The Lost Child."

Answer Key

Level 1 – Easy

- The child was accompanied by his parents.
- The child was attracted by the stalls of toys, sweets, and decorative items.

Level 2 – Moderate

- The child did not ask for sweets or toys because he knew his parents would consider him greedy and refuse.
- When the child realized he was lost, he felt terrified and began to cry, longing for his parents.

Level 3 – Challenging

- The fair represents a lively and colorful environment that captivates the child's attention, symbolizing the allure of the world and the innocence of childhood.
- The story portrays innocence through the child's pure desires and his emotional dependence on his parents, highlighting the vulnerability of childhood.

Quick Reference

- **Author:** Mulk Raj Anand
- **Setting:** Spring fair
- **Main Character:** The lost child
- **Theme:** Childhood innocence and parental love

Glossary

- **Fascinated:** Attracted and held the attention completely.
- **Pacified:** Calmed down or soothed.
- **Diverted:** Distracted or changed focus.
- **Lagged:** Moved slowly or fell behind.
- **Mouth watered:** Felt a strong desire for food.
- **Terrified:** Extremely frightened.

- **Consoled:** Comforted someone in distress.

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