

Page no. 93

Think it out

Que. Tick the item which best answers the following:

(a) The tall girl with her head weighed down means the girl:

- (i) is ill and exhausted**
- (ii) has her head bent with shame**
- (iii) has untidy hair**

Ans: The correct answer is an option (ii) is ill and exhausted. The kid must have been tired from accompanying her mother around the home with housework and then coming to school.

(b) The paper-seeming boy with rat's eyes means the boy is:

- (i) sly and secretive**
- (ii) thin, hungry, and weak**
- (iii) unpleasant looking**

Ans: The correct answer is option (ii) thin, hungry, and weak. Most of the children in slums are not provided access to proper food and nutrition which can make them extremely thin and weak.

(c) The stunted, unlucky heir of twisted bones means the boy:

- (i) has an inherited disability**
- (ii) was short and bony**

Ans: The correct option is (i) has an inherited disability. The kid must have inherited some genetic disability that would have passed to him from his parents or grandparents. The condition provides him twisted bones and a lack of proper stature.

(d) His eyes live in a dream. A squirrel's game, in the tree room other than this. This means the boy is:

- (i) full of hope in the future**
- (ii) mentally ill**
- (iii) distracted from the lesson**

Ans: The correct answer is option (iii) distracted from the lesson. The child wasn't interested in what the lesson had, instead he was busy remembering the things he loved and the games he played with his friends.

An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum

(e) The children's faces are compared to 'rootless weeds'. This means they:

- (i) are insecure**
- (ii) are ill-fed**
- (iii) are wasters**

Ans: The correct answer is an option (iii)are wasters. The simile tells us that there is nothing to ground the children. They are completely unwanted by society, and no one is bothered about their existence.

Que. What do you think is the colour of 'sour cream'? Why do you think the poet has used this expression to describe the classroom walls?

Ans. The colour "sour cream" denotes a worn-out, soiled, yellow tint. Because the school was not in a decent state, the poet chose this phrase to describe the classroom walls. It denotes that the school hasn't had any new paint applied in years, which has caused the existing paint to darken. Additionally, it describes how the absence of facilities in the room has a negative impact on the youngsters that are there.

Que. The walls of the classroom are decorated with pictures of 'Shakespeare', 'buildings with domes', 'world maps' and beautiful valleys. How do these contrast with the world of these children?

Ans. They are introduced to the world outside the slums through the vibrant, lovely images on the wall. These images show how their way of life contrasts with that of someone who has everything. Since they haven't seen or explored the world in the photograph, it serves as a window for them to envisage life outside of the school's dirty walls. Lack of adequate facilities, food, and education are all examples of poverty. The images may also encourage the children to leave the neighbourhood where they were raised in order to further explore the world and create a better future for themselves. The depiction of their planet is in contrast to the global map. The "small street shut in with a lead sky" is a metaphor for children.

Que. What does the poet want for the children of the slums? How can their lives be made to change?

Ans. The poet wishes the children to escape their current position of deprivation. He encourages them to explore the areas marked on the map and take advantage of what life has to offer. They are only kept in a depressed state by the classroom environment, which is depressed and nasty. In order to help children escape the lead sky they are so accustomed to seeing, suitable education must be offered for them. Children may accomplish anything they set their minds to and can be blessed with the future of their dreams with the right support, resources, and optimism. They could enjoy life, not be discouraged by physical restrictions, or be worn out from work.