

**St. Mary's School Dwarka**  
**Holiday Homework**  
**Class XII**  
**Subject: English**  
**Week 4**  
**Worksheet 4**

**M.M: 25**

1. Read the Second Prose lesson "Lost Spring" by Anees Jung from Flamingo.

**Background**

'Lost Spring' is a good narration of grinding poverty and traditions to which thousands of people have succumbed. The story revolves around the pitiable condition of poor children who have been forced to live in slums and work hard in dirty conditions. The story is divided into two parts. The first part tells the writer's impression about the life of poor ragpickers who have migrated from Bangladesh, but now have settled in the Seemapuri area of Delhi.

The second part narrates the miserable life of the bangle makers in the town of Firozabad. The stark reality of these families is that in spite of back-breaking hard work that they put in, they cannot have two square meals a day. Besides, they are victims of exploitation by those above them and also suffer the consequences of blind belief in traditions

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.**

**(6x½ =3)**

My acquaintance with the barefoot ragpickers leads me to Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi, yet miles away from it. metaphorically. Those who live here are squatters, who came from Bangladesh back in 1971. Saheb's family is among them. Seemapuri was then a wilderness. It still is, but it is no longer empty. In structures of mud, with roofs of tin and tarpaulin, devoid of sewage, drainage or running water, live 10.000 ragpickers. They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than an identity. "If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the field that gave us no grain," say a group of women in tattered saris, when I ask them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents that become transit homes. Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more.

"I sometimes find a rupee, even a ten-rupee note," Saheb says, his eyes lighting up. When you can find a silver coin in a heap of garbage, you don't stop scrounging, for there is hope of finding more. It seems that for children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents. For the children it is wrapped in wonder, for the elders it is a means of survival.

i) The barefoot rag pickers are

- a. asylum seekers
- b. invaders
- c. colonisers
- d. partners in survival

ii ) The 1971 Bangladesh immigrants are addressed as \_\_\_\_\_

- a. illegal settlers
- b. garbage collectors
- c. squatters
- d. nuisance makers

iii) Food is more important than identity means

- a. food is more important than sewage or drainage
- b. ID card is more important than good houses
- c. rag picking is more important than schooling
- d. garbage is more important than clothing

iv) Women in tattered saris symbolize

- a. Green fields without grains
- b. Poverty
- c. Transit homes
- d. Rag picking

v) For elders garbage means “survival” and for children it is \_\_\_\_\_

- a. something wrapped in wonder
- b. mountain of opportunities
- c. a fine art
- d. perpetual poverty

vi) “Garbage to them is gold”. That is \_\_\_\_\_

- a. means of identity
- b. a place of treasure
- c. a place for barefoot soldiers
- d. a place to grow up

**2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**(4x½ =2)**

The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag he would carry so lightly over his shoulders. The bag was his. The canister belongs to the man who owns the tea shop. Saheb is no longer his own master.

- I. The steel canister seems heavier. Metaphorically it means
  - a. he has given up his freedom
  - b. he is under pressure
  - c. he has committed himself
  - d. it is no more rewarding
- II. The plastic bag was lighter because
  - a. it was made of plastic
  - b. he was not answerable to anyone
  - c. it was his
  - d. canister was metallic
- III. Heavy canister shows Saheb was
  - a. happy to have a steady income
  - b. subservient
  - c. glad to get a promotion in his career
  - d. happy to have a place to say
- IV. “Saheb is no longer his own master” ,what does the author mean by it?
  - a. Became responsible
  - b. Lost his childhood
  - c. Started earning his livelihood
  - d. Lost his freedom and independence

**3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**(4x½ =2)**

“The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of their elders. Little has moved with time, it seems, in Firozabad. Years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.”

- I. What is the cry that rings in every home in Firozabad?
  - a. Children working in glass furnaces
  - b. The pain and suffering of bangle workers
  - c. Not having money to eat enough
  - d. The exploitation by sahuks and middle men

- II. Firozabad is famous for
- Plight of street children
  - Glass-blowing industry
  - Welding of glass pieces
  - Mukesh the dreamer
- III. It is a paradox that the beauty of glass bangles of Firozabad contrasted with \_\_\_\_\_
- the struggles of Mukesh
  - the misery of the people
  - the garbage of Seemapuri
  - the mind-numbing toil of Savita
- IV. Mukesh wants to be a motor mechanic. His dreams look like a mirage because \_\_\_\_\_
- years of toil has killed his ability to dream
  - he will be hauled up by police
  - there is no light at the end of the tunnel
  - poverty stricken Mukesh has no right to dream
4. Research on job application letters and answer the following question. Remember to include your biodata -an important part of the job application letter. The letter commences with a reference to the advertisement mentioned in the question. You may follow the following format.
- sender's address
  - date
  - receiver's address
  - salutation
  - subject
  - body of the letter
  - complimentary clause
  - signature
  - name
  - enclosures
- Biodata
  - Copies of the certificates
  - Testimonials
- After completing the letter, you may write your biodata.

#### BIODATA

- Name - \_\_\_\_\_
- Date of Birth - \_\_\_\_\_
- Address - \_\_\_\_\_
- Father's name - \_\_\_\_\_

- E. Email ID - \_\_\_\_\_  
 F. Contact Number - \_\_\_\_\_  
 G. Sex - \_\_\_\_\_  
 H. Academic Qualifications - \_\_\_\_\_

S.No	Examination Passed	Institute	% of Marks	Year of Passing
1	Class 12			
2	_____			
3	_____			
4	_____			
5	_____			

- I. Professional Qualification - \_\_\_\_\_  
 J. Hobbies - \_\_\_\_\_  
 K. Languages Known - \_\_\_\_\_  
 L. Salary Expected - \_\_\_\_\_  
 M. References  
     a. \_\_\_\_\_  
        \_\_\_\_\_  
        \_\_\_\_\_  
        \_\_\_\_\_  
     b. \_\_\_\_\_  
        \_\_\_\_\_  
        \_\_\_\_\_  
        \_\_\_\_\_

### **Question**

You have read an advertisement in the newspaper, 'Pune Times' for the post of software engineer in Alex Software, Pune. You believe that you possess the requisite qualifications and experience and your innovative ideas will prove an asset to the company.

Write an application in 120 – 150 words emphasising your strong points and your suitability for the post. Also include your biodata. You are Saurab/Shikha, 12, Mall Road, Chandigarh. (3)

5. Last week an NGO, 'Health for All' organised a Vaccination Drive in your school at Dwarka for local residents. You are Ranjit/Sumita, and you visited the venue. Write a report for a local newspaper in 120-150 words covering arrangements such as registration, vaccination, observation room, policemen and health workers on duty etc. (3)

## **LITERATURE**

**Answer the following questions in 150 words**

6. How is Mukesh's attitude towards his situation different from that of Saheb? Why? (3)
7. The barefoot rag pickers of Seemapuri live on the periphery of Delhi yet, metaphorically speaking miles away from it. Comment. (3)
8. Describe the circumstances which keep the workers in bangle factory in poverty. (3)
9. "Lost Spring" explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of poverty. Do you agree? (3)