

FLAMINGO
CHAPTER 2: LOST SPRING

Note: All the work must be done in English Notebook.

SUMMARY

I – Sometimes I find a rupee in the garbage.

The first part tells the writer's impressions about the life of the poor rag pickers. The rag pickers have migrated from Dhaka and found a settlement in Seemapuri. Their fields and homes had been swept away by storms. They had come to the big city to find a living. They are poor. The writer watches Saheb every morning scrounging for "gold" in her neighbourhood. Garbage is a means of survival for the elders and for the children it is something wrapped in wonder. The children come across a coin or two from it. These people have desires and ambitions, but they do not know the way to achieve them. There are quite a few things that are unreachable to them, namely shoes, tennis and the like. Later Saheb joins a tea stall where he could earn 800 Rupees and all the meals. The job has taken away his freedom.

II – I want to drive a car.

The second part deals with the life of Mukesh, who belongs to the family of Bangle-makers. Firozabad is best known for its glass-blowing industry. Nearly 20,000 children are engaged in this business and the law that forbids child labour is not known here. The living condition and the working environment is a woeful tale. Life in dingy cells and working close to hot furnaces make these children blind when they step into the adulthood. Weighed down by the debt, they can neither think nor find a way to come out of this trap. The politicians, middlemen, policemen and bureaucrats will all obstruct their way of progress. The women in the household consider it as their fate and just follow the tradition. Mukesh is different from the rest of the folk there. He dreams to become a motor mechanic. The garage is far away from his house but he shall walk. comes across Mukesh in Firozabad.

1. WORD-MEANING

- **Scrounging: Searching to obtain something**
- **Looking for: Searching**
- **Glibly: craftily; cleverly**
- **A perpetual state of poverty: being continually poor**
- **Slog their daylight hours: work very hard and steadily throughout the day which is extremely boring**
- **Primeval: very ancient**
- **Dark hutments: rooms or places without light and fresh air**

- **Roof over his head: a house of his own**
- **Mind-numbing toil: the hard work that numbs the mind (here it means so extreme or intense that prevents normal thinking)**
- **Imposed the baggage on the child: forced the burden on the child**
- **Hurting down the streets of his own: moving very fast in a particular direction**

2. Think-as-you-read questions and Understanding the text. Do it yourself.