



***ENGLISH CORE***

***CLASS-XII***

# THE LOST SPRING

BY- ANEES JUNG

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# AUTHOR



- **Anees Jung** (b. 1944) is an Indian writer in English. She was also a journalist and wrote in the columns of newspapers in India and abroad. Her most famous work, **Unveiling India** (1987) was a chronicle of the lives of women in India, especially of Muslim women behind the purdah. Born in Rourkela, Anees hails from an aristocratic family in Hyderabad – her father, .Nawab Hosh Yar Jung, was a renowned scholar and poet. . Her mother and brother are also Urdu poets. Jung published **Unveiling India** in 1987, **Night of the New Moon :Encounters with Muslim women in India.** (1993), **Seven Sisters** (1994), **Breaking the Silence** (1997) **Beyond the Courtyard** (2003), **When a place becomes a person** (1977) and **The Song of India** (1990).

# Introduction

- **Lost Spring:** *Stories of stolen childhood (2005) actually centres around children from deprived backgrounds. Such is the story of Idrees, a child who is kidnapped and forced to work in the carpet industry in Mirzapur. Some other children with same fate are beaten by alcoholic fathers or married off and sexually abused at an early age. Some others find shelter in schools set up by NGOs. In this extract the story is of Saheb and Mukesh .*



# Summary



## **Saheb-e-alam :**

- *The author inspects and examines the down trodden conditions and traditions that force children to lead a life of uncertainty and exploitation .From a very early age they are denied of any education and are forced to go to work into hardships early in their lives.*
- *The second child whom the author meets is Saheb. He is a rag picker whose parents migrated from Dhaka and came to Delhi in search of a living.*
- *Similar such families like theirs reside in Seemapuri.*
- *They do not have any Identification other than a ration card.*
- *The children do not go to school and remain uneducated and illiterate .They are excited when they find a coin and search for more hoping to find a ten rupee note one day.*
- *It is their only way to earn a living . They live in stingy conditions and are destined to their fate.*
- *The writer is pained to see Saheb ,a rag picker, ironically whose name means ‘the ruler of the earth’, who is deprived of childhood pleasure and roams barefooted with his friends.*



# Summary.....



- *From morning to noon the author encounters him in a tea stall and is paid 800 Rs .He sadly realizes that he is not his own master and his this loss of identity weighs heavily on his tender shoulders.*

## **Mukesh**

- *The author again introduces us with another victim who wants to be a motor mechanic.*
- *Hailing from Firozabad ,the centre of India's bangle and glass blowing industry, he has always worked in the glass making industry.*
- *His family like many others residing there do not know that it is illegal for children to work at close quarters near furnaces ,of such high temperatures.*

# Themes

- 1. *Poverty.*



- 2. *Child Labour*



# Settings Of The Story

## First Episode



- *The first episode is set in Seemapuri, a slum that houses over 10,000 rag pickers. It is an impermanent settlement on the periphery of Delhi, devoid of basic amenities like supply of drinking water, drainage and sewerage.*
- *Illegal immigrants from Bangladesh fled from their drought and famine stricken country in 1971 and took refuge in Seemapuri, which soon turned into a slum.*
- *This dismal setting affected youngsters like Saheb who had taken to garbages scrounging or working at tea stalls but have not given up dreaming.*

# Settings of.....



## **Second Episode**

- *The second episode is set in the glass town of Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh. Mukesh, Savita and many more children like them live in an abject poverty and extremely unhygienic conditions. Narrow, stench filled lanes that are impassable due to garbage piles and stray animals,*
- *In glass-bangle units (which are located in the dark and dingy sheds) nearly 20,000 children spend their daylight hours over smouldering furnaces . As a result their vision and health deteriorate invariably.*

# Continued.



- *They are exposed to various health hazards like losing their eyesight as they work hard in dark and damp corners devoid of any light.*
- *Mukesh 's father is blind as were his father and grand father before him.*
- *They lead a hand to mouth existence as they are caught in the vehement hands of the money lenders, middlemen, police and customs.*
- *So burdened are the bangle makers of Firozabad that they have lost their strength to dream unlike Mukesh who still dreams of driving a car.*

# *Justification of the Title*

- *The title 'Lost Spring' itself is a metaphor used for the loss of childhood of millions of child-labourers in India. Spring is symbolic of joy, happiness, beauty, and hope. Childhood can be called the spring of a man's life. However, children like Saheb-e-alam and Mukesh have no 'spring' in their life because of the poverty they are born into. Since they don't enjoy the rights and benefits of childhood, that the children of opulent families enjoy, the poet observes these children as those whose spring (childhood) has been lost. Hence, the title 'Lost Spring' is Justified.*





Thank you !