

## Think About It

### 1. What are the things the child sees on his way to the fair? Why does he lag behind?

**Answer:** The child sees many things which fascinate him on his way to the fair. He saw many toy shops on road sides. To distract him from toys, his mother shows him a flowering mustard field nearby. In the fields, the child sees dragon flies, butterflies fluttering around the flowers. Then, while walking on the footpath he was amazed by the insects and worms. After entering the grove where his parents were resting, he saw cooing doves. As he neared the village with his parents, he saw huge crowds of people going to the fair. As the distance to the fair gets closer, he sees many shops converging to fair. A sweetmeat seller selling sweets like burfi and Gulab-jamun and a little further he comes across a flower seller who was selling a garland of Gulmohar. Walking ahead, he sees a man selling rainbow coloured balloons. He also saw a snake charmer who stood playing a flute to a snake. Finally, before losing track of his parents he saw a roundabout swing.

The child keeps lagging on the way because the child is fascinated by all the things he sees on his way. At times, he stops to buy toys and at other times he stops to admire the beauty of the nature – collecting flowers, catching butterflies.

### 2. In the fair he wants many things. What are they? Why does he move on without waiting for an Answer?

**Answer:** Some of the things child wants in the fair are:

- Toys and Balloons
- Burfi from the sweetmeat seller
- Garland of Gulmohar
- Watching the snake charmer play flute to a snake
- A ride in the roundabout

The boy moved on without waiting for an answer because he knew that his request would be refused every time.

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### 3. When does he realize that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?

**Answer:** He realises that he has lost his way when on reaching the roundabout; he stopped to observe it moving in full swing, with men, women and children enjoying themselves on it. Watching them intently he turned to his parents to ask for permission to go on the rounds

but there was no reply from them. He turned to look for them, but they were not there. He looked all around but there was no sign of them. His anxiety and insecurity has been worded beautifully. The description of his anxious moments is follows:

A full, deep cry rose within his dry throat and with a sudden jerk of his body he ran from where he stood, crying out in real fear "Mother, Father." Tears rolled down from his eyes, his flushed face was convulsed with fear. Panic-stricken, he ran from one side to the other, in all directions, knowing not where to go. His yellow turban came untied and his clothes became muddy.

The author has captured the anxiety and fear a child faces in such situations in minutest of the details of his body language. This helps the reader to connect to the child's situations at an emotional level.

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**4. Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?**

**Answer:** The lost child loses interest in the things that he had wanted earlier because he was panic stricken on being separated from his parents. All he wanted was to be united with them. All the things that attracted him in the fair no longer appeal to him as he realizes being with parents is more important.

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**5. What do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents?**

**Answer:** In the end the parents, who continuously kept checking to see that he was with them right from the beginning of their journey may have suddenly realized that he was missing and come looking for the lost child. The kind and understanding man who tried to console the little boy by offering him various things at the fair may have also asked him for some description of his parents and helped him to reunite with them.

## **Talk about it**

### **1. How to ensure not to get lost.**

#### **Answer:**

It is very common that children get lost in fairs and crowds. Hardly a day passes when no child gets lost. It is the duty of both the parents and the children to ensure not to get lost. The parents need to be vigilant and more careful at crowded places. Before entering a crowded place the parents should fix a point where the child should wait in case of getting lost. They should make the child memorise home address and telephone numbers. They should put or pin up a note on the pocket of the child with full details. They should attend to the need of the child and never leave him behind, in case he happens to stand at some shop.

On the other hand the child should hold the hands of his parents at a crowded place. He should keep an eye on his parents so as not to lose sight of them. In case of any emergency the help of police, help centres and media can be taken.