NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Class : 12th
Subject : English
Chapter : 2
Chapter Name : An Elementary school classroom in slum

Q1 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

(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

(c) The stunted, unlucky heir of twisted bones means
The boy
(i) has an inherited disability
(ii) was short and bony

(d) His eyes live in a dream, A squirrel's game, in the tree room other than this means
The boy is
(i) full of hope in the future
(ii) mentally ill
(iii) distracted from the lesson

(e) The children's faces are compared to 'rootless weeds'
This means they
(i) are insecure
(ii) are ill-fed
(iii) are wasters

Answer.
(a) -(i) is ill and exhausted
(b) -(ii) thin, hungry and weak
(c) -(i) has an inherited disability
(d) -(i) full of hope in the future
(e) -(ii) are ill-fed

Page : 94 , Block Name : Think it out

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Q2 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?

Answer. The colour ‘sour cream denotes a form of white not perfectly white. The poet tells about the pathetic environment of the classroom, where the walls were unkempt and dusty in appearance. Whereas the bright ambiance has positive effect in same way dull walls had defeating impact on the kids.

Page : 94 , Block Name : Think it out

Q3 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?

Answer. The walls were filled with art. The walls were filled with attractive Tyrolese Valley with its beautiful flowers presenting a world of beauty. The walls also have a map revealing the world while the view from the window is harsh reality. It represents a future filled with dark and uncertainties. Their eyes can only view limited path and not beyond that. The art wall describes the prosperity and all the good things. At last, expresses the kindness and love.

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Page : 94 , Block Name : Think it out

Q4 What does the poet want for the children of the slums? How can their lives be made to change?

Answer. The children in the slum were cheated with the happiness and joy. These children were thrown into hole of no hopes and growth, they were struggling towards their growth. Poet wants to give these children a better lifestyle and fresh environment. The poet wants gift them their right to education and freedom to choose opportunity in their way.

Page : 94 , Block Name : Think it out