

Chapter-2

Lost Spring

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. **What is the irony in the name "Saheb-e-Alam"?**

Ans. 'Saheb-e-Alam' means the 'Lord of the Universe' but Saheb was oblivious of what it meant. Contrary to what his name represented, he roamed the streets with his friends, an army of barefooted boys scrounging in the garbage heaps to make both ends meet.

2. **Why have the ragpickers settled in Seemapuri?**

Ans. Several families like Saheb have been the victims of nature's fury. They left Dhaka after storms swept away their fields and houses and settled in Seemapuri.

3. **Is Saheb happy working at the tea stall? Explain.**

Ans. Saheb is not happy working at the tea stall. Even though he is paid more and given his meals, but he is no longer his own master. The steel canister seemed to be heavier than the plastic bag.

LONG-ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. **Explain the significance of the title 'Lost Spring'.**

Ans.

- Spring is the season of optimism and hope. It symbolises life.
- But, unfortunately, millions of children in our country waste their childhood in ragpicking and other hazardous industries.
- The joys of childhood, the vibrance of spring is lost either in the garbage or in dingy cells with furnaces.
- The grinding poverty and traditions condemn these children to a life of exploitation.
- They see very little hope of escaping from their impoverished life of misery & deprivation.
- Moreover, years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.
- They are entangled in a spiral that moves from poverty to apathy to greed and to injustice.