

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 7: VOCATION



VOCATION

~Summary~

-by Rabindranath Tagore

The poem has two **scenarios**; the child is on the way to **school**, and the child is at home. In these two scenes, the child saw **three** people in a day. The poem conveys the child's **mindset** and the wish towards the people who hide their **struggles** and **pain** behind their works.

One morning, when the child **rushed** to the school, the child saw a **hawker** selling **bangles**. In the evening, the child saw a **gardener digging** the soil, where he never bothered the **stain** on his clothes. At night, the child **peeped** out through the **window** and saw a **watchman** who will never sleep at **night** and enjoy the whole night with his **shadows**.

The child feels **jealous** of those people as they are **happy** without any **time restrictions**. From all those works of the people, the child wished to be a **hawker**, a **gardener**, and a **watchman**. He doesn't want to push himself to go to school on time and follow the time restrictions, whereas the child needs a **peaceful** life.



Hawker, Gardener, Watchman



~Conclusion~

The poem is about how a child gets attracted to the ways of people around him and finds different curiosities and attractions in their lives. He is not aware of the tough routine they have to go through. It also shows his innocence and lack of worldly sense.



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NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 110-111)

(Working With the Poem)

Question 1. Your partner and you may now be able to answer these questions.

- i. Who is the speaker in the poem? Who are the people the speaker meets? What are they doing?
- ii. What wishes does the child in the poem make? Why does the child want to be a hawker, a gardener, or a watchman?

Pick out the lines in each stanza, which tell us this.

- iii. From the way the child envies the hawker, the gardener and the watchman, we can guess that there are many things the child has to do, or must not do.

Make a list of the dos and don'ts that the child doesn't like.

The first line is done for you.

The child must The child must not

come home at a fixed time. get his clothes dirty in the dust.

Now add to the list your own complaints about the things you have to do, or must not do.

- iv. Like the child in the poem, you perhaps have your own wishes for yourself. Talk to your friend, using “I wish I were...”

Answer:

- i. The speaker in the poem is a little school-going child. In the poem, he meets three people—a hawker, a gardener and a watchman. He observed all three of them and saw that the hawker was selling bangles and was saying “Bangles, crystal bangles!” while selling. While returning from school, he saw a gardener, who was digging the ground. At night, when it got dark and his mother sent him to bed, he saw the watchman walking up and down, through his window. The child in the poem has an innocent mind. He watches all the people around him keenly. He strongly wishes he could lead his life his own way and enjoy the freedom just as a hawker, a gardener or a watchman.
- ii. The child in the poem wishes to lead his life as per his wish because being a child, he cannot do as he wishes. He has to follow particular rules which he does not like.

The child in the poem wants to be a hawker, a gardener, and a watchman. It is so because when he looks at the hawker, he wishes that he could also spend his day on the road crying “Bangles, crystal bangles!”. He feels that the hawker is in no hurry for anything. He can take any road he wishes; can go to any place he wants and have no fixed time to return home. Such freedom cannot be exercised by him as a child, and so he wishes to be a hawker so that he could do all these things. Next, he wishes to be a gardener because a gardener can do anything he likes with his spade. He can soil his clothes with dust. No one will scold him if he gets baked in the sun or gets wet. Therefore, to be able to dig anytime and do what he wants, the child if the little child wishes that he could be a gardener. Finally, when he sees the watchman, he wants to be like him so that he can roam around in the streets at night. He will be able to walk through dark and lonely streets all night with his

lantern and chase shadows. This wish emerges when he is put to bed and is not allowed to roam outside by his mother. He even wonders that the watchman had never even once gone to bed in his entire life. Therefore, he wants to be a hawker, a gardener, and a watchman so that he will be able to do these things which are not possible for a little child like him to do.

iii.

The Child Must	The Child Must Not
Come home at a fixed time	Get his clothes dirty in the dust
Go to bed on time, when it got dark	Get baked in the sun or get wet
Go to school every day	Walk on dark and lonely street at night

Question 2. Find out the different kinds of work done by the people in your neighbourhood. Make different cards for different kinds of work. You can make the card colourful with pictures of the persons doing the work.

Answer: Activity to be done by yourself.

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