

CBSE Class 12 English Core

Flamingo Poem-2 An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

1. Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.

Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor.

The tall girl with her weighed down head.

The paper seeming boy with rat's eyes.

a. **Which children are referred to here?**

Ans. The deprived & impoverished children are referred to here. They study in a slum

b. **Why are the children compared to 'rootless weeds'?**

Ans. They are ill-fed and not looked after. They are unwanted like weeds.

c. **What does the 'paper seeming boy, with rat's eyes' imply?**

Ans. It implies that the poor boy is as lean and thin as a paper. He is under developed like a rodent.

d. **What is the tone of the poet?**

Ans. It suggests despair and misery.

2. And yet for these

Children, these windows, not this map, their world,

where all their future's painted with a fog,

A narrow street in with a lead.... sky.

a. **Name the poem and the poet.**

Ans. The name of the poem is 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum' and the poet is 'Stephen Spender'.

b. **What do the 'windows' signify here?**

Ans. The windows are a symbol of connections between the two world – the inside and the outside.

c. **Who are these children? What is their world like?**

Ans. They are slum children. Their world is like a narrow street with a lead sky?

d. **What are the words that imply a bleak future?**

Ans. Phrases like 'future's painted with a fog, narrow street sealed in with a lead sky imply a bleak future for these children.