

**Lost **Spring**: Stories of Stolen  
**Childhood**  
-Anees Jung**

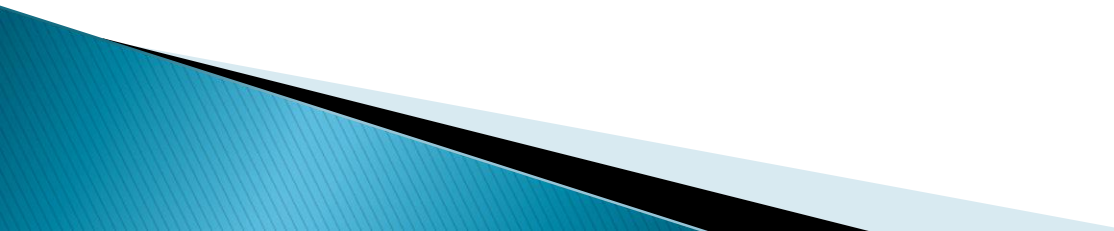
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K.V.ARA**

## About the author

- **Born** – Rourkela (Hyderabad)
- **Year** -- 1964
- **Education** – Hyderabad and USA
- **Career** - Writer
- **Focus** - The grinding poverty and traditions which condemn these children to life of exploitation
- **Profession** – Editor and columnist for various Newspapers in India and Abroad



# About the lesson

- ▶ An excerpt from the book titled *Lost Spring: Stories of Stolen Childhood*
  - ▶ Highlights poverty and traditions
  - ▶ Exploitation of children
  - ▶ Helpless parents and society
  - ▶ Child Labour
- 



## Lost Spring

- Author – Anees Jung
- Throws light on “how Children are Exploited?”
- Focuses attention towards ‘Child Labour’

# CHILD LABOUR



## What is Child Labour ?

- Child Labour is the work undertaken by a child that is harmful to them in some way.
- The Labour could be harmful by making them sick, stopping them from getting an education or damaging them emotionally



## Ways - children's are exploited

- ◉ Fireworks
- ◉ Construction
- ◉ Bangles
- ◉ Tea Shops
- ◉ Mechanic Sheds
- ◉ Brick Industry

## Why do Children Work?

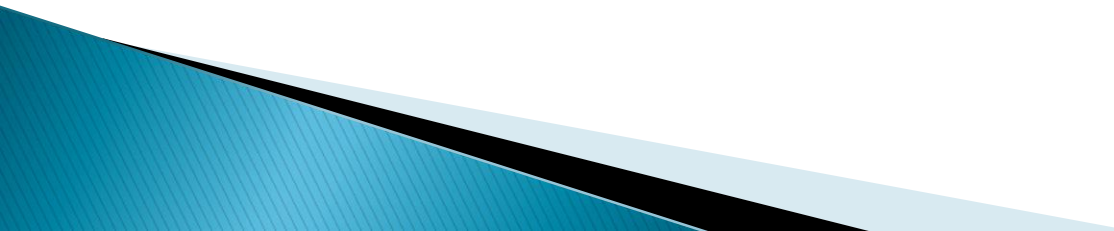
- They or their family members have been threatened with harm if they do not work
- Being taken against their will and used by or sold to corrupt people
- Being offered jobs and tricked into accepting a job without understanding what is involved - often ending up in places which are unfamiliar

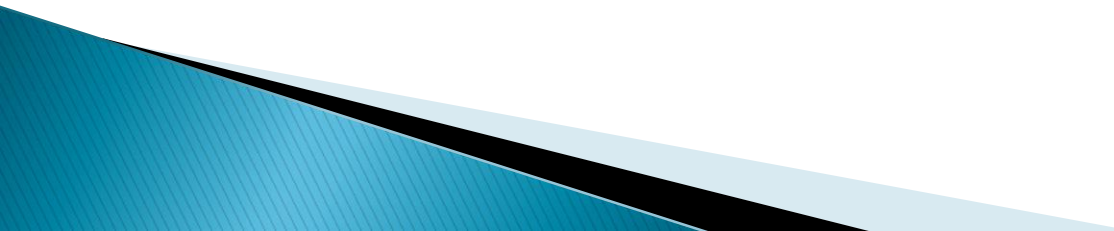


## Why do Children Work?

- ◉ Being born into a poor family and working to earn money to support them and their family.
- ◉ Getting work experience in order to get a better job in the future.
- ◉ To earn pocket money to purchase things they want.
- ◉ Being the head of their household.

# Saheb

- ▶ Migrants from Dhaka and lives in Seemapuri
  - ▶ They left green fields, storms destroyed their fields and home
  - ▶ Saheb-e-Alam means 'lord of the universe' - ironical
  - ▶ Saheb is presented as a rag picker at the beginning
  - ▶ Later he works in a tea-stall and earns Rs 800
  - ▶ Saheb has a master now- the tea shop owner
  - ▶ Saheb no longer his own master
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- ▶ Saheb admires tennis player
  - ▶ gets shoes
  - ▶ has unfulfilled dreams like going to school and playing tennis
  - ▶ Saheb represents thousands of Ragpickers –
  - ▶ barefoot
  - ▶ scrounge through garbage
  - ▶ sometimes find a 10 rupee note or even a silver coin
  - ▶ love element of surprise and suspense
  - ▶ carefree life yet burdened
  - ▶ childhood stolen
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## Extract from 'Lost Spring'

- Anees Jung pictures a small boy from 'Seemapuri' a place in the periphery of New Delhi.
- She clearly tells 'How the small boy 'Saheb-e-Alam' who is a Rag-Picker always scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps.

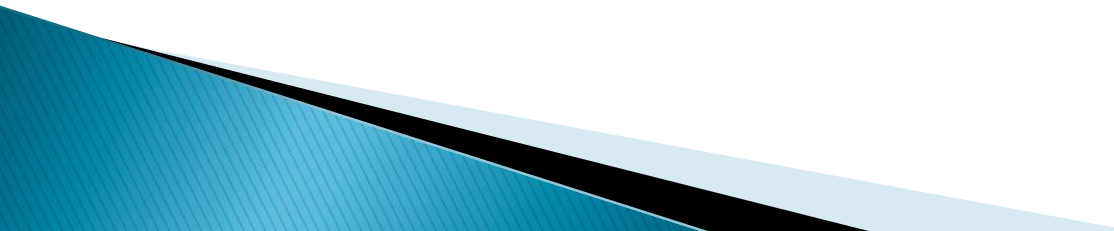


## Extract from 'Lost Spring'



- Later works in a Tea-stall for a meager salary Which was supposed to be a 'great sum of Money' to him. But he is not happy with his current situation, due to lack of freedom.

# Mukesh

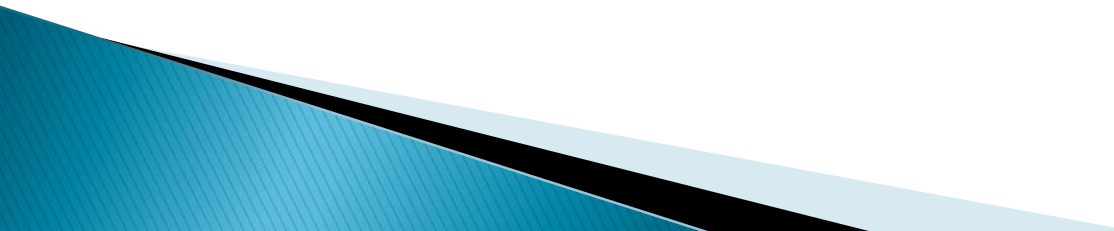
- ▶ A child in a bangle making family
  - ▶ He desires to be his own master
  - ▶ Different from other young children of Firozabad and has a dream
  - ▶ Wants to be a motor mechanic
  - ▶ He is ready to walk a long way in order to fulfill his goal-motor mechanic
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## Extract From 'Lost Spring'

- Then she pictures about a boy named 'Mukesh'
- Mukesh assists his parents in bangle making.
- In his family they still follow the 'Purdah System'
- Mukesh wants to be his own master by becoming a 'Motor Mechanic'



# Workers in bangle industry

- ▶ 20,000 children work near hot furnace
  - ▶ Lose their eyesight
  - ▶ Have the tradition of same work –making bangles
  - ▶ Do not live a life of joy
  - ▶ No change possible
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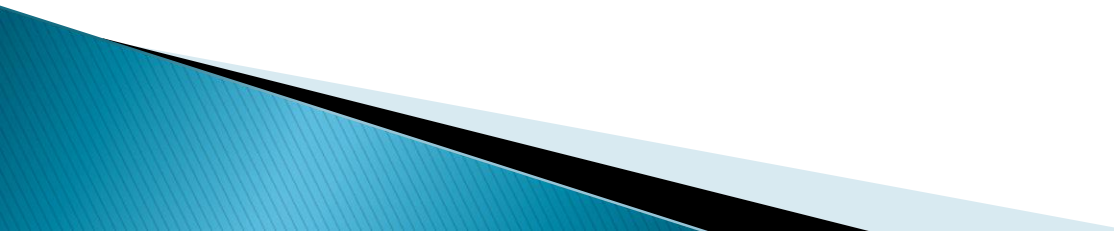


## Extract from 'Lost Spring'

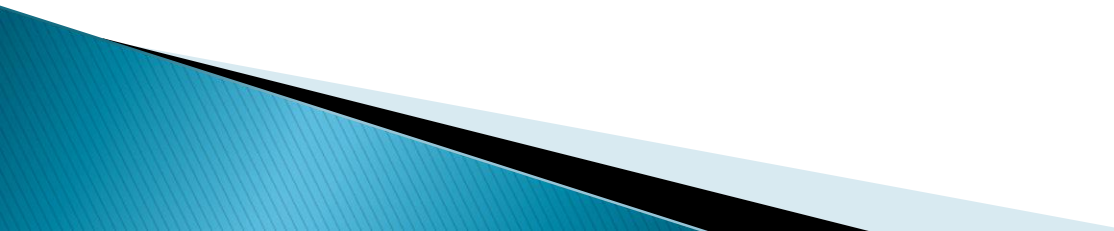
- Next, Anees Jung focuses the attention towards a young girl named 'Savita'.
- Savita is a young 'Girl' who solders glass pieces without even knowing its hidden symbolism.
- Anees Jung sharply remarks that these people were not able to organize themselves and fight for their rights against 'Child Labour' from police, bureaucrats, politicians who harass them.



# Resistance to change

- ▶ The tradition of making bangles
  - ▶ Poverty
  - ▶ Social forces- law, police, middlemen, politicians, bureaucrats, sahkars
  - ▶ No leader to protest
  - ▶ children are burdened
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# Theme

- ▶ Plight of street children
  - ▶ Forced labour in the early life
  - ▶ Denied opportunity of schooling
  - ▶ Society and political class are responsible for such situations
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## Extract from 'Lost Spring'

### ❑ List of Metaphors

- 'Web of poverty'
- 'Drowned in air of desolation'
- 'She stills has bangles on her wrist. But not light in her eyes'

### ❑ List of Hyperboles

- 'Scrounging for gold' .
- 'Garbage to them is gold'



## Extract from 'Lost Spring'

### • List of Paradoxes

- 'Saheb-e-Alam' which means the lord of the universe is contrast to what 'Saheb' is in reality.
- 'Seemapuri' means 'Place of abundant riches' but in reality 'Seemapuri' is a slum inhabited by squatters from Bangladesh, a wilderness devoid of basic amenities.

### • List of Similes

- "As her hands moved mechanically like the tongs of the machines"

## Literary devices used in 'Lost Spring'

### ● **Hyperbole**

It is a way of speaking or writing that makes something sound better or more exciting than it really is.

**For eg.**

'Garbage to them is gold'

## Literary devices used in 'Lost Spring'

- **Metaphor**

A metaphor compares two things or ideas that are not very similar. A metaphor describes a thing in terms of single quality or feature of some other thing. In addition, we can say that metaphor transfers quality of one thing to another.

**For eg:**

He is a Lion in the battle

The road was a ribbon of light.

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## Answer the following/CW

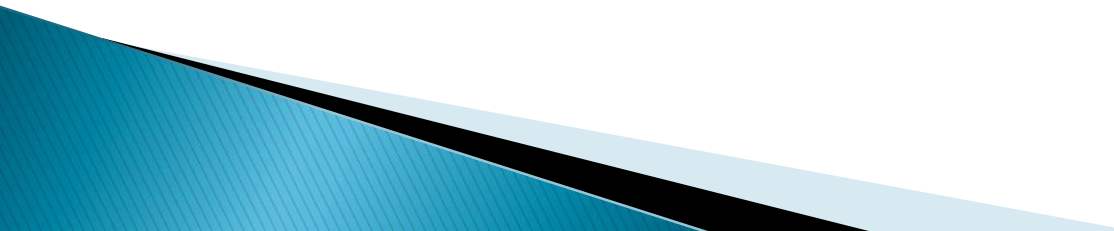
- Mention the hazards of working in a glass bangle factory.
- What was saheb's full name? Was it a suitable name for him? Why or Why not?
- Would you agree that "the promises made to the poor children" are rarely kept? Why do you think this happens in the incidents narrated in the text?
- Justify the title '**Lost Spring**'
- Which day is observed as the "Anti Child Labour Day"?



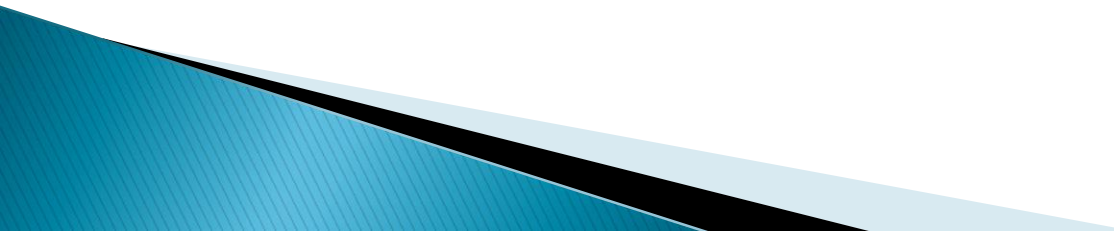
## Answer the following

- 'When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh, I am cheered.' What does this refer to and why does it gladden the writer's heart?
- 'Saheb is no longer his own master. Mukesh insists on being his own master'. Discuss with reference to, 'lost Spring'.

# Analysis

- ▶ What could be some of the reasons for the migration of people from villages?
  - ▶ Would you agree that the promises made to the children are rarely kept?
  - ▶ In your opinion can Mukesh and Saheb realize their dream?
  - ▶ Is Saheb happy working at the tea-stall?
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# Project

- ▶ Take an interview of a young girl or a boy working at somebody's house, dhaba, factory or any shop
  - ▶ Ask questions like: his name, age, family, hometown, salary and dream
  - ▶ What are some of the problems working children may experience?
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# Creativity

- ▶ Write an article on “ Dreams of the poor and their reality”

THANKYOU...