



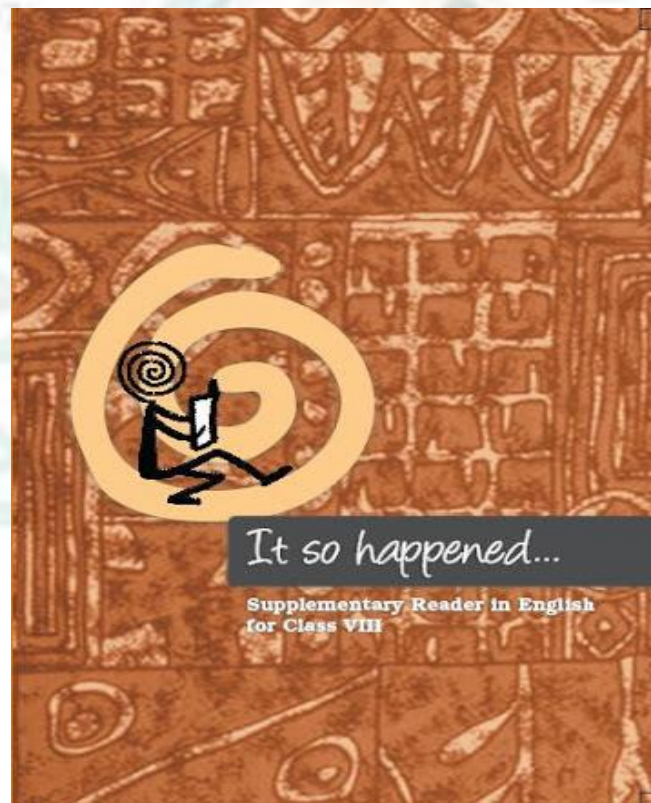
पुर्णिमा International School
Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul, Zundal

CLASS - VIII

SUBJECT – ENGLISH

MONTH - JUNE

BOOK – 2. IT SO HAPPENED





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CH 2 CHILDREN AT WORK

❖ SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Children at Work is a sensible story by Gita Wolf, which focuses on the living of slum children. This story teaches us to be empathic with these children and help whatever we can. This story involves a boy named Velu. He was a small boy of 11 years. His father was a drunkard. His father used to beat him and his sister and used to snatch every money they earned. Velu was fed up with the day to day abuses and decided to run away from home. He walked all day in Kannur (a district in Tamilnadu), and later on boarded Kanyakumari Express. Kanyakumari express brought him to Chennai Central station.

AT CHENNAI CENTRAL STATION

Chennai Central station is a huge station. Velu saw people in a rush with their suitcases. A loudspeaker was shouting with announcements; some people were watching a big tv screen; some were sitting on the platform. Velu was feeling very weak, and his legs were shaking. He had come to Chennai in an unreserved compartment, sitting near the gate. A group of people played playing card and shouted throughout the night. Velu felt miserable in a new place and sat on a bench.



RAGPICKER JAYA

A ragpicker small girl with brown and dirty hair named Jaya saw him and talked about him. Initially, Velu was reluctant as she was a stranger to him. She told she could arrange for his food.

Velu had no option other than to follow her. Velu went behind her. She took him to busy roads with high traffic and dust. Velu was frightened by the traffic. A central jail came near him. Jaya warned him of police as police do not like ragpickers. Finally, they reached a marriage hall. There was a big garbage pile. Jaya found two bananas and a vada. She gave a banana and the vada to Velu. Velu was reluctant to eat left-over food thrown in the bin. But he was hungry, and there was no other option.



VELU'S NEW JOB

They ate together. Now, Jaya took him to own home. It was a slum house made of broken steel sheet, and other useless materials like an old tire, plastic sheet, and bricks. Jaya gave him a big sack and asked him to help her. Velu was curious about why Jaya collect useless materials. Jaya explained, she sells it to a scrapper. Scrapper sends it to factories where these plastics and paper are recycled into a new one. Velu was not happy with the job. He decided if he gets another job, he will leave this dirty job.



❖ NEW WORDS

1. Porter
2. Suitcase
3. Loudspeaker
4. Miserable
5. Jaggery
6. Brownish
7. Stuffing
8. Snatch
9. Pinching
10. Glumly
11. Rubbish
12. Puddles
13. Ragpickers

❖ WORD MEANINGS

1. Pulled in – arrived
2. Wobbly – Unsteady
3. Grimace – Twisted expression
4. Glumly – sadly
5. Making his head spin – giving him a headache
6. Chutney – Run over
7. Squashy – crushed
8. Gulped down – Swallowed quickly
9. Tiffin – snacks
10. Panicked – was very worried
11. Crookedly – Not straight
12. Shove – Push
13. Blockhead – fool

❖ ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Q1. Velu stood on the platform but he felt “as if he was still on a moving train.” Why?

Ans - When Velu stood down on the platform his legs felt shaky on seeing the huge and unknown crowd as if he was still on a moving train.

Q2. What made him feel miserable?

Ans -Velu saw the crowd and understood that nobody is giving any notice to him. He do not know what to do and where to go.

Q 3. Velu travelled without a ticket. Why?

Ans -Velu travelled without a ticket because he had no money to buy a ticket.

Q4. How did he escape the ticket collector's attention?

Ans - He escaped the ticket collector's attention because he didn't come to the unreserved compartment .

Q 5. Can Velu read Tamil and English? How do you know?

Ans - Velu can't read English because he failed to read the signboards in English. But was able to read the Tamil sign on the Central Jail.

Q 6. What material are the 'strange' huts made out of?

Ans -The strange huts are made out of all sorts of things like metal sheets, tyres, bricks, wood and plastic.

Q 7. Why does Velu find the huts strange?

Ans - Velu finds the huts strange because in his village the houses are made of mud and palm leaves.

❖ ANSWER IN DETAIL

Q 1. Why had Velu run away from home?

Ans - Velu had run away from home because he couldn't stand his father beating him for one more day. His father would snatch away all the money he and his sisters earned and spend it on drink.

Q 2. Why did he decide to follow the 'strange' girl?

Ans - He decided to follow the 'strange' girl because she had promised to find some food for him. He was very hungry and knew no way to get the food for himself.

Q 3. What sort of things did Jaya and children like her collect and what did they do with those things?

Ans - Jaya and children like her collected paper, plastic, glass and such other things. They sold these things to Jam Bazaar Jaggu who later on sold them to a factory.

