



## CH-1. The Lost Child

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A Child goes to a fair with his parents. He is happy and excited and wants the sweets and toys displayed there.



### CHAPTER SKETCH

In the story, 'The Lost Child', the author tries to explore the subconscious mind of a child. This story also highlights a child's love for his parents.

In this story, a child goes to a fair with his parents. He is happy and excited and wants the sweets and toys displayed there. But his parents don't buy them for him. Soon he gets separated from his parents, as he is straggling behind, fascinated by the various attractions. He is disconsolate when he realises that he is lost, so that he refuses when someone else who found him offers the same things to him.



## THINK ABOUT IT

1. What are the things the child sees on his way to the fair? Why does he lag behind?

**Ans.** *while his parents are going ahead with the intention of reaching the fair, the child enjoys every beauty of nature's creation. The child enjoys the sight of a dragonfly fluttering. Next moment he is engrossed in collecting beautiful flower petals. The very next moment he is appreciating the gait of the swan. The child was enjoying the beauty of nature, that's why he keeps lagging behind his parents on the way. His mother and father have to constantly call him so that he doesn't lag behind.*

2. In the fair he wants many things. What are they? Why does he move on without waiting for an answer?

**Ans.** *Like any child he wants everything from the fair but he knows that his father won't be buying anything for him and would give some excuse for not doing so. This shows that the child has matures as well. He knows how to control his urges. He also understands that because of some reasons he won't be able to have each and everything from the fair. He may not understand the right reason for his father refusing to get most of the things for him. Like all good parents, his father may be wishing not to spoil his child.*

3. When does he realise that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?

**Ans.** *When child wants to get a ride on the roundabout and calls for his parents, he gets no reply. The child looks to his front and back as well as left and right. Then the child tries to find his father among people wearing yellow shirts but all he glimpses is yellow blobs in the crowd. At last he goes to the shrine, in the hope of finding his parents there. Then the child realises that he is lost and separated from his parents. His anxiety has been described by explaining how the child reacts and tries to find his parents. He even cries out for them a number of times, refusing to take anything offered by the man who found him, all of which he had longed for earlier. Even his turban becomes unties and muddy. This is a very natural explanation, which makes the narrative simple to read and enjoy. This shows that the child is quite courageous and instead of crying his heart out, he tries to find his parents. Only when he fails, he starts crying for his parents.*

4. Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?

**Ans.** *The lost child loses interest in the things he had wanted earlier because he was panic-stricken on being separated from his parents. All he wanted was to be united with them. All the things that attracted him in the fair no longer appealed to him and now the only thing that mattered was finding his parents.*

5. What do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents?

**Ans.** *Although, this is not mentioned in the story, but the parents may have suddenly realised that the child was missing and came looking for the child. The kind man who tries to console the boy may have also asked him for some description of his parents and helped him to be reunited with them.*

