

“THE CHENAB CONNECTION”

♦ Reference to Context Questions

Context 1

(a) Why were the friends excited at this moment?

Answer: The friends were excited because the train was climbing up a steep hill, and they saw the breathtaking view of the Chenab Bridge and the river far below. It was something new and thrilling for them.

(b) What does this scene reveal about the Chenab Bridge’s height and location?

Answer: The scene shows that the Chenab Bridge is located at a great height, offering a dramatic and amazing view of the deep river valley below. Its high location made it look very impressive.

(c) How does this moment contribute to the overall atmosphere of the journey?

Answer: This moment adds a sense of wonder, adventure, and excitement to the journey. It shows that the journey is not just about travel but also about discovering the beauty and uniqueness of the region.

Context 2

(a) How does this passage illustrate the geographical diversity of the region?

Answer: The passage describes the changing scenery—from tunnels to forests and snow-covered mountains—which shows that the region has many different types of landforms and natural beauty.

(b) What does the changing scenery symbolize in the context of the friends’ journey?

Answer: The changing scenery symbolizes the friends’ growing understanding and changing thoughts. Just like the land was changing, their thinking was also changing as they explored new places and met new people.

(c) How does the description of the landscape contribute to the overall atmosphere of the story?

Answer: The detailed description of forests, peaks, and streams creates a magical and beautiful setting, which adds richness to the story and makes the journey feel meaningful and memorable.

Context 3

(a) Why do you think the visit to the local school left the deepest impression on the friends?

Answer: The school visit left a strong impact because the friends realized that the students in Kashmir were just like them. Despite coming from different parts of India, they shared similar interests, dreams, and feelings.

(b) What does this experience reveal about the friends’ preconceptions before the trip?

Answer: It shows that the friends had wrong or limited ideas about Kashmir and its people. They expected to find everything very different, but instead, they found common ground and felt a deep connection.

(c) How does this interaction contribute to the story's theme of bridging differences?

Answer: It proves that real connection comes from understanding and communication. Meeting the students helped the friends break their mental barriers and feel united, even in diversity.

Context 4

(a) What realisation does Amira have in this moment?

Answer: Amira realizes that Kashmir is not very different from her own home. The culture, people, and feelings are quite similar, and this thought brings her closer to the place and the people.

(b) How does this statement reflect the theme of unity in diversity?

Answer: The statement shows that even though Kashmir and her home are from different parts of India, they are still connected by shared traditions and emotions. This highlights India's unity in its diversity.

(c) What role does the shared meal play in this realisation?

Answer: Sharing a meal allowed Amira to experience local food and hospitality. This simple act helped her feel at home and understand the warmth and friendliness of the people, leading to her realization.

Context 5

(a) What lesson did the friends learn from their journey?

Answer: They learned that by building new friendships and understanding different cultures, they can help reduce ignorance and bring people closer across the country.

(b) How does the story use the Chenab Bridge to represent more than just a physical structure?

Answer: The Chenab Bridge is used as a symbol of connection—not just between two places, but between people, cultures, and minds. It stands for unity, understanding, and hope.

(c) What does this passage suggest about the potential impact of such journeys on national integration?

Answer: It suggests that such journeys can help build a stronger, united India by breaking misunderstandings and helping people respect and understand each other's cultures.

Context 6

(a) What does this scene suggest about the long-term impact of the friends' journey?

Answer: It shows that the journey had a deep and lasting effect on the friends. They kept thinking about it and dreamed of working to unite people from different regions in the future.

(b) How do the image of trains crisscrossing the bridge relate to the story's themes?

Answer: The trains symbolize the constant movement and connection between people and places. Just like the trains, the friends also want to bring people together.

(c) What does this passage imply about the friends' future aspirations and their understanding of their role in society?

Answer: It shows that the friends now feel responsible for helping society grow closer. They dream of a future where they can bring unity and understanding across different regions of India.

♦ Answer the Following Questions

1. Answer: The Chenab Bridge is not just a bridge in the story. It is a symbol of connection between different regions and cultures. It helped the friends physically cross into Kashmir, but it also changed their thinking. It connected their hearts and minds with the people of Kashmir, making them realize how close we all are as Indians.

2. Answer: At first, the friends thought Kashmir would be very different. They had many doubts and fears. But during the journey, they saw beautiful places, met friendly people, and felt welcomed. They learned that the people of Kashmir are just like them, and their perspective became more positive and open.

3. Answer: Food played an important role in bringing the friends and locals together. Sharing a simple Kashmiri meal made the friends feel at home. They learned about the local culture through taste and tradition, which helped break the barrier and build friendship.

4. Answer: Before the trip, the friends expected Kashmir to be totally different—maybe strange or unsafe. But when they visited, they found it beautiful, welcoming, and very similar to their own lives. Their thinking changed as they gained real experiences, and they understood the truth better.

5. Answer: The story shows that understanding and communication between people from different cultures can unite the country. When people travel, share experiences, and learn from each other, it reduces fear and misunderstandings. This helps in making the country more peaceful and united.

6. Sahil: In the beginning, Sahil was nervous and unsure. As the journey continued, he became confident and more thoughtful. He learned the value of friendship and the importance of understanding others.

Amira: Amira started off with fixed ideas. But after meeting the local people and sharing meals, she realized how similar Kashmir was to her own place. She became more open-hearted and mature.

Both friends grew in their thinking and became more responsible and understanding.

7. Answer: Cultural exchange programs are very important. They allow students to meet others from different parts of India, learn about their lives, and break false beliefs. These experiences build strong friendships and help create a sense of unity. Such programs are powerful tools for national integration because they teach respect, love, and cooperation among people from diverse backgrounds.