

ANSWERS OF THE CHAPTER

THE RIVER CAME HOME

Comprehension

- A. 1. Gopala and his friends went to school in a rusty mini-van that sped down the road, honk in loudly and scattering other travellers and chickens on either side of the road.
2. The children were excited because Ananta's mother had given him money to buy a beyblade.
3. The boys from Stoney Hill High School were
Condescending or supercilious and rude. This is because they were rich and thought they were better than Gopala and his friends, who were from poor families.
4. Mr Kirtan was the owner of the downtown toy shop 'Jolly Toys'. He tried to pacify Sunil by telling him that he could place an order for another beyblade with same colours. When Sunil refused, he made the same offer to Ananta.
5. Gopala hit Sunil because he had threatened Mr Kirtan that he would make sure none of his friends buy stuff from the shop if Mr Kirtan sold the beyblade to the village boys. Mani Sir thought that Gopala was not in the wrong, the other boy was.

6. The rich boy's parents would have reported the fight to the police, making things more difficult for Gopala. Therefore, the school suspended him to save him from getting into greater trouble.

7. Gopala sat on the banks of the river, where they had their homes before they were displaced.

‘A great unmoving blanket of water from which the thick stump of a dead tree pointed up to the sky like an accusing finger.’

B. Answer with reference to context.

1. a. These children were the students of Saraswati Vidyashala who came from the other side of Pandupur. They were in the classroom at Saraswati Vidyashala.

b. The English teacher, Mani Sir, had these thoughts. He had asked the children to be quiet and pay attention in class.

c. These children felt out of place in the school. They did not interact with the other kids, or share jokes, laughs or sweets. They responded only when they were spoken to.

2. a. Sunil was a student from Stoney Hill High School. He belonged to a rich engineer's family. Sunil said these words, deliberately ignoring Gopala's question about whether he intended on buying the whole pile of toys. He wanted to show Gopala's question was unimportant to him.

- b. They were examining toys, and selecting and rejecting them.
- c. Sunil threatened that he would make sure none of his friends bought toys from Mr Kirtan's shop henceforth.

3. a. These words were spoken to Mani Sir.

Gopala's mother said these words in context of Mani Sir's narration of the events at the toyshop. The mother felt that being right or wrong does not matter, because all that matters in the world is money.

b. The mother thought that her son Gopala was now blacklisted because he had been suspended from school.

c. Gopala had protested against the rude and arrogant behaviour of a few rich boys at the local toy store, which had got him into trouble after he hit out at one of them.

4. a. Gopala and Mani Sir were talking about the guava and tamarind trees that had been cut down, much to the helpless dismay of the two.

b. Gopala expressed his inability to prevent the tree from being cut down, much like his teacher who had also been helpless when his favourite guava tree had been cut down.

c. Gopala stood up suddenly, stripped to his shorts, picked up a stone and dived into the water. He swam to the tree stump, carved his message on it and came back.

d. This would have lessened the frustrating sense of helplessness that Gopala was feeling due to the different events in his life. Things were beyond his control but he could always register his protest against them.

Ponder

C. 1. The boys from Saraswati Vidyashala were from a lower economic background, unlike the boys from Stoney Hill High School. The latter were pompous, rude and arrogant in their behaviour.

2. I do think that suspension was too strong a punishment for Gopala. Gopala was right in protesting against the rude behaviour of Sunil and his friends at the toy shop. But he had hit out at Sunil, thereby making himself the target of the punishment.

3. Mani Sir was a wise and understanding teacher, who was very compassionate. He was sensitive and kind as well. The fact that he shared his own life experiences of a similar nature with Gopala indicates his intelligence and sensitive handling of the matter. He did not preach to the boy or give him lessons in right and wrong. He also showed his wisdom in quietly observing the argument at the shop, because that gave him a clear idea of the nature of the boys.

4. The title refers to the displacement of the people like Gopala, when the river inundated their villages, leaving them homeless and outcastes in new surroundings.