



#### Comprehension Check (Page 15)

1. (i) What material are the 'strange' huts made out of ?  
(ii) Why does Velu find them strange?
2. What sort of things did Jaya and children like her collect and what did they do with those things?
3. Is Velu happy or unhappy to find work? Give a reason for your answer.

Answers:

1. (i) The 'strange' huts are made out of tin sheets, bricks, wood and plastic.  
(ii) Velu finds those huts strange because in his own village the huts were made of mud and palm leaves.
2. Jaya and other children like her collected paper, plastic, and glass etc. They sold all that to a kabadi or junk-dealer.
3. Velu is not at all happy. He had never done such a dirty job in his village.

#### Exercise (Page 16)

Discuss the following questions in small groups. Write their answers afterwards.

1. Is Velu a smart boy? Which instances in the text show that he is or isn't?

Answer: No, Velu is not a smart boy. He runs away from his home to escape his father's beatings. He felt miserable at the railway station. He found himself alone and hungry. He accepted rag picking because he wasn't fit for any other job.

2. Do you think Jaya is a brave and sensitive child with a sense of humour? Find instances of her courage, kind nature and humour in the text.

Answer: Yes, Jaya is a brave and sensitive girl. She takes pity on Velu and gets food for him. She herself earns her livelihood bravely by collecting discarded material and selling them. She has a sense of humour also. She calls the 'dirty trickle of water Buckingham Canal'.

3. What one throws away as waste may be valuable to others. Do you find this sentence meaningful in the context of this story? How?

Answer: Yes, the plastic, the paper and rusty metal sheets thrown away by the people, become valuable to ragpickers. They eat leftover food for survival. They sell junk food to some dealer to earn their livelihood.

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