

INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VI	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: November, 2023
STUDY NOTES NO:16	Topic: THE LOST CHILD	Note: For Reference
	The Least Child	

- by Mulk Raj Anand



About the Author

*Mulk Raj Anand was a prominent Indian writer who is known for his realism in describing the plight of the poor in India.

*He often exposed social evils and injustices prevalent in India in his works.

*He was involved in the freedom struggle against the British.

*His famous works are The Village (1939), The Sword and the Sickle (1942) and The Big Heart (1945).

*He was also the recipient of Sahitya Academy Award in 1968 and Padma Bhushan in 1967.

Theme and Message of the Story

The story highlights the bond of love and affection that the child shares with his parents. Before losing them, he had been demanding different things like sweets, balloons, flowers, swings, etc. Once he loses them, he forgets all about his desires and yearns deeply for his parents. Everything else loses its significance and the only thing that matters is his wish to be reunited with his parents. The story is based on the theme of close bond that children share with their parents.

The story conveys the message that children love their parents unconditionally. The lost child thinks of his father as a strict person when he demands toys from him. He does not press his parents for sweets or garlands because he accepts that they will never grant him his wish. However, he gets scared when he realizes that he is lost. He cries inconsolably for his parents and forgets all about his cravings for sweets, garlands, snake-charmers show, and even the ride on a roundabout. This message of the story makes the reader understand the worth of parents in the life of a child.



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