

Chapter 17: Nandita in Mumbai

Write

Question 1:

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Why did Nandita have to bring her mother from the village to Mumbai?

Answer:

Nandita had to bring her mother from their rural house to Mumbai because she needed treatment.

Question 2:

Nandita used to feel like vomiting when at first she had to use the toilet where *Mama* lived. Why?

Answer:

When Nandita first used the toilet at her *Mama*'s place she felt like vomiting because everyone shared the common toilet. The toilet was filthy and smelled awful.

Question 3:

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In what ways did Nandita find her *Mama*'s house to be different from her house in the village?

Answer:

Nandita found her *Mama*'s house to be different from her own because all the members used to sleep, cook, sit and wash in the same room. The room was not very big. However, in Nandita's village, her house had separate places for cooking and bathing, and there was a courtyard outside.

Question 4:

What differences did Nandita find between getting water from the public tap and in the village?

Answer:

Nandita found it easy to get water in the village because they had a pond that was twenty minutes away from her home. In summers, she walked for one hour to get water from the river. In Mumbai, one has to struggle to get water because there is only a public tap available for all in the locality and no other water resources nearby.

Question 5:

Was there electricity at the place where Nandita's *Mama* lived? Guess.

Answer:

Yes, there was electricity at Nandita's *Mama*'s place because they watched television which runs on electricity.

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Let us talk

Question 1:

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Do you know anyone who was admitted to a hospital?

Answer:

Yes, once my father was admitted to a hospital.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 2:

For how many days was he or she in the hospital?

Answer:

He was in the hospital for six days.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 3:

Did you visit the person in the hospital?

Answer:

Yes, I visited my father every day in the hospital during the visiting hours in the evening.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 4:

Who was looking after the patient at the hospital?

Answer:

My father was suffering from dengue, and one doctor and two nurses were looking after him at the hospital.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 5:

Have you ever seen a tall building? Where?

Answer:

Yes, I have seen many tall buildings in Kolkata, where I live.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 6:

How many floors did the building have?

Answer:

The building had twenty-four floors.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 7:

How many floors did you climb?

Answer:

I climbed up to the 16th floor.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Another House

Question 1:

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When Nandita first came to Mumbai, what were the things that she was afraid to do?

Answer:

When Nandita first came to Mumbai, she got afraid of getting in an overcrowded bus, riding an elevator inside a tall building, and was scared about height.

Question 2:

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What were the differences between the houses where *Mama* lived and the houses in the high-rise buildings?

Houses in area where <i>Mama</i> lived	Houses in a high-rise building

Answer:

Houses in area where <i>Mama</i> lived	Houses in a high-rise building
Had no glass windows.	Had glass windows.
Only one room for sleeping, cooking and washing.	Separate rooms to dine in, for sleeping and cooking.
Had no toilets.	Had toilets.
No water taps.	Water taps were there in the kitchen and washroom.

Question 3:

Discuss why there were differences.

Answer:

Nandita's *Mama* did not have enough money to buy an apartment in the high-rise building because those are expensive. Her *Mama* lived in a *basti* where life was difficult and full of struggles.

Tell about yourself

Question 1:

Draw a circle around the kind of house you live in. Is it like the house of—

Nandita Mama *Babloo* Any other kind

Answer:

Nandita Mama *Babloo* Any other kind

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 2:

Where does the water come from in your house?

Answer:

The water in my house comes from the nearest water reservoir made by our local municipality.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 3:

Is there an electricity connection in your house? How many hours in a day do you get electricity?

Answer:

Yes, there is an electricity connection in my house, and we get electricity throughout the day and night.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 4:

Which is the nearest hospital in the area where you live?

Answer:

The nearest hospital in my area is a government hospital called Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, which treats poor people for free.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 5:

How far are these from your house?

	Minutes to walk to	In Kilometres
Bus stop		
School		
Market		
Post Office		
Hospital		

Answer:

	Minutes to walk to	In Kilometres
Bus stop	10 minutes	½ kilometre
School	40 minutes	2 kilometres
Market	20 minutes	1 kilometre
Post Office	30 minutes	1½ kilometres
Hospital	20 minutes	1 kilometre

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 6:

Draw pictures in your notebook of the different kind of houses in your area.

Answer:



[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Write in your notebook

Question 1:

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Why does *Mama* have to change his house?

Answer:

Mama has to change his house because he got a notice stating that he and others had to vacate their houses as a large hotel will be constructed in that location.

Question 2:

Have you ever moved from your house? If yes, why did you have to move?

Answer:

Yes, once I had to move from my house. My grandfather was very ill, and he needed immediate treatment. We took him to a hospital in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, and we shifted there for three months.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 3:

Do people in your family have to go far for their work? Where do they go? How far do they have to go?

Answer:

No, my father's office is only 4 kilometres from our home. However, my uncle stays in Durgapur for work because it is around 172 km far from our home.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Discuss

Question 1:

Is it right that *Mama* and others have to move because a hotel is going to be built there?

Answer:

As *Mama* lived on rent in that house, it is right to ask them to evacuate the place. However, the government authorities should provide them with a temporary place to stay with basic amenities like water and electricity.

Question 2:

Who will benefit from this?

Answer:

The landowner will be benefitted from this. He will sell the land at a higher price to the hotel owners.

Question 3:

Who will face difficulties?

Answer:

People like *Mama* and other residents will face difficulties.

Question 4:

Do you know of any people who have faced problems similar to *Nandita's Mama*? Talk about it in class.

Answer:

Yes, I have a friend named Gita. She and her family used to live in a *chawl* in the city. Suddenly their landlord informed them that he would sell his house and after two months he did it. About seventy boarders lived in the *chawl*, and everyone lost their homes. Even now, Gita's father is struggling to find a good place for the family. To reach school, Gita has to travel more now than before.

[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]

Question 5:

Draw a picture of house of your choice and colour it.

Answer:



[Students should mention their experience based on the above lines.]