

Chapter – 7 Bridges

Understanding The Text

Q1. How did the author feel about her mother's passion to make her a dancer?

Answer. The author never wanted to be a dancer; it was her mother who wanted her to make her a dancer. The author's mother discovered this quality in her daughter at an early age, from then on she decided to make her a dancer. The film industry has sparked an interest in her mother to make her daughter. The author felt the pressure by dancing on her by the mother. She never wanted to be a dancer it was her mother's interest that forced her to run around the dance schools.

Q2. What were the lessons of life learnt in her younger days that Kumudini carried into her adult life?

Answer. During her younger days, Kumudini learned various lessons that she carried into her life. She recalls one incident when she who was Laiqat Ali (later Prime Minister of Pakistan) gardener caught his brother picking guava's from his garden, Laiqat did not punish him or corrected his mistake instead asked him to freely pick them whenever he wanted to. During her college days, she understood a lot of things. The most important was discipline, through discipline she gained discipline in her thoughts too. When her mother passed away, she understood the meaning of hunger and performed a play called Duvidha to understand the nature of the conflict.

Q3. How did Kumudini react to her mother's death?

Answer. The news of the death of the mother was not directly shared with Kumudini, instead, her principal asked her to go home as her mother was very sick. But as soon as she reached home, her mother had already passed away. She felt broken and lost and was unaware of how life would be without her mother. She was hungry at that time but could not ask for food as it would seem inappropriate.

Q4. What were the concepts that Kumidini Lakhia represent through Duvidha, Atah Kim and Panch Paras?

Answer. In Duvidha or conflict, Kumudini told about the plight of a middle-class woman who is attached to the traditions of homely life. In Atah Kin, Kumudini uses the concept of the desire for power. Panch Paras is about the exploration of spiritual life. These three plays were different in essence and differed in concept.

Q5. How does Kumudini Lakhia describe her guru Ram Gopal's influence on her?

Answer. Ram Gopal had deep influence on Kumudini. Ram Gopal was strict and always looked for perfection. She always tried to impart this knowledge to her students and being with Ram Gopal made her more acquainted with her own deeper sense.

Appreciation

Q1. The significance of reading an autobiography lies in drawing lessons from another life. What is the significance of Kumudini's account for us as readers?

Answer. The account shows how dance played a major role in her life and how she still managed to live her life and learn various things. She recalls how in Duvidha she has examined the plight of a middle-class woman who is put to boundaries by tradition. In Atah Kim, we can see how Kumudini bases the theme on the desire for power which she experienced after her schooling was over. Panch Paras is her work about spiritualism. As a child, the arguments she had with her grandmother provide an insight into the work.

Q2. Pick out instances from the passage that reflect the sensitivity of the author.

Answer. Do it yourself.

Q3. 'I can see clear bridges between my life experiences and my work in dance.' How does Kumudini Lakhia weave episodes from the two realms in her account?

Answer. In the narration, all the incidents and learnings are made with her dance lessons. Though she danced she never left learning from her life. She recounts how those plays affected her and the themes played a major role in learning more about life.

Talking About The Text

Q1. Exceptionally talented people are born so; talent cannot be cultivated.

Answer. The talented people are not born but made with hard work. A person can only improve by his hardwork and by showcasing his talents.

Q2. Discipline and a questioning spirit can coexist in an individual.

Answer. Discipline and a questioning spirit can coexist. As a disciplined person can ask his doubts in a more polite way. When discipline hinders the questioning spirit then it may not coexist.

Q3. "Before you begin experimenting, you need to perfect the technique with which you experiment."

Answer. First you need to practice in your space to perfect that technique of experimentation.

Q4. Kumudini Lakhia's life is an inspiring illustration of the emancipation of women.

Answer. Kumudini shows emancipation of women. She learned dance and then joined agriculture college. Later she joined Ram Gopal's company. After having made her career she got married and showed her free to opt for career.