

**BVP LKR**

**CLASS-12,SUBJECT—ENGLISH**

**DATE-29/04/2021,Teacher--LP.Singh**

**FLAMINGO ( Study Material)**

**( An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum)**

**----- Stephen Spender**

**Stephen Spender, an English poet and essayist unveiled the social and political problems of his times in his writings. As a social reformer and pacifist of his time, he questions the value of education and the morals and ethics of individuals. In this poem he beautifully brings out the themes of social injustice and class inequalities.**

**The poem depicts the injustice prevailed in the society. The poet talks of social injustice and class inequalities, denial of opportunities to slum dwellers and also expresses his thoughts on the widening gap between the rich and the poor. The children studying in the slum classroom exhibit the social injustice and perpetual poverty prevailing among slum dwellers . Emotional expressions of the poet disclose the reality of their life. The miserable condition of the children is heart-touching. Instead of being exuberant and energetic, they are like rootless weeds, withered and worn out. Like unwanted weeds they are**

**discarded in the society. Even the tall slim girl has her head bowed down as though she is exhausted physically because of malnutrition and emotionally because of poverty. Another child in the class is a victim of genetic disorder. His eyes are like that of a rat that seems to be searching food and betterment. He has inherited this debilitating disease from his father and recites his lesson from his desk in a mellow and weak voice. In one corner of this poorly-lit and ill-equipped class, is a sweet unnoticed young child lost in the world of his dreams. The dull and monotonous classroom does not interest him and hence his mind deviates towards the squirrel in her tree room.**

**The walls of the classroom are decorated with the pictures of Shakespeare (symbolises the study of class literature) and even the walls display 'world maps', 'beautiful valleys etc. but all these things are far removed from the lives of slum children. Surely, education has failed to open 'doors' and 'windows' to the other worlds for these children. It has also failed to liberate them from their physically cramped malnourished existence. In contrast to the highly intellectual embellishments on the walls of the classroom, the impoverished exasperated condition of the schools in the slums has not any how improved.**

**The poet suddenly turns aggressive and feels that Shakespeare is 'wicked.' The reason he gives is that he misleads the children. He shows them a beautiful world of ships, sun and love which is not only unreal for them but has a corrupting influence on these innocent children and instigates them to try to escape from their cramped holes.**

**Finally, the poet appeals to those people who are in power to liberate these slum children from the horrendous and gory life that they are leading. The poet earnestly desires that these children should be made free and be brought into the main stream by bringing meaningful changes to improve the standard of life and education in the slums.**

**Thus, the poet sums up the poem, giving it a remarkable approach of positivity---' People who are ignited by the spirit of knowledge and learning are the ones who create history'. It is the mortal liability of everyone to break the barriers of the imposed traditional trend of the society and give meaningful education to all.**