

Chapter 7 Vocation

Working with the Poem

- (i) Who is the speaker in the poem? Who are the people the speaker meets? What are they doing?
- A. A school – going child is the speaker of the poem. The speaker meets a hawker, a gardener and a watchman. The hawker sells bangles. The gardener digs the ground. The watchman keeps a watch in the street at night.
- (ii) What wishes does the child in the poem make? Why does the child want to be a hawker, a gardener, or a watchman? Pick out the lines in each stanza, which tell us this.
- A. The child in the poem wants to be a hawker, a gardener and a watchman. The child wants to be a hawker because like a hawker he wants to spend “his day on the road”. He wants to be a gardener because he, “does what he likes with his spade”. Nobody takes him to task, “even when he gets baked in the sun or get wet”. The child wants to be a watchman because he “never once goes to bed in his life”. The child wishes to walk the street all night, like watchman chasing the shadows with his lantern.