

Grandpa's Indian Summer by Jamila Gavin

The horses set off clip-clopping, their hooves echoing down the broad Calcutta streets. Neetu and Sanjay studied the old lady who sat before them all wrapped up in her shawl.

'Is Great Grandma really going to bathe in the river?' they asked in puzzled voices.

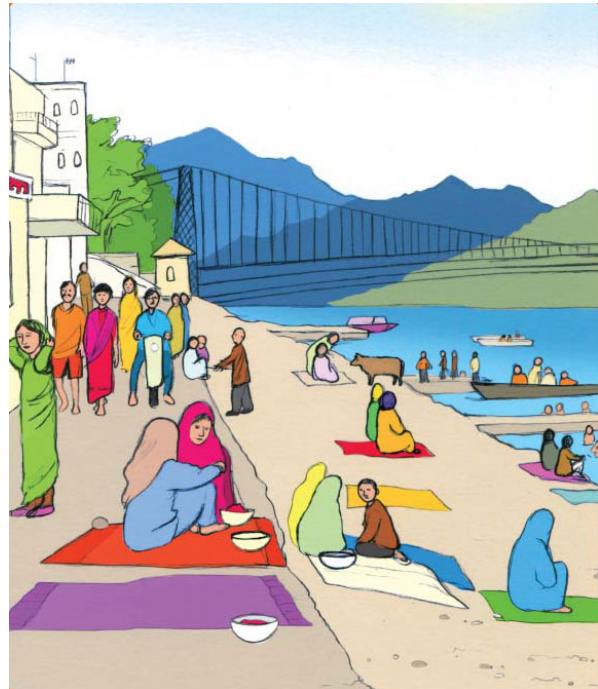
'Oh, yes,' said Grandpa Chatterji. 'The river has become the most important place in her life.'

They stared out of the carriage windows as the horses trotted out into the road and joined a human river – a river of people who swept through that huge city, pulling things, pushing things, carrying things – on their backs and on their heads; there were those who were riding on bicycles, mopeds, in rickshaws or in trams and buses; it was a torrent of living creatures among which wandered dogs and pigs and horses and cows, where birds swooped and flapped and squawked and soared over the rooftops with the hundreds of fluttering paper kites.

Then Grandpa cried out, 'Look!'

They saw the huge curving girders of a bridge which stretched over a wide expanse of shining water. It looked as though it had been built to carry the weight of the whole of mankind.

When they had crossed to the other side, they made their way along the river until they came to a place where many people had gathered.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 List all the people who were in the carriage at the beginning of this extract.

2b

2 marks

2 What does the word “*puzzled*” (paragraph 2) tell you about Neetu and Sanjay’s reactions to the idea of great-grandmother bathing in the river?

2a

2 marks

3 “*The horses trotted out into the road and joined a human river*” (paragraph 4). Why do you think the author chose to use the underlined word in the sentence?

2g

1 mark

4 How do you think Neetu and Sanjay felt looking out of the carriage windows?

2d

2 marks

5 “*It was a torrent of living creatures among which wandered dogs and pigs and horses and cows*” (paragraph 4). The author chose to link these animals using “and” instead of just commas. Why do you think she did that?

2f

1 mark

6 Number the places to show the order in which Neeta and Sanjay saw them.

a very busy road

a place where people gathered

wide, empty streets

a bridge

2c

2 marks