CLASS 9 ENGLISH KAVERI

Chapter 4 – Vitamin-M

Summary

Prose: Vitamin-M

Linked Reading: The Lost Child

Poem: I Cannot Remember My Mother

Based on the Class 9 English Kaveri textbook • 2026–27

Online Teaching With Nikita

1. Vitamin-M – Summary

Vitamin-M by **Asha Nehemiah** is a humorous story about Ravi, his seventy-five-year-old grandfather and Ravi's mother, Vidya. It explores ageing, memory, independence, family care and the importance of respecting elderly people.

Ravi's grandfather has moved from his own house to live with the family because he had accidentally taken a double dose of medicine, once got lost while walking and later fell in his garden and remained outside all night. Vidya is worried about his safety and does not want him to go out alone. Grandpa, however, dislikes the crowded city and feels frustrated when his family treats him like a helpless child. ■filecite■turn75file2■

During Ravi's school holidays, he is asked to stay with Grandpa. Ravi enjoys playing chess with him and notices that Grandpa can remember thousands of chess games even though he sometimes forgets names. When Grandpa decides to go out to get the Tamil newspaper, Ravi secretly follows him because he has promised his mother to keep him safe.

Grandpa visits a children's park and a tea stall, where he enjoys peanuts, sugary tea, bananas and ice cream. Ravi struggles to follow him without being noticed and gets into several embarrassing situations. Grandpa later enters a barber shop and then boards a bus. Ravi follows the wrong man on the bus because the stranger is wearing clothes and a yellow cap similar to Grandpa's.

Ravi returns home frightened and relieved to discover Grandpa safely asleep in his bedroom. Later, Grandpa gives gifts to the family. When Vidya points out that Ravi's birthday was three months earlier, Grandpa explains that he gives every child in the house a gift on his own birthday. He then jokingly says that his daughter needs some "Vitamin-M" for her memory. The joke is ironic because Vidya had forgotten her father's birthday even though she had marked it on the calendar. ■filecite■turn75file5■

The story ends with Grandpa giving Ravi a detective-story book, suggesting that he may know more about Ravi's secret adventure than he reveals.

Central idea: The story uses humour and irony to show that elderly people may still be capable, independent, observant and emotionally aware. Care for older people should be balanced with respect for their dignity and individuality.

2. Main Themes

✓ Ageing and independence

✓ Family care and responsibility

✓ Respect for elderly people

✓ Memory and perception

✓ Generational relationships

✓ Humour and irony

✓ Age-based assumptions and dignity

3. The Lost Child – Summary

The Lost Child by **Mulk Raj Anand** is a linked reading about a young child who visits a spring festival with his parents.

At first, the child is fascinated by everything around him. He notices toys, a flowering mustard field, dragonflies, flowers, doves and the lively crowds moving towards the fair. He repeatedly falls behind because of his curiosity, while his parents call him back. ■filecite■turn75file9■

At the fair, the child is attracted by sweets, toys and other colourful objects. However, he becomes separated from his parents in the crowd. Once he realises that they are missing, all his earlier desires lose their importance.

A man tries to comfort the lost child by offering him the very kinds of things he had wanted earlier. The child refuses them and repeatedly cries for his mother and father. The ending shows that parental love and security matter more to him than toys, sweets or other attractions. ■filecite■turn75file3■

Central idea: The story contrasts material attraction with emotional security and shows how a child's priorities change completely when separated from his parents.

Key themes

✓ Parental love and security

✓ Childhood curiosity

✓ Material desires versus emotional needs

✓ Fear and separation

4. I Cannot Remember My Mother – Summary

I Cannot Remember My Mother by **Rabindranath Tagore** is a reflective poem about a speaker who cannot clearly remember his mother but continues to experience her presence through sensory memories.

In the first stanza, the speaker is reminded of his mother while playing. A tune seems to hover over his playthings, recalling the song she used to hum while rocking his cradle.

In the second stanza, the fragrance of shiuli flowers on an early autumn morning reminds him of the scent of the morning service in a temple, which he associates with his mother.

In the third stanza, the speaker looks into the distant blue sky and feels that the stillness of his mother's gaze has spread across the sky. Nature therefore becomes a way of experiencing her remembered presence. ■filecite■turn75file1■

Central idea: Even when direct memories of a loved one are incomplete, sensory experiences such as sound, fragrance and visual images can preserve an emotional connection.

Tone: Tender, reflective and nostalgic.

Important poetic features: refrain, sensory imagery, symbolism and nature imagery. The textbook specifically asks students to note that the poem does not have a fixed rhyme scheme. ■filecite■turn75file7■

5. Quick Revision – Chapter 4

Vitamin-M

✓ Grandpa is 75 and moves to the city because living alone has become difficult.

✓ He misses his quiet house and dislikes being treated like a child.

✓ Ravi is asked to look after him during the holidays.

✓ Grandpa goes out for the Tamil newspaper and Ravi secretly follows him.

✓ Ravi eventually follows the wrong man on a bus.

✓ Grandpa is safely at home when Ravi returns.

✓ Grandpa remembers his birthday tradition and gives gifts to the family.

✓ The Vitamin-M joke reverses the opening idea about memory.

The Lost Child

✓ A child goes to a spring festival with his parents.

✓ He is attracted by toys, flowers, insects, sweets and other sights.

✓ He becomes separated from his parents.

✓ After losing them, he no longer wants the things he previously desired.

✓ He wants only his mother and father.

I Cannot Remember My Mother

✓ Written by Rabindranath Tagore.

✓ The mother is remembered through a tune, shiuli fragrance and the sky.

✓ The repeated line creates the poem's central emotional contrast.

✓ Nature and sensory experience preserve the speaker's connection with his mother.

One-line revision: Vitamin-M is about ageing and family care; The Lost Child is about parental love and emotional security; I Cannot Remember My Mother is about memory, absence and sensory remembrance.

Source note: This summary is based on the uploaded Class 9 English Kaveri Chapter 4 textbook. Listening answers are not included because the relevant teacher transcripts are separate from the student text.