



মণিগোবিন্দোৰ অ'ৰে নক্সাৰাংল (অ'ম)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS IX
ENGLISH LITERATURE READER (DRAMA)
CHAPTER 4
CHILDHOOD SUMMER
(R.K. NARAYANAN)

NOTES

SUMMARY

Childhood Summer is taken from *My Days*, a book written by **R.K. Narayanan** and in which the author tells the story of his own childhood. As a child, Narayanan lived in Madras with his maternal grandmother and uncle while his parents lived in the small town of **Chennapatna**. In *Childhood Summer*, the author recreated the character of his grandmother as a versatile and helpful woman.

Every summer when the author was a child, the people of Madras fled to the hill stations to escape the heat. During this time, the author went to the little known town of Chennapatna with his grandmother because his parents lived there. The author's grandmother would make sun-dried edibles for various members of the family including his mother. For the activity, she took the help of a battalion of helpers who would pound, sift, grind, mix and knead the rice and edibles. The edibles came out in different shapes and sizes. The grandmother said that she did not want to go empty-handed to her daughter's place. She wanted to help her daughter who was sickly and weak because of many childbirths. This elaborate preparation for the trip would waste nearly three weeks of the author's vacation. Also, the grandmother was a busy woman and it was difficult for her to disentangle herself from her activities and escort the author to Channapatna. She hoped to find someone to escort the author to Chennapatna but as no one normally visited the place, the grandmother ended up doing the job.

The author described his grandmother to be a versatile and helpful person. When she was free she would be in the garden trimming off unwanted branches while carrying on discussions on vital matters with her friends. She also acted as a match-maker to those whose horoscopes matched, treated people with scorpion bite, whooping cough, paralysis or convulsions. Thus, she had so much to do from morning till night.
