

### 3. The Refugee

#### **LEARN TO READ** (Pages 40–42)

1. Some of the words are 'alien', 'new capital', 'far country', and 'new concrete sidewalk'.
2. Phrases which describe sad condition of the people are: 'city full of refugees',

'fed after a fashion', 'clothed somehow', 'sheltered in mats', 'begging at every door', 'lying dead on the streets'.

3. d. they were hard-working peasants.
4. a. the starved faces of the people.
5. The wizened old man carried a load of two baskets, slung on a pole on his shoulder. He was beyond the age of work and he whistled as he dragged his feet along. He strained his eyes to watch those who were ahead of him. He was afraid he would be left behind. His face wore a lot of agony.
6. a. the man thought that he would surely have given the bit of silver to his old father, had he been alive.  
b. he was kind-hearted, and even though he didn't have enough for himself, he pitied the old man because he was hungry.
7. The old man was fatigued, starving and exhausted. But, when a young man gave him some silver, he bought only one bowl of noodles for his ailing grandson. When the vendor asked him why he was so keen on saving the silver, the old man said that he wanted to leave it for his grandson, so that he can plant a seed in their land, once the flood was over. He could see the future and say that if the seed wasn't planted soon, there will be starvation the year to follow as well. This proves that he was a true peasant who cared for the land.
8. a. the refugees  
b. They were walking as in a dream because their land had been destroyed and they had lost all their belongings. They were in a different land, almost starving and weary.  
c. The writer tries to emphasize the feeling of helplessness of the refugees.

They were walking as if in a trance, not noticing anything around them. This is why the word 'nothing' has been used in this line twice. This creates the dark and foreboding mood of the story.

9. The old man's wisdom guided him to save some silver for the future, in hope that his grandson could plant the seed when he grew up. This tells us that he was wise and selfless, in the hope of a better future.
10. The vendor said that had he not been poor, he would have given the bowl of noodles to the old man. But since the old had a bit of silver, he hesitated. This tells us that he was greedy and unkind.
11. The author wants the future generation to see what huge responsibility it is overlooking; they must be prepared to carry on the hard work of the previous generation and not let it go to waste.