Think of all the blessings that God has granted to you and write them down on a paper.

More resources available at www.littlestarditmapur.com
Now think of people who are physically challenged, visually challenged, hearing and speech impaired, etc.

What are the challenges that they face everyday?

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
Chaman Nahal commonly known as C Nahal, also known as Chaman Nahal Azadi, was an Indian born writer of English literature. He was widely considered as one of the best exponents of Indian writing in English and is known for his work, ‘Azadi’, which is set on India's Independence and her partition.

**Born:** 2 August 1927, Sialkot, Pakistan  
**Died:** 29 November 2013, New Delhi  
**Books:** Azadi, The Gandhi quartet, My true faces
Silver Lining

The Silver Lining is taken from a volume of short stories written by Chaman Nahal titled, The Weird Dance.
In this lesson, you will learn about the difficulties and challenges faced by a girl with hearing and speech impairment and her family.

Silver Lining: a positive outcome or aspect of a bad situation; an unseen benefit or element of hopefulness...

“If there’s a silver lining to being laid off its that I can concentrate on my writing.”
Silver Lining

In particular story the main character are:

1. Mrs. Bhandari - The hostess of the guest house
2. Mr. Bhandari - The owner of the guest house
3. Pramodni - Their 8 year old daughter with hearing and speech impairment
4. Mr. Dhanda - The narrator and a guest at the guest house
5. Mr David - The stranger
Scene 1

1. Mr Dhanda comes to the guest house

2. The narrator gives a description of Mr. and Mrs. Bhandari.
Reading section 1- from the start…. to …as if I had known the family for years.(page 30)

Some difficult words

1. **assess** - evaluate or estimate the nature, ability or quality of.
2. **gnawing** - persistently worrying or distressing.
3. **blissfully** - in a manner characterized by extreme happiness or joy.
4. **recommended** - advised or suggested as good or suitable.
5. **Bony** – so thin that the bones can be seen.

(some word meanings are given in the textbook glossary)
Gist:
Mr. Dhanda, the narrator was advised to go on a holiday to a guest house at a hill resort by his friend. The characters described in the section are Mr and Mrs Bhandari and their charming little daughter.
1. Mrs. Bhandari from South India. She was pleasant looking and kind.
2. Mr. Bhandari from North India.
3. Pramodni was about eight years old with a Chinese crop, dressed in Jeans and high boots. She was the centre of attraction to the author.
Let's check if you have understood the lesson so far

• Who recommended the Guest House to Mr Dhanda?
• What made the Bhandari Guest House a suitable place to stay?
• Give one line descriptions of both Mr and Mrs Bhandari.
• How did the Bhandaris welcome Mr Dhanda?

You don’t have to write down the answers.
1. The narrator while chatting with the Bhandaris noticed that the girl was staring at him

2. He asked the girl her name and asked her to come but she ran away with tears in her eyes.
Reading section 2- from *While thus chatting*… to *tears in her eyes*… *(page 30&31)*

**Some difficult words**

1. **Settee** - a long seat for more than two people that has a back.
2. **Miniature** - very small of its kind.
3. **Beckoned** - make a gesture with the hand, arm, or head to encourage or instruct someone to approach or follow.

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Let's check if you have understood the lesson so far

• Give the description of the little girl.
• How does the girl react when Mr. Dhanda beckons her?
• Predict – Why does the girl not respond to him?

You don’t have to write down the answers.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
1. Mr. Dhanda saw the painful look on Mr. Bhandari’s face.

2. He apologized for his daughter’s behaviour and told him that she did not come to him as she cannot speak or hear anything.

3. Mr. Dhanda enquired more about her.
1. The narrator found out that the Bhandaris had to deal with this kind of situations everyday and guests would always question about their daughter.

2. Mr Dhanda, the narrator came up with a plan
1. He decided to write a chit.

2. This chit would be handed to all the guest.
The chit would read like this:

Our daughter is deaf and dumb. You may hurt her by trying to be friendly too soon, as she can neither understand your words nor reply to your kind words. You are requested to please give her time to approach you and make your acquaintance.

Thank You

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Reading section 3- from *I suddenly became aware...* to.... *thank you* (page 32)

Some difficult words

1. **gasp** - catch one's breath with an open mouth, owing to pain or astonishment.
2. **muttering** - a privately expressed complaint or expression of dissatisfaction.
3. **Forwardness** - boldness or over familiarity in manner.
4. **Inquisitive** - having or showing an interest in learning things; curious/unduly curious about the affairs of others; prying.
5. **Aghast** - filled with horror or shock.

More resources available at [www.littlestardimapur.com](http://www.littlestardimapur.com)
Let's check if you have understood the lesson so far

- Why did Promodni run away when Mr Dhanda beckoned her?
- What was the issue with the Bhandari family?
- What suggestion did Mr. Dhanda give to the Bhandaris? Did they promptly agree to his suggestion?
- What would be written in the chit?
- Do you think it was a good suggestion?

You don’t have to write down the answers.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
Scene 5

1. The new plan worked well.

2. One day a stranger came to the guest house.

3. He looked untidy and unkempt after his long tiresome journey.

4. The Bhandaris thought he was arrogant since he did not respond to their questions and only used gestures.
Reading section 4-from *A line to the effect….to…to their polite enquiries.* (pg 32, 33)

Some difficult words

1. **hospitality** - the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.
2. **ruse** - an action intended to deceive someone; a trick.
3. **unkempt** - (especially of a person) having an untidy or dishevelled appearance.
4. **coincide** - occur at the same time.

More resources available at [www.littlestardimapur.com](http://www.littlestardimapur.com)
Let's check if you have understood the lesson so far

• Why did Mrs Bhandari feel that the letter would not be compatible with her spirit of hospitality?
• Give a description of the strange guest.

You don’t have to write down the answers.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
Scene 6

1. As soon as he read the chit, the stranger approached the girl.

2. The Bhandaris were very upset by his behaviour.

3. Mr. Dhanda was also upset as he thought that the girl would be embarrassed.
Reading section 5—from both the landlord and the landlady…to …fail in this instance (page 33)

Some difficult words

1. disconcerted—unsettled or confused.
2. infer— to form an opinion/ decide from the information you have.
3. arrogance—the quality of being arrogant.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
Let's check if you have understood the lesson so far

• Predict – Why do you think the man behaved in such an odd manner?
• Predict - Do you think he was really arrogant? If yes, then why do you think he rushed to the little girl?
• Why were the Bhandaris and Mr Dhanda upset by his behavior?

You don’t have to write down the answers.
The Bhandaris were amazed to see the girl laughing.

They watched Mr. David and Promodni walk hand in hand and then realised that Mr. David was also hearing and speech impaired.
Reading section 6: from *After a few moments*....to....*he was hearing and speech impaired too.* (page 33 and 34)

**Some difficult words**

1. **Apprehensive** - anxious or fearful that something bad might happen.
2. **Impending** - be about to happen.
3. **Reclining** - leaning or lying back in a relaxed position with the back supported.
4. **Queer** - strange; odd.

More resources available at [www.littlestardimapur.com](http://www.littlestardimapur.com)
Let's check if you have understood the lesson so far

• Why was the guest able to connect with the girl so well?
• What made the girl so happy?

You don’t have to write down the answers.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
1. Mr. David said that he had been educated abroad.

2. He wanted to open a school for the hearing and speech impaired children.

3. Agreed to take Promodni as his first student.
1. Mrs. Bhandari was very happy and laughed like a carefree girl.

2. Mrs. Bhandari was the happiest woman in the world.
Reading section 7-from *His strange ambiguous silences*...till *the end*. (page 34)

**Some difficult words**

1. **Gestures** - a movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning.
2. **Emphatically** - without doubt; clearly.

More resources available at [www.littlestardimapur.com](http://www.littlestardimapur.com)
Let's check if you have understood the lesson so far.

- What is Mr David’s plan?
- Why is Mrs Bhandari so happy?
- How does she express her happiness?

Why is this lesson called 'The Silver Lining'?

You don’t have to write down the answers.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
Click here to watch the video
Now look at the questions and try to answer as many as you can. (page 36 onwards are textbook questions (Oxford) and the same as those in the back of the lesson)
You can check your answers in the following pages.

Or you can go straight to the online quiz. Click Here.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
I.  **Answer the following questions.**

a. Why does the author believe that it is difficult to assess the range and quality of human emotions.

b. In what ways was the Bhandari Guest House a suitable place to stay?

c. Which phrase tells us that the author is somewhat critical of North Indian men?

d. What makes the author say he felt as if he had known the family for years?

e. In what manner did the author try to make friends with Promodni? What was the reaction from (i) Promodni (ii) her parents?

f. Which phrase or statement tells us that the Bhandaris did not much care for the questions put by the visitors about their daughter?

g. What first impression did the Bhandaris have about Mr David? How did they regard him at first and in what manner did their opinion change? Use selected words and phrases from the text in your answer.

h. Mr Bhandari squeezed his wife’s arm and said apologetically, ‘I am sorry, Mr Dhanda.’ Why was he sorry? Give more than one reason.

i. Why do you think the Bhandaris agreed, ‘after some trepidation’, to try out the author’s suggestion of a way to deal with the questions of visitors?
2. Comment on the italicized words in the following sentences.

1. Mrs Bhandari, the landlady, took me in hand the moment I arrived.
2. I couldn't help smiling.
3. And, at the very first meeting, or soon afterwards, they would run into the child.
4. ‘He shouldn’t have ignored our request like this,’ the landlord put in, more mildly.
5. It took us time to digest the news.
6. And then both the parents broke into incoherent statements of profuse apologies.
7. She almost broke down with gratitude.
3. Answer with reference with the context.

a. *I vaguely felt I had wronged her and her parents.*
   i. Why did the speaker feel like this? What had he done?
   ii. What did he do to make the situation better?

b. *At this time he discovered the sealed envelope containing the typed chit lying on the table, addressed to him by name.*
   i. Who discovered the envelope?
   ii. What happened immediately prior to this?
   iii. What was in the envelope, what did it say?
   iv. What did the person do immediately after this?

b. *She looked the happiest woman in the world.*
   i. Who is the statement about?
   ii. Why was the person happy?
   iii. What did she do to show her pleasure?
1. Answer the following questions.

a. Why does the author believe that it is difficult to assess the range and quality of human emotions.

Ans: *The author believes that it is difficult to assess the range and quality of human emotions because it is usually not possible to tell what worm-like griefs people hide within their hearts by merely looking at their outward appearance.*

b. In what ways was the Bhandari Guest House a suitable place to stay?

Ans: *The Bhandari Guest House was a suitable place to stay because it was centrally located, near the bus-stand, market and post office. Yet it was far enough from the common din. The view was pleasant, the food was good and the hostess, charming.*

More resources available at [www.littlestardimapur.com](http://www.littlestardimapur.com)
c. Which phrase tells us that the author is somewhat critical of North Indian men?

Ans: *In describing Mr. Bhandari, a north Indian, the author says: ‘there was not a trace of untempered roughness which one finds in most men hailing from the north’. This phrase tells us that he is somewhat critical of North Indian men.*

d. What makes the author say he felt as if he had known the family for years?

Ans: *From the minute he arrived at the Guest House, the author was put at ease by the Bhandaris. Mrs Bhandari looked after his luggage, gave instructions about his room, provided him with a cup of coffee and chatted amiably. In this way the family won him over and made him feel he had known them for years.*
e. In what manner did the author try to make friends with Promodni? What was the reaction from (i) Promodni (ii) her parents?

Ans: The author asked Promodni what her name was, smiled at her and beckoned her.

(i) Promodni: she reacted by blushing and running out of the room with tears in her eyes.

(ii) Her parents: her parents frowned with a painful look on their faces. Mr Bhandari then apologetically explained to the author, why the girl behaved, the way she did; for she could neither hear nor speak.

f. Which phrase or statement tells us that the Bhandaris did not much care for the questions put by the visitors about their daughter?
The phrase, ‘…..which the parents, after much trepidation agreed to try’ (when the author gave suggestion of giving typed chits to new guests) tells us that the Bhandaris did not much care about the questions asked by the visitors about their daughter.

g. What first impression did the Bhandaris have about Mr David? How did they regard him at first and in what manner did their opinion change? Use selected words and phrases from the text in your answer.

Ans: The Bhandaris’ first impression of the young man was that he was proud and arrogant since he did not reply to their polite enquiries. They found him strange and rude when even after the written request to not to try to be friendly with their daughter he ran out into the courtyard where Promodni was playing by herself. They were however struck with ‘wonder and amazement ‘when they found their little daughter Promodni sitting on his lap and laughing the way she had not laughed in years.

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h. Mr Bhandari squeezed his wife’s arm and said apologetically, ‘I am sorry, Mr Dhanda.’ Why was he sorry? Give more than one reason.

Ans: Mr Bhandari said sorry to Mr David for his daughter’s cold reaction to his attempt to make friends with her, and for the fact that he had not realized earlier that Promodni could not hear or speak.

i. Why do you think the Bhandaris agreed, ‘after some trepidation’, to try out the author’s suggestion of a way to deal with the questions of visitors?

Ans: The Bhandaris thought that a note would not reflect their spirit of hospitality. They felt it might be awkward giving a note to people who were going to make the Guest House their temporary home. Their unease about this led to their trepidation.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
2. Comment on the italicized words in the following sentences.

1. Mrs Bhandari, the landlady, *took me in hand* the moment I arrived.
   - Mrs Bhandari, the landlady, took charge of me the moment I arrived.
2. I couldn't *help smiling*.
   - I couldn't stop myself from smiling.
3. And, at the very first meeting, or soon afterwards, they would *run into* the child.
   - And, at the very first meeting, or soon afterwards, they would come across the child.
4. ‘He shouldn’t have ignored our request like this,’ the landlord *put in*, more mildly.
   - ‘He shouldn’t have ignored our request like this,’ the landlord *interrupted*, more mildly.

More resources available at [www.littlestardimapur.com](http://www.littlestardimapur.com)
5. It took us time to *digest* the news.
   - It took us time to understand (take in) the news.
6. And then both the parents *broke into* incoherent statements of profuse apologies....
   - And then both the parents started abruptly (speaking/making) statements of profuse apologies....
7. She almost *broke down* with gratitude.
   - She became very emotional with gratitude.

3. Answer with reference with the context.
   a. *I vaguely felt I had wronged her and her parents.*
      i. Why did the speaker feel like this? What had he done?
The speaker, Mr Dhanda felt that he had wronged the family because he did not really know what he was doing. He did not do anything on purpose. He felt he had wronged the girl and her parents because he had tried to make friends with her by speaking to her, but had not realized she was hearing and speech impaired.

ii. What did he do to make the situation better?

Ans: To make the situation better, and to save the child from repeated humiliation, he suggested that the Bhandaris provide new guests with a chit bearing information about Promodni.

b. At this time he discovered the sealed envelope containing the typed chit lying on the table, addressed to him by name.

i. Who discovered the envelope?

Ans: Mr David discovered the envelope.

More resources available at www.littlestardimapur.com
ii. What happened immediately prior to this?
Ans: *Mr David paid the porter and made entries about himself in the Guesthouse register, he was greeted by Mr Bhandari, prior to this.*

iii. What was in the envelope, what did it say?
Ans: *In the envelope was the information that Promodni, she was hearing and speech impaired and that she should not be hurt by strangers trying to befriend her too soon.*

iv. What did the person do immediately after this?
Ans: *Immediately after this, Mr David looked around astonished, saw Promodni sitting outside in the garden, looked at the Bhandaris and Mr Dhanda with a smile and darted out towards Promodni.*
c. She looked the happiest woman in the world.

i. Who is the statement about?
Ans: Mrs Bhandari.

II. Why was the person happy?
Ans: Mrs Bhandari was happy because Mr David had outlined to her and her husband some plans for education and betterment of Promodni. He had told her that there were schools for such people and that he himself intended starting one and that Promodni could be his first pupil.

iii. What did she do to show her pleasure?
ANS: Mrs Bhandari laughed like a carefree girl. She gave the guests an extra helping of jam and butter and honey.

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