Unit: 8, lesson: 4

My name is Amerigo. I am 13 years old and I live on the street, alone. My mother, who is separated from my father, doesnÕt want me. She told me to go away …. Now she is married to another man. My father lives very far away. I want to go to him, but he won't take me either. I begged him to send me some money so that I could buy a bus ticket. I am still waiting. He hasnÕt answered. The streets are now my home. Sometimes I find work. I used to collect **trash** and sell it to a **vendor**. I stopped doing that after I had a serious infection and a doctor told me to stay away from the trash dump. Once I worked for an ice cream shop owner and sold ice cream on the beach. But I got no money in return. The owner of the shop gave me something to eat, and let me sleep in his hut at night. The work was difficult and painful. The ice cream box is quite heavy when it is full. I had to walk for hours, offering my ice cream to whoever wanted to buy. There were days when I could not even sell one ice cream. In a way, I am lucky because I am alive. My friends who work **sorting** rubbish in dumps often suffer from serious diseases. One of them was recently killed after he fell into a hole that opened up in the pile of trash. Many of us work for 10 to 12 hours, and get so little in return that we can't even buy food.

Shoe-shining is very popular among the street kids. A few of my friends also work in factories and workshops. A boy I know lost one of his eyes after a piece of hot glass flew into his eye at the glass factory where he worked. The owner refused to pay for medical help and fired him. For me, like all other children on the street, it is very hard. I am always hungry, and I donÕt know where I will sleep the next night. I would like to live in my own home and sleep there in peace. The nights are very cold in the winter. You can die of cold in the street.

1. Choose the right word which is the closest meaning in the context that has been used in the text.

a) The word **trash** refers to text _____

i) never   ii) garbage   iii) strong   iv) continuous

b) The word **vendor** refers to text _____

i) sever   ii) die   iii) live   iv) monger

c) The word **sorting** refers to text _____

i) territory   ii) picking out   iii) steamy   iv) affluent

d) Amerigo is _____

i) Thrash collector   ii) a vagabond   iii) a vendor   iv) none of them

e) Which statement is correct? _____

i) Amerigo is a downtrodden street urchin   ii) Ice cream selling was lucrative for Amerigo

iii) Amerigo is an orphan boy   iv) Amerigo considered him lucky

f) Amerigo used to lead _____

i) A simple life   ii) an impoverish life   iii) A lucrative life   iv) an aristocrat life

g) The story is about _____

(i) The measurable condition of a boy   ii) The miserable condition of a boy

(iii) The pompous life of a boy   iv) the vagabond life of a boy

h) **What could be the closest meaning for 'alone'?**

(i) Full of eagerness   (ii) Lonely   (iii) Mixture of metals   (iv) Attract

i) **The word 'beg' refers to _____**

(i) a beggar   (ii) snatch away   (iii) ask for something   (iv) keep away

j) **The word 'sorting' stands for_____**

(i) outward appearance   (ii) foolishly sentimental   (iii) separating things   (iv) make longer

k) **Where did Amerigo's father live?**

(i) Very near to Amerigo's place   (ii) Very close to Amerigo's place

(iii) In a very lonely place   (iv) In a very distant place

l) **'Go away' refers to_____**

(i) to depart or leave a place   (ii) to travel   (iii) to die   (iv) to disappear

m) **The word 'vendor' stands for_____**

(i) a person who walks   (ii) a shop where goods are sold.

(iii) a container   (iv) a person or a company that vends or sells

n) **Amerigo said, "I am always hungry, and I don't know where I will sleep the next night. i would like to live in my own home and sleep there in peace?"What does it imply?**

(i) Miserable condition of Amerigo   (ii) His expectation to lead a happy life

(iii) His desire to be a rich man   (iv) Both (i) and (ii)

o) **'In return' means _____**

(i) in power   (ii) on the way of returning   (iii) in exchange   (iv) to cancel

p) **What does the expression, My father lives very far away" mean?**

(i) I live with my father   (ii) My father feels me

(iii) My father does not live with me   (iv) My father wants to live with me

q) **what does the word alive mean?**

(i) Living, not dead   (ii) Not now living

(iii) To cause something to be no longer active   (iv) To be kept usually in a particular place

2. Write the answer of the following question.
  a. What is your impression about Amerigo's parents?
  b. What was Amerigo's first job? What made him stop doing that job?
  c. How is Amerigo's experience of selling ice cream?
  d. How does Amerigo evaluate his life now? Does he have any option to change it?
  e. What does Amerigo desire now? Should he desire such things? Why/Why not?

One of the sources of water in our country is the rivers. Rivers are everywhere in our life, literature, economy and culture. But are the rivers in good shape? Unfortunately, they are not. A few are already dead and several are going through the pangs of death. The river Buriganga is an example of a dying river. A report published in the Daily Sun describes what has happened to the river Buriganga and why. Its water is polluted and a perpetual stench fills the air around it. But that is not what it was like before. The report says that the river had a glorious past. Once it was a tributary of the mighty Ganges and flowed into the Bay of Bengal through the river Dhaleshwari. Gradually, it lost its link with the Ganges and got the name Buriganga. The Mughals marveled at the tide level of the Buriganga and founded their capital Jahangirnagar on its banks in 1610. The river supplied drinking water and supported trade and commerce.

Jahangirnagar was renamed Dhaka which grew into a heavily populated city with a chronic shortage of space. The city paid back the bounty of the river by sucking life out of it! According to newspaper report, the Buriganga is dying because of pollution. Huge quantities of toxic chemicals and wastes from mills and factories, hospitals and clinics and households and other establishments are dumped into the river every day. The city of

Dhaka discharges about 4500 tons of solid waste every day and most of it is directly released into the Buriganga. According to the Department of the Environment (DoE), 20,000 tons of tannery waste, including some highly toxic materials, are released into the river every day. Experts identified nine industrial areas in and around the capital city as the primary sources of river pollution: Tongi, Tejgaon, Hazaribagh, Tarabo, Narayanganj, Savar, Gazipur, Dhaka Export Processing Zone and Ghorashal. The river would need a monster's stomach to digest all the wastes mentioned above. There is a limit up to which it can put up with its cruel and thoughtless treatment. We the humans have successfully killed one of our rivers. There are other rivers in the country that are being subjected to similar thoughtless treatment. Unless we take care of our rivers there may come a time when we will cry 'water, water' and find it nowhere.

3. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes of the flow chart showing the reasons behind the death of rivers. (No. 1 has been done for you)

| 1. irresponsibility of human | → | 2 | → | 3 | → | 4 | → | 5 | → | 6 |

"Out, Out" -- by Robert Frost
The buzz saw snarled and rattled in the yard 1
And made dust and dropped stove-length sticks of wood,
Sweet-scented stuff when the breeze drew across it.
And from there those that lifted eyes could count
Five mountain ranges one behind the other 5
Under the sunset far into Vermont.
And the saw snarled and rattled, snarled and rattled,
As it ran light, or had to bear a load.
And nothing happened: day was all but done.
Call it a day, I wish they might have said

4. Make a summary of the text (not more than 100 words)