

**Grade: 8 UNIT 3: REFUGEE BLUES SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

**1. Where do the narrator and his companion want to go? Why are they unable to do so?**

The narrator and his companion want to go back to their own country. They cannot do that because they are German-Jewish refugees. During the Second World War, they were harshly persecuted and so they fled from their homeland.

**2. Why did the consul bang the table? Why was he angry?**

The consul banged the table because he was frustrated at not being able to help his own countrymen. He was angry because the laws stated that any person without a passport was not a citizen at all and hence could not travel to his country.

**3. What was the refugee offered by the committee and what did they ask him? What was his reaction?**

The refugee was offered a seat in the committee meetings. They asked him to come again next year. This made him sad because the people like him needed immediate assistance instead of future promises.

**4. What did the narrator see at the harbour? What did the refugee see in the woods?**

In the harbour, the narrator saw fish swimming freely in the water. In the woods, he saw the birds singing merrily without a care in the world.

**5. What did the refugee see in his dream?**

The refugee dreamt of a building with a thousand floors having a thousand doors and windows. But in that huge building not a single place belonged to them.

**6. Who is looking for refugees?**

Ten thousand soldiers marching in the falling snow were looking for the refugees.

**7. What is the setting of the poem?**

The poem is set in a city teeming with German-Jewish refugees. They visit the consulate, they attend the committee meetings but everywhere they come across persecution and prejudice. They yearn to go back to their homeland but cannot. They yearn for the freedom enjoyed by the birds and fishes.

**8. The poem talks about the human rights violations suffered by a pair of German- Jewish people during the Second World War who are trying to find some refuge. What are the difficulties that they face?**

The narrator faces many problems because of Jewish persecution. He finds it difficult to find accommodations. His old passport is declared invalid and he cannot get a new one. Without a passport, it is impossible for him to travel. The consulate cannot help them. Even the people of the city do not like the Jews cluttering up their country. He faces indifference from people who refuse to sympathize with the plight of the Jews.

**9. Give an example from the poem:**

**a. Hyperbole**- “If we let them in, they will steal our daily bread”

**b. Metaphor** -“Say this city has ten million souls”

**c. Imagery** - “Stood on a great plain in the falling snow. They had no politicians and sang at their ease”

**d. Rhyme scheme**- aab