



**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 6-8**

# Homeless Bird

Gloria Whelan



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

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**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Anticipation Guide

**Directions:** Rate each of the following statements before you read the novel and discuss your ratings with a partner. After you have completed the novel, rate and discuss the statements again.

1 ————— 2 ————— 3 ————— 4 ————— 5 ————— 6  
strongly agree strongly disagree

**Before** **After**

- |   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Moving away from my parents would be fun.                          | _____ | _____ |
| 2. I am lucky to be able to go to school every day.                   | _____ | _____ |
| 3. It is okay to perform chores poorly when I am mad.                 | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Girls and boys should learn the same skills.                       | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Parents always make good decisions for their children.             | _____ | _____ |
| 6. I can take care of myself without help from my parents or friends. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Computers are a part of everyday life.                             | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Patience and acceptance are always good qualities to possess.      | _____ | _____ |
| 9. Those who break customs can still have respect for their culture.  | _____ | _____ |
| 10. When a situation is cruel enough, I lose hope.                    | _____ | _____ |

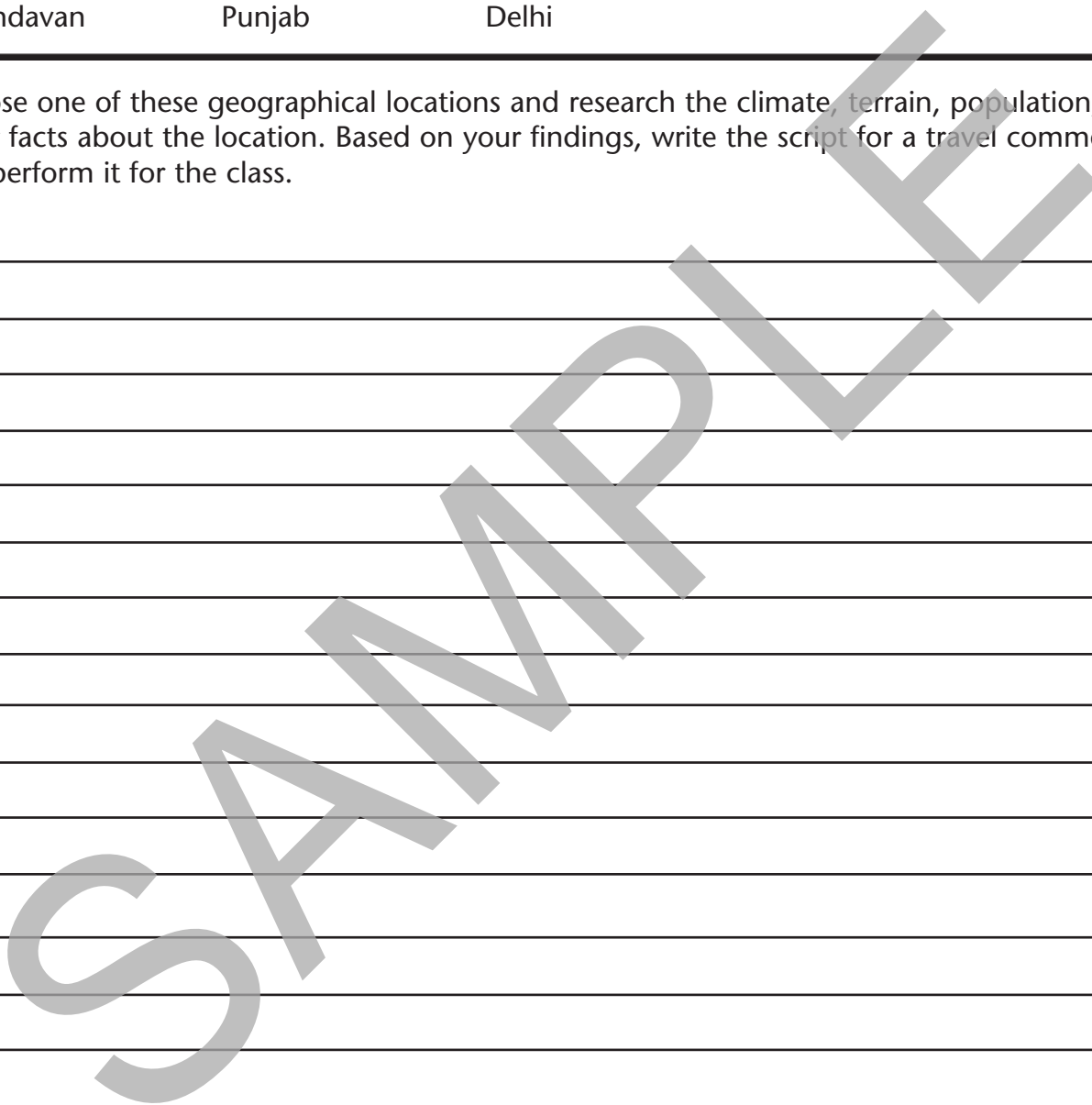
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Find the following geographical locations on a map of India.

Varanasi Vrindavan	Ganges River Punjab	Yamuna River Delhi	Uttar Pradesh
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Choose one of these geographical locations and research the climate, terrain, population, and other facts about the location. Based on your findings, write the script for a travel commercial and perform it for the class.

Handwriting lines for writing the script for a travel commercial.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Chapter Seven, pp. 88–103**

1. In what ways does Chandra no longer look like a young girl?
2. Why are Sassur's thumbs tied after his death? his toes?
3. Why are pebbles dropped along the path on the way home from the funeral?
4. How does Koly know Sassur would not want to return?
5. How has Chandra been lucky as a wife?
6. How is Chandra treated by her family during her visit?
7. What does Chandra say when Koly tells her about her plan to run away?
8. What is different about Sass after the funeral?
9. How does Sass receive money?
10. What two things does Sass want to sell that matter most to Koly?
11. What does Koly let Sass sell?
12. What does the letter from Delhi say?
13. What does Sass do with the railway tickets after she buys them?
14. What "surprise" does Sass plan for Koly on the trip to Delhi?
15. What is strange about the surprise?
16. How does Koly feel leaving the Mehtas' home?
17. How does Sass feel leaving her home?
18. What does Sass give Koly at the railway station?
19. How do Sass and Koly get to the temple in Vrindavan?
20. What does Koly see everywhere on the city streets?
21. How does Sass treat the rickshaw driver?
22. What does Sass send Koly to do?
23. What does Koly think when she cannot find Sass?
24. Where does Koly decide to go when she finds herself alone?
25. What does Koly see in the eyes of the widow who gives her directions?
26. Where does the rickshaw driver say Sass went?

### **Chapter Eight, pp. 104–121**

1. What does Koly recall that foretold Sass' plan to abandon her?
2. What advice does the rickshaw boy give Koly?
3. Why doesn't Koly lay down on the sidewalk?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Metaphors and Similes

A **metaphor** is a comparison between two unlike objects. For example, "he was a human tree." A **simile** is a comparison between two unlike objects that uses the words *like* or *as*. For example, "the color of her eyes was like the cloudless sky."

**Directions:** Complete the chart below by listing metaphors and similes from the novel, as well as the page numbers on which they are found. Identify metaphors with an "M" and similes with an "S." Translate the comparisons in your own words, and then list the objects being compared.

Metaphors/Similes	Ideas/Objects Being Compared
1.  Translation:	
2.  Translation:	
3.  Translation:	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Sorting Characters

**Directions:** Similarities among characters are sometimes a clue to themes in the story. Place the following characters in one or more of the groups below: Koly, Sass, Sassur, Hari, Chandra, Raji, Maa Kamala, Mrs. Devi, Mala.

<b>Victims</b>	<b>Victimizers</b>	<b>Fighters</b>
<b>Peace-lovers</b>	<b>Conformists</b>	<b>Self-directors</b>