**ABOUT MOVERS**

*Salman Rushdie*

Shame (1983)

pag.177-178

**COMPREHENSION**

1. **READ**

1- The speaker is a *mohajir*, which means that he is an emigrant.

2- He believes that the resentments mohajir engender have something to do with their conquest of the force of gravity.

3- He compares gravity to belonging.

4- Roots are a conservative myth designed to keep people in their places.

5- To fly and to flee.

6- He supposes the most important pharmaceutical companies might come up with an anti-gravity pill.

7- The world’s airlines would go broke overnight and pill-poppers would come unstuck from the ground and float upwards until they sank into the clouds.

8- Special water-proof flying garments and some kind of directional booster-engine, perhaps in back-pack form.

9- The pill would make migrants of us all.

10- The best thing is their hopefulness whereas the worst thing is their emptiness of their luggage.

**ANALYSIS**

1. **DESCRIBE**

The speaker is an emigrant from India and, at the same time, he is a newcomer to both England, where he lives, and Pakistan, where his family has moved against his will.

1. **FIND**

The metaphor is that of a bird and the act of flying.

1. **EXPLAIN**

Gravity is what keeps man and everything else stuck onto the earth, while the sense of belonging is what keeps a man linked to his own land and country, that is his roots.

1. **DISCUSS**

He plays with the words of “flight” and “flee” since they share the meaning of “escape” and therefore they imply a sense of freedom.

1. **EXPLAIN**

He describes a world where people do not desire to belong to a place but the opposite. He imagines the invention of a pill that enables people to fly and thus escaping easily. He envisages people taking different pills according to the length of journey they want to undertake, floating among the clouds and landing gently in the place of destination. Moreover, the speakers plans a market of garments and engines flourishing around the new invention.

1. **DISCUSS**

The narrator seems to be in favour of the idea of moving. Migrant people are full of hope and their symbolical suitcase are empty, ready to be filled with new experiences.

**YOUR TURN**

1. **DECIDE**

* Be informed about the place you travel to;
* be respectful of their culture and traditions;
* learn a few words of the language;
* be polite;
* respect people’s privacy when you take photographs.

1. **WRITE**

Chatwin’s thesis about travelling in the extract is: “All our activities are linked to the idea of journey”. A journey is an act of traveling from one place to another, especially when they are far apart. So the narrator connect the human activities with a long time, a long travel, that could be a voyage or even the life. Moving on he compares brains with a short of GPS, concluding with a sort of critique to the modern way of travelling.

To a great extent, in his opinion men have the possibility to do a journey spilling out information about the road to take from our brains. Also the use of drugs and alcohol is related to walk and journey. Indeed they represent a simple way to escape and made a journey even if an illusory one. But in Chatwin’s points of view real journeys are more useful than hallucinatory ones. Finally, going on with the narration, the writer arguments his thesis with different examples from the ancient/mythological world. The writer spurts the reader to follow these men of the past maybe because today we have lost the idea of a journey by foot.